



Justin Reinke interviewed by Wanda Bruce Graham:

Justin Reinke joined the Board of Directors for the Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County in February 2013. He was born in November 1974 in Rochester, New York and lived there until his family moved to South Bend, Indiana when he was three years old. Justin attended Coquillard Elementary School and graduated from South Bend Clay High School in 1993. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing. His favorite subjects in high school and college included history and math, and they are still favorites of his today. Justin completed his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at University of Notre Dame in 2000.

Justin began his career with the Whirlpool Corporation in St. Joseph, Michigan in August 2000 with career assignments including Senior Buyer-Procurement(2000-2004); Manager-Transregional Sales (2004-2006); Senior Product Manager (2006-2007); Senior Category Manager (2008-2010) culminating as Product Director/Category Director-Refrigeration from May 2010 to May 2012. Justin Reinke's career as Director-Aftermarkets Business with SVP Worldwide (Singer, Viking, Pfaff Sewing Machines), Nashville, TN began in May 2012. His position as Director, Aftermarkets Business involves leading the business for everything that's not a sewing machine. Examples include accessories and software.

Justin is proudest of his family. He has known his wife, the former Lisa Nichols, since seventh grade. They lived about a half-mile from each other in South Bend, Indiana and began dating while juniors at South Bend Clay High School. He grew up attending Methodist Church, and Lisa grew up in the Catholic Church. Lisa graduated from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana in 1997, where she was a member of the varsity soccer team. They were married in 1998 and have three children. All three children were born in St. Joseph, Michigan. Will is 11, Stephanie is 9, and Jack is 5. They reside in the Brookfield Subdivision in Brentwood. Lisa, a former second grade teacher, spends her time helping with their children's sporting and extracurricular activities, which include Will's lacrosse and piano, Stephanie's dance and guitar lessons, and Jack's soccer and t-ball. Justin and his family's two favorite vacation locations are the family's Michigan lake house and their villa in Siesta Key, Florida near Sarasota. They enjoy swimming, water skiing, sailing, and all thing water- related. Both locations have been enjoyed by Justin's family since he was young. He also enjoys skiing in Colorado at least once a year. Justin fondly remembers his Dad taking him and his two brothers individually on vacations once a year and he's started the same tradition with his children. Justin and his oldest son, Will recently visited the Washington, DC area. His family time is very special to him because his career requires extensive travel.

Justin enjoys most sports; he's a runner and plays golf. What has he done that you probably wouldn't guess? Justin has run the Chicago Marathon five times. His favorite teams are the Chicago Cubs and the Michigan State basketball team; he shares season tickets to the basketball games with his Dad and brothers. His Mom, Dad and one brother and his family reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his other brother and his family reside in South Bend, Indiana.

Justin's faith and his belief in giving back to those less fortunate makes Habitat a perfect fit. His first Habitat for Humanity experience occurred in 2002 while a Whirlpool Corporation employee in St. Joseph, Michigan. In 2005, Justin participated on a Builders' Blitz with his staff as a team-building project in Benton Harbor, Michigan. He also participated with the Jimmy Carter Work Project in Windsor, Canada. He met former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter during the dedication. After this project, Justin became more involved with Habitat for Humanity. Justin served as committee member at Harbor Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, Michigan. He also participated in a project similar to the Jimmy Carter Work Project called Building Blocks in 2006. That week-long build was in Nashville, the group built 10 homes in one week. Justin recalled having lunch daily with the group, and a female homeowner who told her story about her grandmother and mother never been able to become homeowners. Yet, there she was having her dream to live in a home that was safe realized with the help of wonderful people like Justin. She thanked everyone working for making her dream a reality.

What does Justin like the most about being a part of Habitat for Humanity? He said, "As with his faith, he believes in giving back and helping others and that's the mission of and why he's been so impressed with Habitat for Humanity all these years. It's a hand-up and not a handout. I love the builds and the camaraderie working with all the volunteers. I enjoy being a part of the Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County Board but especially like being a member of the Family Selection Committee. It's similar to the actual build because you have the hands on experience with the partner family."