



**T**hrough her role as a KPLC Sunrise News anchor, Britney Glaser has forged a way to blend her love of broadcast journalism with her passion for foster care and adoption. In 2014, she started a television news segment called *The New Family Tree*. Each month, Britney features a different child within the SWLA foster care system who is legally cleared for adoption, in hopes that child will be connected with a permanent family. As a result, since the segment's inception, ten children have been adopted, and several more are in adoptive families.

In March 2016, on the morning before Britney and her husband Matt, along with their one-year-old daughter, drove to Texas to meet their soon-to-be-adopted 10-month-old son for the first time, the couple discovered she was pregnant. They currently parent two two-year-olds and a six-month-old: big sister Lila Rose, James, and baby Adeline . . . and they love every second of their busy lives. I recently sat down with Britney, in her remarkably tidy home, where she talked about her life as a mother, a television newscaster, and an advocate for children in foster care.

# first person

with **Britney Glaser** by Angie Kay Dilmore

Making Connections

## Tell me about the path that led you to a career as a news anchor.

As a child, I can't recall a time I didn't enjoy pretending to interview people. My aunt had a home video recorder, the big bulky kind you put on your shoulder, and she let my sister and me borrow it. We would create our own little talk shows and community news segments. Around junior high, and by watching KPLC, I started to realize one could actually have a career asking people questions and telling stories. Attending school in Beauregard Parish, we didn't have a campus TV station, but I wrote and took photos for the yearbook staff. In high school, I was a teen reporter at KPLC. I knew then, this is absolutely what I want to do.

I attended LSU after high school and studied mass communication with a focus on broadcast journalism. I had a great college experience, and every summer, a different adventure. My first summer, I interned for a radio station in Washington DC. The following summer, I taught English at an orphanage in East Africa. After junior year, I taught radio at

a Jewish camp in Pennsylvania. And the summer after graduation, I started working at KPLC!

Katrina hit right before my senior year of college. That event, while interning at CBS News in New Orleans, gave me a tremendous amount of experience, prepping me for what it would be like to tell significant stories; to truly be able to change peoples' lives and be on the front line of information, and seeing the partnership between doing my job well and how the community receives that information. It's a critical role of disseminating truth and connecting people with potentially life-saving resources. Being a connector is what this field is all about to me, from natural disasters to my current passion – connecting children who need families.

## How did you and Matt meet?

I started at KPLC in 2006 as a reporter and producer, and after several months became a Sunrise anchor. In 2010, I wanted to spread my wings and see what it would be like to cover news in a totally different community. So I moved to Waco, Texas and worked at their NBC affiliate. Within a

month of moving there, I joined the Waco Young Professionals. It was at that first meeting I met Matt Felder. He was a former news anchor and reporter, and understood the business, which was important when I was late for dates due to breaking stories. We married two years later. Family is everything to us, so we moved back to Lake Charles.

**Describe your typical day.** I get up at 2:30 a.m., get ready for work as I pump the [breast milk] bottles for the day. I look at the news headlines as I put my makeup on, and I'm at work by 3:30 a.m. During the next hour, I read over scripts, talk to producers, and we're on air from 4:30 - 7:00 a.m. From 7:00 - 7:30, we cut commercials. Then I hop in my car and rush back home so my husband can go to work. I have one hour to give the kids breakfast, get them dressed, and drop them off at their daycare at 9:00. Then I'm back at work till just before 2:00 p.m. when I pick the kids up. Usually from that point on, I'm just Mom. We go outside and play, bake cookies, make dinner. At 5:30, we eat. 6:00, baths. 7:00 we start putting the kids to bed, and I'm in bed by 8:00 p.m. Fortunately, we have good sleepers.

## Of all the stories you have reported on, is there one that stands out that made you feel like you made a real positive difference in people's lives?

I went to my [KPLC] boss a few years ago, wanting to do a feature on adoption. It was met with some skepticism. He thought no one would care, but with some persuasion, he gave it a chance. The first adoption feature I did was on a little boy named Ke'vontre. I was so touched by him and his story. I prayed, Lord, please let this segment move someone out there. I can't give this child the hope of adoption, and then the phone doesn't ring. But we had such a huge response. Six months later, I attended Ke'vontre's adoption. He's in a wonderful family now.

People still ask me about him. That story opened the door for people to have a conversation about children in our community who have been overlooked.

## What led you to have such a heart for foster care and adoption?

I've always personally had a desire to adopt. Growing up in church and hearing missionaries speak on orphanages, I knew there were kids in need. But it wasn't until a few years ago that I realized the magnitude of kids in need, both in our community and across the U.S. The more Matt and I looked into adoption and discovered the need, the more I knew I was wasting an opportunity by not addressing it professionally. I have this amazing microphone! Our motto at the station is "At your Service." What could be a better service than helping parentless children find loving permanent families?

## Name three things people don't know about you.

I want to live on a farm, I would have twenty children if my husband allowed, and we choose to not have internet service at our home.

*For updates on Britney and her busy family, follow her blog, [britneyoffscript.blogspot.com](http://britneyoffscript.blogspot.com)*

