

J&J Magazine

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**DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S
SELF-ESTEEM**

**NO
ORDINARY
HOUSEWIFE**

**MEET THE MIGHTY
MID-ATLANTIC'S
NEW CHAPTERS**

NO ORDINARY HOUSEWIFE



Stacie Turner personifies the 21st century businesswoman – multi-faceted, entrepreneurial and connected. A busy real estate executive and cast of the *Real Housewives of DC*, Turner balances her successful career with her dedication to the community.

The first in her family to graduate from college, Stacie obtained her undergraduate degree in Finance from Howard University in 1990 and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business (HBS) in 1996. Prior to HBS, she began her corporate career in Brand Management at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduate school, Stacie entered the Executive Management program at Sprint, where she managed sponsorships and the global prepaid card business; and joined BET Networks as Vice President of Marketing where she managed the launch of BET.com.

Following a longtime desire to be an entrepreneur, Stacie formed a strategic marketing consulting firm, the Turner Group, attaining an extensive client roster across a variety of industries. In 2001, Stacie capitalized on the rising real estate market in the city by starting a real estate sales and development firm, Brickstone Ventures. On the development side, she and her husband invested in properties in transitioning neighborhoods and focused on condominium conversions. Simultaneously, Stacie became a top producing residential sales agent with Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. and Sotheby's International Realty with over \$180 million in career sales.

While Stacie has enjoyed substantial success in business, she has always maintained a passionate civic interest in the lives of children in her community. Born into the DC foster care system, Stacie was fortunate to be adopted at an early age by loving parents who



provided a nurturing childhood, a stable home life and exposure to people, places and experiences that built her positive image of self, and an all important drive to achieve. Her first gift, “the foundation of family”, as she calls it, kindled a deep desire to positively impact the lives of adolescent foster children, and help them forge a path towards achievement despite obstacles. With the belief that: “the only difference between an ordinary life and an extra-ordinary life is the “extra””, Stacie founded Extra-Ordinary Life in 2009 to provide the “extra”. Extra-Ordinary Life programs expose youth to people, places and opportunities beyond their current access; to inspire them to dream big and aspire to do great things in life.

Stacie has also served as a board member of Bright Beginnings and Metro Teen-AIDS; the Board of Trustees for Southeastern University and Mayoral Appointed Commissioner to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPD). She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America.

Stacie is married and has two young children. She and her family reside in Washington, DC.





Q: You work full-time, are active in your sorority and local chapter of Jack & Jill, how do you balance it all?

I wish I could say I have this mastered! Like most women, I struggle everyday to keep multiple balls in the air and manage roles as mother, wife, homemaker, businesswoman, leader, room parent, soror, etc. There is always more to do than time allows. However, I find fulfillment in being involved in many different things so it will be a forever challenge. I think balance is a beautiful concept – that is virtually impossible to attain unless you identify 2-3 priorities that center your life AND carve out time for self. You must be willing to let go things that infringe upon or cannot comfortably co-exist with those priorities. Of course, this is much easier said than done. But it creates a feeling of balance for me.

Q: What roles have you served in Jack & Jill?

Co-Chair – Technology Committee, Community Service Committee, and Membership Committee where my husband Jason and I initiated two new social/happy hour activities --“Jack’s Chill” (for the dads) and “Jill’s Chill” (for the moms, of course). It’s a fun, casual way for the membership to get to know each

other and network.

Q: What is the one piece of advice you would give to our chapter Presidents about leadership?

We must look for ways to further exploit the amazing knowledge and resources of the membership to benefit our children. While planned group activities are wonderful and the foundation of the Chapter—we should also seek out, compile and share information on the multitude of opportunities/experiences available to enhance the lives of our children.

A new practice within the DC Chapter is to start our meetings by asking Moms to share good news and accomplishments of our kids and families. In doing so, we learn what other kids are doing and discover a variety of experiences/activities/nuggets of wisdom that we can apply to our own families. The information is now being captured in a database. At the end of the day, we all want the best for our children and all lead busy lives, so we need to share our individual knowledge and capture it in a manner that makes it an easy resource for members to access.

Q: What is your guilty pleasure? (What do you enjoy doing?)

I enjoy spending time with my girlfriends. From impromptu girls nights where we just hang out and catch up on life over cocktails and decadent food; to annual “Girls Trips” to warm weather beach destinations (with a spa:-) for a weekend of R&R. I don’t consider it a “guilty” pleasure—it’s just necessary—and deserved. As women, we need time to focus on self –away from the home and family— and in the company of those that simply understand and support us. It’s an important time to recharge our battery, connect, laugh, release and come home with a renewed spirit.

Q: What is your favorite Jack and Jill programming activity that you and your children attended and why?

My favorite activity is the holiday brunch sponsored by the family planning committee. I look forward to this event because it captures the spirit of Christmas by bringing families together in fun and celebration while reinforcing the giving aspect of the season. Service activities for all age groups precede the brunch event including caroling at a home for the elderly, making Christmas cards and collecting gifts for incapacitated children. It is an atmosphere of fellowship – and fun as the kids perform skits for the adults and families take family portraits.

Q: How has appearing on Housewives changed your life?

The decision to appear on Housewives was a difficult one and a risk—given the negative perception of reality television overall and the dramatic nature of the Housewives series which is often non-flattering. As I teach my children—“chance favors the bold”—so I stepped out on faith with the goal of using the show as a unique marketing platform to promote my charity, real estate business, and to positively represent women and black families to its audience of 35 million households.

In hindsight, the opportunity was far greater and more positive than I imagined. I have been able to use my “celebrity” to bring awareness to the foster care issue nationally which has enabled my charity to grow faster and make a greater impact. For example, I partnered with BET to create the first ever documentary on DC foster care that has already aired in 54 countries. I’ve had the opportunity to interface with Congress on important issue such as education reform for foster care youth. Many opportunities were accelerated given my visibility on the show.

Overall, doing the show was a fun, surreal adventure. Jason and I have met really interesting people outside of our natural circle-- and had many exciting new experiences. Most importantly, I made a connection that ultimately led to me finding my birthfather in Nigeria. There has been a negative side to the notoriety—the hurtful public commentary, invasion of privacy and lesson in the genuineness of friendships. But despite these things, the experience has been totally worthwhile.

“To the world you may be one person. But to one person, you may be the world.”

Q: How are things going with your father's family and building the new relationships?

I am overjoyed to have found my birthfather and to discover that he is equally excited, open and eager to build a relationship. Whereas I grew up and only child and my parents are deceased, I am thrilled to discover that I have 10 siblings and a rich culture to learn and share with my children.

Q: Is there anything you want to share about your charitable organization?

Similar to Jack and Jill, my charity, Extra-Ordinary Life, is focused on nurturing and supporting youth. However, the difference is that Jack and Jill children have the privilege of family to educate, support and facilitate the direction of their lives. Extra-Ordinary Life works with teen girls living in foster care—without security and stability of a permanent home or the love and support of a consistent, caring adult in their lives—due to no fault of their own. Yet despite these daunting circumstances, these kids often possess a mental toughness, self-motivation and emotional resiliency that are instructive for our own kids who are blessed to live in an exceedingly better situation. As we seek to provide “the best” for our own kids, we need to look out for the less fortunate yet equally deserving—and share our talent, time and resources. Please visit www.extra-ordinarylife.org for more information and to get involved!

Q: Is there anything you want to share about the current real estate climate?

Don't let stories in the media scare you away! The fundamentals of real estate buying and selling still apply despite this tough economy and housing market. For Buyers, interest rates and prices are at historical lows so this is an ideal time to invest in the market. Sellers – your house will sell if you go back to the fundamentals. First, price your house reasonably relative to the competitive. The price must be based on market demand and movement – your profit desires are irrelevant. Second, invest in strategic improvements that enhance the curb and interior appeal of your home. Think about what you would expect as a buyer shopping for a house—then ensure that your home delivers on those expectations.



Stacie's Loves:

Goddess Body Butter – part of Tracy Mourn-
ing's new skincare line – it feels and smells
yummy

Sugar Leaf wine (the Petit Verdot is my abso-
lute favorite but they are all outstanding). The
vineyard is located in Charlottesville, VA and
is owned by our friends and happens to be the
only African American owned vineyard on the
east coast.

Beat Assailant Music – my brother-in-law,
Adam Turner a.k.a. Beat Assailant is one of
the hottest musicians in France. I love his
music which is a blend of hip-hop, rock, and
jazz with a 10 piece band as the back-
ground. No sampling. And it's a good excuse
to visit Paris each year.

Bike ride with the family to Old Town Alexan-
dria—then take the water taxi to National
Harbor for lunch and to hang out