

Inspired by Family

I got really lucky with my family — that's the only way I can describe it. My mother and father are kind, supportive, dependable people. They've been there for me, inspired me to take many of the great paths I've taken in my life — and they'll be fantastic grandparents too!

How reliable are they? Though my parents separated when I was young, my father and I stayed close, and he would call me every morning at 7 a.m., through high school and college (where I studied economics), encouraging me to get up and out to class. I used to joke with friends that he was my own human alarm clock, a dad I could depend on.

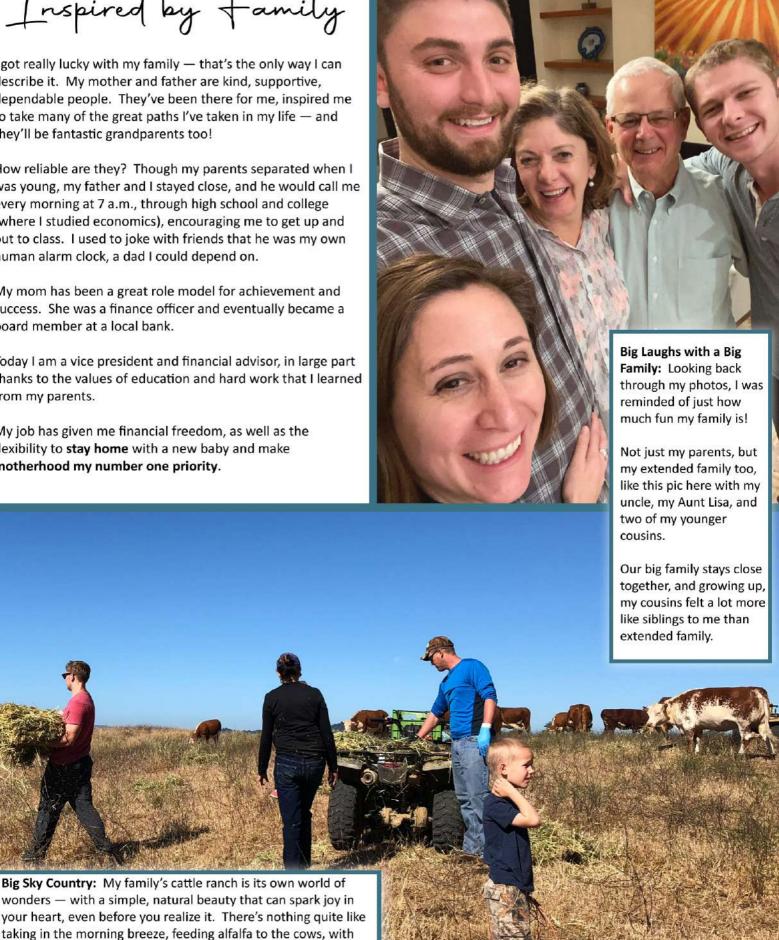
My mom has been a great role model for achievement and success. She was a finance officer and eventually became a board member at a local bank.

Today I am a vice president and financial advisor, in large part thanks to the values of education and hard work that I learned from my parents.

Big Sky Country: My family's cattle ranch is its own world of

miles and miles of blue sky stretching out overhead.

My job has given me financial freedom, as well as the flexibility to stay home with a new baby and make motherhood my number one priority.





For the Love of the Game

I love sports. In high school, I was on the swim team, and in college, I became passionate about biking and skiing. I'm also a big San Francisco 49ers fan. (My friends and I never miss a game!)

As a parent, I'll introduce my child to all kinds of sports and hobbies and give them the opportunity to choose the ones that connect with them. My parents, thankfully, took that approach with me — encouraging my interests, attending my swim meets, and cheering me on.

I can't wait to share that kind of enthusiasm and support as a mom myself.

Granted, dog riding and elephant washing aren't professional-level sports (at least, not yet!), but I love these two photos nonetheless because they remind me how games and fun can be found anywhere, if you're open to it.

Below, that's me and my friends in Thailand, visiting an elephant sanctuary and competing with each other to see who could provide their elephant with the most thorough coat of mud.

On the left, that's my dog Hank. He loves kids, and whenever any of the neighborhood children drops by, they inevitably convert our big front yard in an Olympics of racing, dog chasing, and rubber ball retrieval.

When friends come by with their children, we often have lunch, then head down the road, to our great local playground and park.







