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## *The Hayes Family: A House Divided!*

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# *The Hayes Family:* A House Divided!

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**M**ark and Dawn Hayes have deep roots in Troy schools. They met each other while teaching at Barnard Elementary and have spent many years sharing the love of educating students who live in the Troy School District. A proud product of Martell, Boulan and Troy High, Mark attended Michigan State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance. After graduation, he continued with his education at Wayne State University earning a Master's degree in arts and teaching. Dawn attended Bishop Foley High School and completed her undergraduate studies at Grand Valley State University double majoring in psychology and special education. She earned certifications to teach general education (grades K-8) along with the hearing impaired and emotionally impaired (K-26). She also earned a Master's degree in reading and language arts at Oakland University.

Mark and Dawn are extremely passionate about education. Dawn retired in December of 2021 after 30 years teaching special education and Mark is in his 28th year of teaching math primarily, at the middle school level. He also coaches football at Larson middle school and track at Athens High School. For the Hayes', education is more than just gaining knowledge. They believe in inculcating values to their students. For example, they both care about their students beyond the classroom. They don't think twice about bringing a generator to a student in need, providing beds, food, clothing or whatever it is that anyone needs at the drop of a hat. This care was seen when they were allowed to open a "free" store at Athens High School. It was a project that built a sense of community in the building, bridged student and faculty relationships outside the classroom confines and supported environmental agendas too. Their "free" store has inspired sister stores throughout Michigan and elsewhere in the United States. They also try to serve their neighbors by raking leaves for the elderly, doing

check-ins and helping with snow removal in the winter months.

They have three children: Patrick Kellogg (32); Alexandra Hayes (25); and Hannah Hayes (24). Patrick attended Martell, Smith and Troy High. He enjoyed playing baseball, hockey and football. He continued his football career for a year at Adrian College on scholarship and then transferred to Central Michigan University. He currently resides in Grand Rapids with his fiancé and were married on October 13, 2023. They enjoy any outdoor activity placing high priority on camping and biking, and hiking. Patrick continues to push himself athletically and has competed in the Iceman Biking competition for years and also spends time working at Breckenridge Ski Resort in Colorado the past few winters.

Their daughter Alexandra (Allie) played Troy Youth Soccer, enjoyed dance classes, and participated in Special Olympics for Ice dancing and Track and Field. Allie has Down syndrome but that does not keep her from setting high goals and achieving them. She works full-time and attends Oakland Community College working on her Associate's degree. Allie has worked beside her Mom with persistence to get legislation

passed that would protect Michigan's most vulnerable adults from on-line predators attempting to solicit photos from them. She loves music, art, gardening, reading and spending time with friends and family. Allie has also inspired Mark and Dawn to get involved with political activism. They have been active the past several years to nurture getting HB4320 and 4387 successfully passed out of the Michigan House of Representatives on October 12, 2023. This legislation now moves infer Senate approval. The bills aim to protect vulnerable adults, like their daughter Allie, from predators seeking to take advantage of their disability and exploiting them by requesting explicit photos.

Finally, their daughter, Hannah, also played Soccer, volleyball, and did track and field in Troy. She excelled in high jump specifically making it to the state competition twice and continued high jumping on scholarship while attending Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. After four years, Hannah graduated and now works in marketing and she also lives on the west side of the state. Hannah keeps active in her community enjoying running, art appreciation, and community events that celebrate her Irish heritage. As an Aquinas alumni, Hannah is active in supporting new





students considering attending Aquinas College and mentors some of her fellow teammates still attending school.

The only big issue in the house is that they are a “house divided.” Patrick attended Troy High School, yet both of the girls went to Athens High School. While teaching at Athens, Dawn would cheer for their son at football games which was sometimes hard for their Red Hawk friends to comprehend. After Patrick graduated, however, they switched sides and confounded their neighbors with their new fervor for the Red Hawks. In the end, the cross town rivalry provided the whole family with great fun over the years. At the end of the day, this family loves all Troy School District students regardless of who their mascot is and where their home school is located.

The Hayes family has lived in the Houghten Acres subdivision for 32 years. The best thing about their neighborhood is that each home sits on about an acre of land. That kind of space is great for backyard baseball games, soccer matches, bonfires and celebrations. The family has developed close relationships with

many people in their neighborhood since most of their children grew up together. “Memories of trick or treating, driving to school together and having driveway happy hours during COVID are precious to us,” Dawn stated. Time has passed and many of the children from the neighborhood are now adults. They have moved out, gotten married, and they have begun having children of their own. Yet, the closeness that developed means that all the neighbors get to share in the joy of having grandchildren.

The Hayes family has pet chickens. They are all girls and provide a daily supply of fresh eggs! The chickens remember faces (experts say they can remember more than 100 faces) and each hen has a unique personality, food favorites and habits. They love their chickens.

Mark and Dawn are involved in their community. They have been a part of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church community for 32 years. Both of Dawn and Mark’s daughters were altar servers and Allie still is. They also largely support the St. Vincent de Paul charity which runs a camp for qualifying children in Sanilac County about an hour and 30 minutes from Troy. Mark gladly clocks up many hours when he volunteers at Camp Ozenam by building chicken coups, sling shot and bow and arrow practice ranges and helping bolster outdoor recreation activities. In her retirement, Dawn currently serves on the Board of Directors for the ARC of Oakland County which helps people that are intellectually and developmentally disabled. They are also frequent visitors of the Troy Public Library. They regularly walk through their neighborhood and near the Troy dog park. They enjoy seeing students and other community members along the way. As the neighborhood “Handyman,” Mark is always able





of being the Grand Marshall for the Athens Homecoming parade in past years.

No travel destination in Michigan is safe from the Hayes family. They especially like the west side of the state where Patrick and Hannah are now living. They visit downtown areas and almost always go for the art shows. They love any destination on Lake Michigan especially Saugatuck and Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. Another favorite destination is Pictured Rocks. They also travel every year to see their family in Georgia. They have traveled to Puerto Rico many times before it was so devastated by hurricane damage. They haven't ignored Detroit either and take a little trip at least once a month to the Eastern Market and they enjoy other local farmer's markets weekly too. Their family bucket list

and willing to help his fellow friends, neighbors and community members. In recognition of their admiration, the Athens student Council asked both Allie and Dawn to accept the honor

trip is to Ireland. Hopefully, within the next 5 years, they will check that off their list. While traveling is exciting, it is better when it is a shared experience with family and friends. Their best memories include holidays with family, traveling to Italy, France and Greece, attending sporting events (including Special Olympics) with their children and having backyard bonfires with neighbors.



**Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share?** Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [jmangiapane@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jmangiapane@bestversionmedia.com).

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