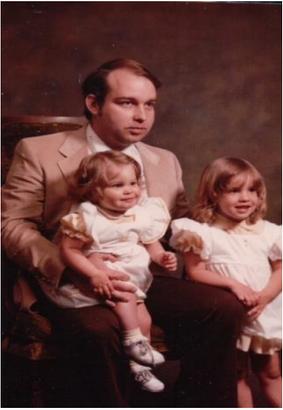


Katie Weeks



My dad had this photo taken as a Mother's Day gift. I'm the chunky one on the left. My sister, Erin is the cute one on the right.

I was born in Madison, Wisconsin. My mom was a teacher and my dad owned a cheese store. If you ever see cheese shaped like a cow, or a beer mug, know that it was invented by my grandfather!



Through my early years, I worked at the cheese store, and I danced, a lot. In high school, I was involved with theatre and show choir. I loved performing!

When I was 15, my father committed suicide. No one saw it coming but it changed us. Every year we walk in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention fundraiser in honor of my dad.



When college came I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. My mom told me to look through the class book and just take the classes that looked the most interesting to me (such a smart lady!) so I majored in theatre and communication.

In 2000, I spent a semester in London and upon my return had been in more countries in Europe than states in the US. I always tell college students STUDY ABROAD! It is the best.

After college, again not sure what I wanted to do, I applied for jobs in the arts and became a development associate at the United Performing Arts Fund (I had no idea what that meant!)

Nine years later, I was the VP of Development and was recognized in the Milwaukee Business Journal's Forty Under 40. Everyone's profile included a quote. One person talked about the lives he saved through medicine, another about the impact she was having on education. My quote was "I love musical theatre!" While that is a statement of fact, it just didn't seem as profound as the others. However, having been impacted by the arts personally and supporting the arts throughout my career, I have seen how the arts can transform lives and that IS profound!

At 25 I bought a house. By myself. I remember thinking how proud my dad would have been.

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In 2007 I met Jason. I thought he was way too sporty and he thought I wanted too much attention. So, I guess, it wasn't love at first sight, but we became friends, fell in love and got married in 2011. He is my best friend, my support and my cheerleader. I won the husband jackpot!

We love to travel. Our honeymoon in New Zealand and Bora Bora was amazing. We went ziplining, whitewater rafting, on a jet boat, in a helicopter, to a winery but the highlight was celebrating New Year's Eve in Auckland then flying to Tahiti and celebrating New Years Eve for a second time!



Our travel excursions slowed down, when we became parents in 2013 to Ian and in 2016 to Hanna.

Since having a second child wasn't enough to manage, we moved our family from Wisconsin to North Carolina three months before Hanna was born.



Our kids are now 2.5 and 4.5 and they keep us busy! They make us laugh and challenge us every day.

I am passionate about the nonprofit community and finding ways to give back. My favorite part of the year is coordinating the kid's birthday give-backs. Instead of having friends and families give the kids a gift, we pick a nonprofit and ask for items to be donated to that organization. So far, we have donated books, baby clothes, diapers, and science-based items to the children's hospital. My greatest goal is to raise kind and generous kids.

I've been blessed with a great family, wonderful friends and the opportunity to do work that allows me to make a difference in the world. Life is good!