

THE STACKHOUSE FAMILY

# From San Diego to South Bend

Adrian and Tess with their son Owen and daughter Harper

Adrian (A.D.) Stackhouse and his wife Tess met in 2005 while living and working in San Diego. Given that they worked for the same company, they began spending time with the same group of friends during and after work. After dating for several years, this surfer and his best friend tied the knot in Pacific Beach, California.

Growing up in South Bend, A.D. attended Riley High School and Ball State University, where he double-majored in English and Criminal Justice. For 4 years, he worked in the skilled trades division for the parks department and for a local contractor framing and roofing houses. “Not seeing a clear picture of where I was headed in my career, I decided to take a risk.” That’s when he and David St. Clair (his longtime friend and current business partner) drove Route 66 headed for San Diego, where A.D. eventually met his wife.

Tess hails from Concord, California and studied Marketing at California State University, Chico. After a bit of time, she and A.D. realized they had reached their professional potential at their company, Ferguson Enterprises. “We resigned together and took a 6-month hiatus to travel Europe,” A.D. says. Upon their return, A.D. started working in medical sales and Tess took a marketing position with Petco at their corporate office. “For the next 10 years we forged our way.” Tess received many accolades in her career and was promoted to Senior Director of Market Research and Analytics of Petco. In 2016, their daughter Harper was born and Tess took on the full-time role of mom.

“I was recognized annually as the National Top Producer for both Apria Healthcare and Accentcare Home Health before joining Mission Healthcare, a San Diego-based home health and hospice company,” A.D. explains. Over the next decade, he helped this company

grow from a small team of three sales reps to more than 100 representatives in seven west coast states, and Mission became the West Coast’s largest non-hospital, home-based healthcare company. It was during this time that A.D. started venturing into San Diego real estate, purchasing homes and managing Airbnb rentals. The Stackhouses later invested in the local South Bend real estate market with David St. Clair, who shares ownership in two companies with A.D. (Stackhouse & St. Clair Holdings and St. Clair Development).

“Many find it interesting that we left San Diego, where we had sunshine almost every day of the year and lived right next to the beach, to move to South Bend,” A.D. says. “However, there is something to be said about the beauty of four distinct seasons, proximity to the Great Lakes, Notre Dame, and the wonderful family that we know as South Bend.”

Moving to Sunnymede was a natural choice for the Stackhouses. A.D.’s mother lived there when he was growing up, and they happened upon a ranch with a finished basement on a large lot with a big, plotted garden for vegetables. They also live within walking distance to their close family friends, the St. Clairs. “I am godparent to their oldest Mia, while Molly St. Clair is godparent to my oldest Harper, and Dave is godparent to my youngest Owen,” A.D. says.

Since moving to the neighborhood, they’ve met many special neighbors. “Everyone is out and about and they are very kind,” A.D. says. “We live next door to a wonderful family; the Wesleys are well-known for their son and grandson who are some of South Bend’s best basketball players. We love being walking distance to the zoo and two wonderful playgrounds, as well as the farmer’s market, which we frequent every Saturday. We also take family walks through IUSB campus, which Harper calls ‘the forest’ because of the beautiful tree-lined walking path.”

The Stackhouse kids love going to the zoo and playing outside. Harper (6) just finished kindergarten at Saint Joseph Grade School and is part of the Girl Scouts Daisy troop there. Owen (2) spends his days at home with his mom helping in the garden and loves playing with He-Man action figures, trucks, and dinosaurs. “Harper and Owen both enjoy helping those less fortunate and are very generous for their ages,” their dad says.

“We have really loved traveling and seeing new places—Tess and I have been to more than 20 countries together since we met,” A.D. says. “When Owen was a newborn, our family rented an RV for 5 weeks and drove to South Bend and back from San Diego, visiting different national parks along the way.” They plan to visit San Diego again this summer and also to take a trip up to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

For the last 17 years, A.D. surfed nearly 5 days a week. Since relocating to South Bend, he’s replaced this pastime with running, swimming, golf, and kayaking. “I grew up participating in football, baseball, swimming, fencing, and basketball,” he says. “As an adult, I picked up other sports such as golf, rugby, skateboarding, and soccer. Doing these things with my kids is one of the things that I really look forward to.” A.D. also likes to garden and build things with his hands. In her free time, Tess enjoys reading, crafting, gardening, and playing soccer.

“We are thrilled to be a part of the Sunnymede and South Bend communities and look forward to contributing in any way we can,” A.D. says. “My family and I have all been baptized and have been members of the Episcopal Church. We find that our walk in Christ is with all people from all walks of life, to love and honor everyone.” Moreover, their family values lead them to trust in God and always look out for one another. ●

BY LINDSAY CONNER

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