



Building Family Through the Lake View Community

by Matt Beardmore | photos by Maija Martin Photography

Creating a sense of community for themselves and their two young children was a major reason why Whitney Reynolds and her husband, David, decided to move during COVID. Relocating from Lakeview East to Lakeview/Roscoe East has helped their family create a sense of community and a lifetime's worth of memories that they never knew was possible.

Reynolds, from a small town in southern Oklahoma, and Heiner, a native of Pittsburgh, met at a coffeeshop in Lakeview in 2012 and close to a year within meeting (this month is their 10-year wedding anniversary!) they were married.

"When Dave and I met we discussed

where we would lay down our roots," said Reynolds, host and owner of the nationally-syndicated PBS show, *The Whitney Reynolds Show*. "We specifically chose Chicago and we love it here, yet we also realized we would need to create a chosen family for us here."

Reynolds said their decision to put down roots close to Hamlin Park felt strange at first, as they were no longer surrounded by the hustle and bustle of Lakeview East. But as they soaked in the sounds of their new neighborhood – they love listening to the trees blow in the wind – and watched how their new neighborhood embraced them and their two children, Marlowe and David Acheson Heiner III (Acher), who are both

now 7 years old, Whitney and David felt blessed knowing that, even though they do not live in a city with family, they have given the gift of community to their children.

"I had one of those moments when my son was off to his first sleepover," Reynolds said. "We walked him there and what should have been a five-minute walk turned into 30 minutes because we had so many friends along the trail! Living in Lake View and seeing my kids with their best friends lining the street and riding their bikes to go play with them is everything!"

The family loves biking everywhere (even their 2-year-old shih tzu, Sir Crouton, tags

along for the ride!), Marlowe and Acher both participate in Hamlin Park baseball, and Marlowe (Cheer Destiny) and Acher (Junior-Flag Football League) are involved in other activities, yet home is where many memories have been created.

"We love a good friendsgiving or progressive dinner (we don't always host), pizza with the crew on Halloween and we are known for our annual Cookie s'HEIN," Reynolds said.

When guests come over, Reynolds loves to decorate their home with fresh flowers (Lucas Garden is a favorite) and use her parent's china and even their wedding crystal. Guests can also expect

placecards when they arrive, and if it is a big party, Reynolds and Heiner love hiring "Sir-Mix-a-Lot," who is all dressed up and ready to tend the bar!

The family lives near one of the owners of Smoke Daddy, a BBQ with locations in Wicker Park and Wrigleyville, so they will often cater from this Chicago favorite when guests come over.

"Not only is it nice supporting local, but Smoke Daddy is amazing with any food allergies," Reynolds said. "We recently had a guests with very specific needs and they went up and beyond to make sure everything tasted amazing and was safe!"

David has also been known to show off his smoker skills, and Whitney says she "can almost chicken fry anything!"

No matter if it's a small get-together or if they lose count of how many guests enter their home for the always-popular cookie party, what is most important for Whitney and David is that they are expanding their circle of friends so they always have old and new friends to join them.

They truly have created more than a community – these friends and neighbors have become part of their family.