

LOUDONVILLE

NEIGHBORS

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WHY THE "OLD LOUDONVILLE HOUSE" NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE, BUILDING SKILLS
THAT LAST A LIFETIME, FALL EVENT PREVIEW, COOL SIDES FOR SUMMER NIGHTS

Meet Kirsten
Michael^{Bleau} and Family
Shelli

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A typical day for Kirsten and Michael's family often includes activities, sports, and togetherness.

Their children are at the center of their busy, blended family, and it's their children who brought Michael Shelli and Kirsten Bleau together. This summer they'll be celebrating their love for one another with nuptials planned to take place in a private ceremony. The couple and their five children will all be traveling to Hawaii for the destination wedding.

Kirsten and Michael met at a later time in their lives and are both Capital Region natives. Today, a family of seven, they have settled in Loudonville with their five children and a few well-loved family pets.

Kirsten graduated from Shaker High School, and Michael graduated from Shenendehowa High School. Kirsten and Michael were both active in sports when they were younger. Kirsten was involved with wrestling, cheerleading, and she also raced go-karts. In addition to sports, she had a love for singing. When she was seven years old, an opportunity arose to perform the national anthem at local go-kart tracks, which she continued to do until she was about 15 years old.

Michael also favored sports and played lacrosse and football. Michael was an exceptional lacrosse player and received a lacrosse scholarship to the University at Albany. There he earned a bachelor's in accounting with a minor in business administration and a master's degree in taxation. Growing up, Michael also enjoyed spending time with his family in Lake George.

BLENDING LIVES AND LOVE

Meet Kirsten Bleau,
Michael Shelli and Family





Today, Michael and Kirsten share Accessible Health and Wellness Solutions, a Medicare insurance agency. In their business, they offer comprehensive Medicare services to clients, whether it be assistance with the enrollment process or Medicare bill comprehension, and they are also a bridge to help those find home health aides and additional resources. "I focus exclusively on helping individuals navigate Medicare, understand their coverage options, and make informed decisions about their healthcare," Kirsten says.

Her joy and passion are in educating and helping others with these life choices and offering trustworthy, Medicare-focused guidance, where clients can feel more

at ease when making these decisions. With Medicare being her sole focus, she can specifically help people navigate this area and offer customized support for clients. "My goal is to build long-term relationships based on trust, education, and helping clients find coverage that fits their unique needs," she says.

Although Kirsten didn't always see herself in the professional career she has today, her joy in helping those in need ultimately led her here. Throughout the years of building her work experience, she discovered where her passions lie. "What ultimately drew me to Medicare was the opportunity to help people navigate an important and often confusing part of their lives," she explains. Kirsten

finds it very rewarding to have a positive impact on her clients and says, "I feel like every time I pick up the phone I am helping someone."

When Kirsten and Michael are not dedicating time to their business and clients, they are focused on their lively family life. Dylan, their eldest son, is fourteen years old; younger son Bennett is thirteen years old; Emmarie, their eldest daughter, is eleven years old; and their youngest daughters are four-year-old Elloise and two-year-old Aubree.

Taking after their parents, the older children are also very active in sports. Both of their sons play lacrosse like their dad. Dylan also plays football, and Bennett wrestles, taking after his mom. Emmarie is also a dancer and travels for competitive dance. She serves as a role model for her younger sisters as they aspire to follow in her dance path. Elloise is in recreational dance, recently finishing her second year.

Michael is happy to be able to continue his involvement in lacrosse, not only through his sons' interest, but also by serving as the assistant varsity lacrosse coach at the Christian Brothers Academy.

Their family also includes their pets. Emmarie is an animal lover and cherishes her leopard gecko named Echo. They also have a Ragdoll cat named Cookie who joined their family by way of a breeder. The most recent addition to the family is a cat named Lily, who found her way into their lives around Easter of this year.

While their sons were out for a walk with some friends, a cat began to follow their trail from St. Pius to home. Looking

"Depending on the season, you can find us at a dance competition, cheering from the sidelines at a lacrosse field, or spending the day inside a gym at a wrestling tournament."

- Kirsten Bleau

like it wanted some food, the cat comfortably entered their home. After searching for an owner, they came to find out the cat was missing when Kirsten happened to see a poster about a month later. After Kirsten reached out to the contact listed on the poster and spoke with the cat's previous "parents," she learned that the cat's initial family had older children who were unable to devote time to her. They inquired about Kirsten's family keeping the cat, and Lily is now part of the family, with no shortage of attention.

When Kirsten, Michael, and their kids are home, they cherish family time and enjoy gathering to watch NFL football and eating meals from the grill. As far as a favorite family meal goes, Kirsten says, "Anything off the grill or Blackstone. I think our family's favorite meal is our homemade pork fried rice that Mike makes on the Blackstone." They fully utilize the notoriously versatile Blackstone griddles. "Michael makes the best breakfasts on the grill," Kirsten says, adding, "We host giant family brunches too."



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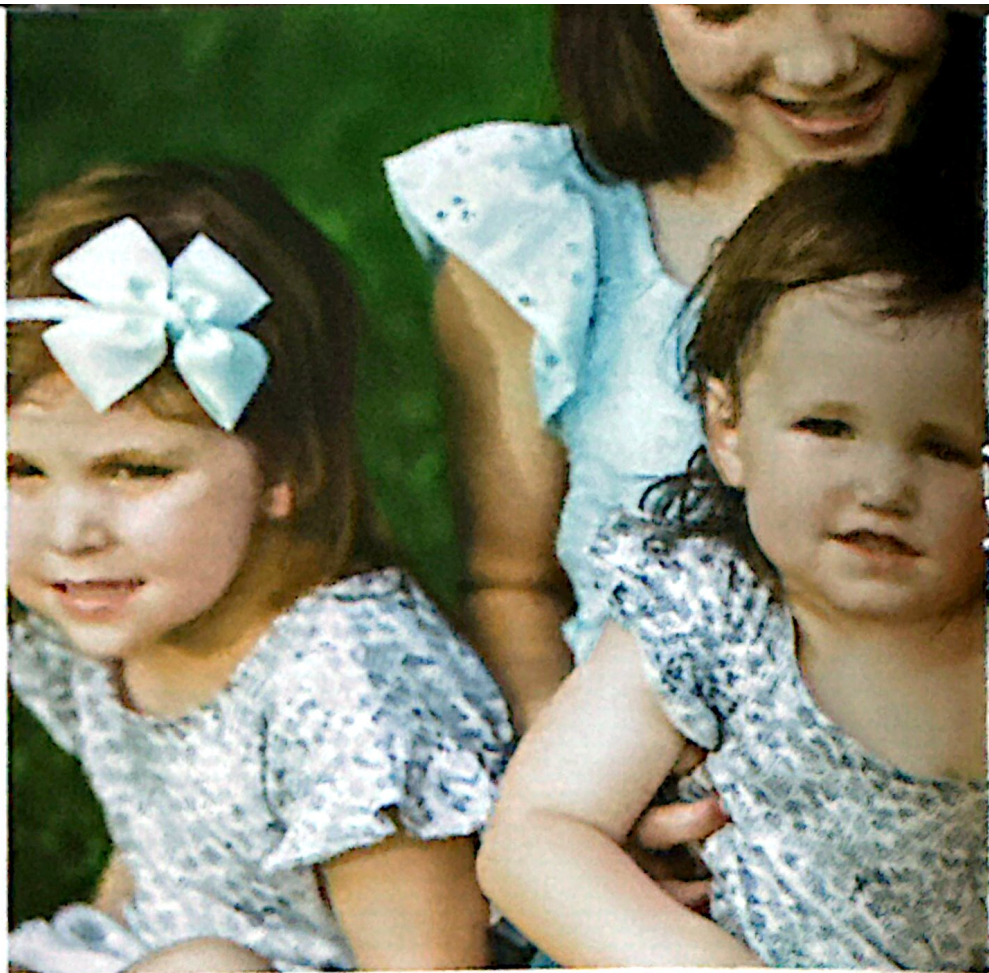
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The weekends are typically on-the-go for the family with the children's schedules of activities. "Depending on the season, you can find us at a dance competition, cheering from the sidelines at a lacrosse field, or spending the day inside a gym at a wrestling tournament," Kirsten shares. Even on those busy days, Michael and Kirsten enjoy being present and involved with their children's interests. They relish the time they spend with their family and being there to support their children—they express this is their "greatest joy."

When they do have some downtime, they spend quality moments together outdoors and go on family excursions, such as taking in the excitement of area playgrounds and family trips to zoos. Family favorites have included the Bronx Zoo for a day trip, the Utica Zoo, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, Six Flags Wild Safari in New Jersey, Zoo New York in Watertown, and

Adirondack Animal Land.

They also enjoy creating memories at amusement parks—Disney is one of them. In addition to travel, they enjoy time in their community attending events such as the Colonie Farmers' Market at The Crossings and the Greater Loudonville Association's Christmas Tree Lighting at Loudon Green.

Whether it be blending their efforts in their shared business or in their personal lives, Kirsten and Michael's devotion to each other has created professional success helping others as well as personal success in building a loving family unit. They are happy they chose Loudonville as their home and have the opportunity to watch their children thrive and grow in the close-knit community.



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