



## A PASSION THAT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Submitted by Natalie Blache'  
Photos by Mandy Hart Photography

Glen and I met in college in 1994 but did not date right away. We ran into each other through a mutual friend over the years and started dating seven years later. Both of us were born and raised in Louisiana. When we started dating, Glen (age 51) was a New Orleans Police Officer, and I (age 50) was a Physician Assistant. Soon after, I was accepted into medical school at LSUHSC in New Orleans. We were engaged a year after we started dating and married a year after our engagement between my 2nd and 3rd year of medical school. It was always Glen's plan to work as an agent for the federal government. Right before our wedding, he was hired by the Department of Homeland Security as a Special Agent and moved to Nashville two weeks after our wedding!! We flew back and forth between Nashville and New Orleans for two years. At that point, we knew we needed to get closer to each other.

I looked at all the OB/GYN residency programs within a 3-hour radius of Nashville, and the program at UTMCK was my top pick. I was ecstatic to be matched at my top program. I moved to Knoxville the month before Hurricane Katrina, so it was a blessing

in disguise, as my plan before Glen moved was to stay in NOLA for my training. The house we lived in was near one of the levee breaks and had 9' of water! Glen was sent for two months to help with the disaster relief efforts. I remember flying in to meet him for Thanksgiving and driving through the areas hit by Katrina. We drove through our old neighborhood and walked through our old house. The giant painted Xs on everything, marking that the house had been searched and designating if survivors were found was surreal.

For four years, Glen drove to Knoxville every weekend if he wasn't traveling for work. He would have dinner with me at the hospital when I was on call. We decided to commit to seeing each other if we had to be apart. At the end of the residency, an opening became available at the Knoxville office for Glen, and we decided that Knoxville would be the best city to raise a family. He transferred, and I took a job at UTMCK, where I have been ever since. I was pregnant with our daughter Charley then, and we put my condo up for sale. Well, it sold way faster than expected during the market crash in 2009.

We really didn't know what to do. I had yet to start my job, have the baby, or start paying my loans. I also worked 80 hours a week in residency and went to the hospital and back home. We were still determining what part of Knoxville we wanted to live in. One of my co-residents looked on Craigslist and showed me a house for sale or lease in Duncan Woods Subdivision. We didn't even know the neighborhood existed. We moved in and fell in love with the community of the neighborhood. Lots of small children,

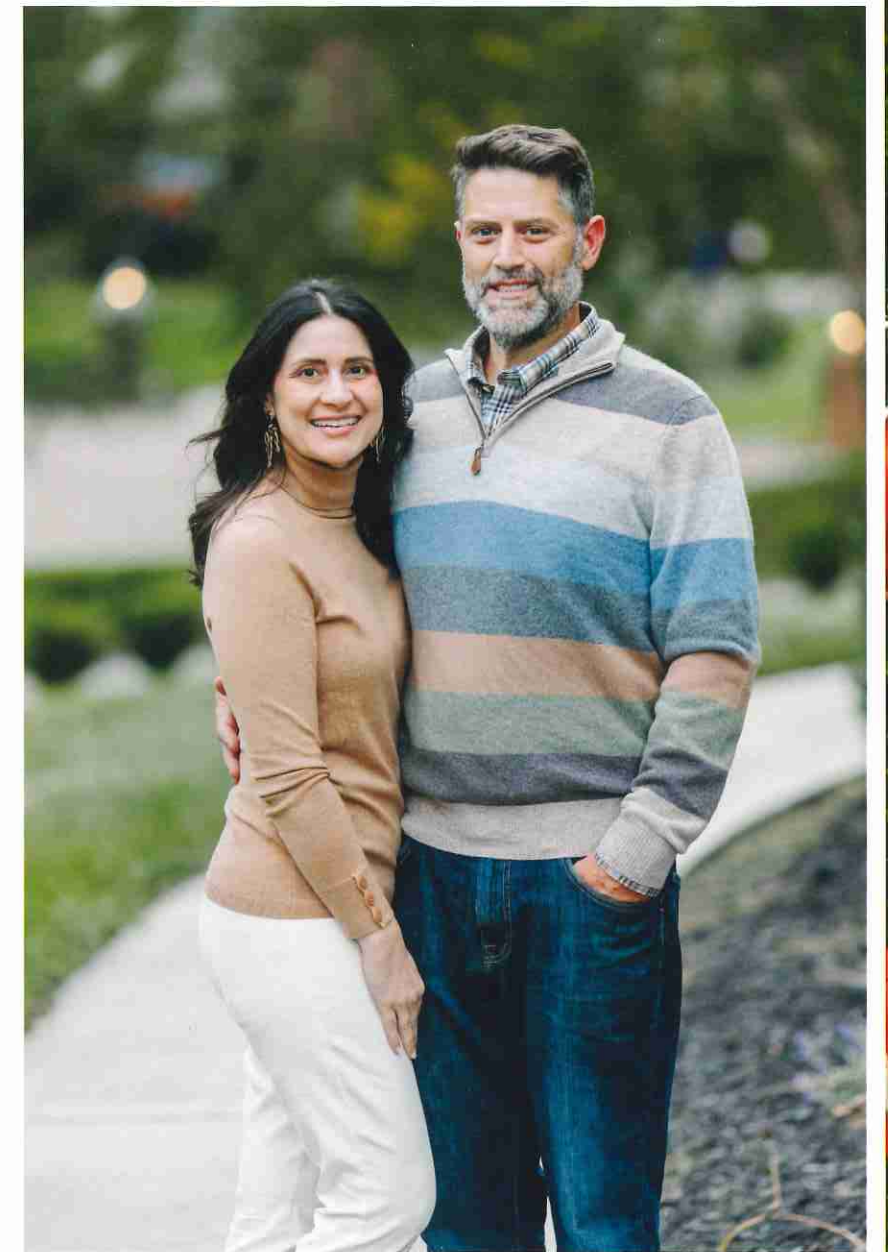
neighborhood parties, and lots of friendly people. Our daughter Charley was born at the end of 2009, and we brought her home to that house.

We knew we didn't want to buy the house, but we did want to stay in the neighborhood. We decided to build. We bought two lots and built our house in 2011. Julie Dupree built our house and put it in the parade of homes. She is amazing, and we were so lucky to work with her. We have lived in that house ever since and watched all the kids grow up for the past 12 years. We brought our second daughter, Finley, home to this house, and Charley was 2 when we moved in. It would be hard ever to leave. I have hosted the neighborhood Halloween party for the past few years, but this year, I'm passing the torch to the next neighbor wanting to accept the challenge.

Charley is an eighth grader at Sacred Heart Cathedral School, where she cheers and was vice president of the student council. She's creative and an adventurer. Finley is in 3rd grade at Sacred Heart. Though she's more introverted, she is also very creative. To round out our family, we have a five-year-old Sheepadoodle named Maggie, who loves to be anywhere we are.

Glen is quite the Renaissance man. He's a woodworker; he makes soap and gardens. When he was younger, he worked at a florist in NOLA and would decorate the hotels for Christmas. Needless to say, he installs all the ribbon on my Christmas trees and is a top-notch floral arranger!

I have always loved to decorate and entertain. My fondest memories revolve around the gathering of family and friends around the table. I absolutely love to dress up my table for holidays and make our gatherings extra special. I am obsessed with tablescapes. I have always had a great deal of creative energy. I have made jewelry, embroidered,



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sewed, upholstered, refinished furniture, tiled kitchens, painted, wallpapered, and created custom cakes and cookies. I absolutely love to throw a party with a unique mimosa bar and a well-dressed table. In addition to this obsession, I am also in practice at University Women's Specialists, where I am also faculty and teach residents and students. I am the medical director at the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee.

I have always said that if I were not a physician, I would want a store. My idea of that store changed over the years but always revolved around something to do with entertaining. March 2022, I knew exactly what it needed to be and that I was ready to pursue my second big dream in life. We knew that Glen was retiring in June 2023, so the timing would be perfect. We knew that this was something that we could build together. Finch Table + Home is a store in Bearden focusing on kitchen, tabletop, registry, and gifts. Finch is the combination of my name with my girls' names, so it is very special to me. I will still be taking care of my patients at UTMCK and teaching residents and students. However, I will also be taking off my white coat and putting on my apron to greet you as you walk into the doors of Finch. I will be doing all the private registry appointments. When I'm not there, Glen will be greeting you with a smile. You may be able to convince him to build you a beautiful table. We are so excited to be out in the community and become a

bigger part of this amazing town. Knoxville has given to us for 18 years, and we cannot wait to bring a part of us to Knoxville.

I must share a quick shout-out to Greg Terry for his architectural design and for helping bring Finch Table + Home to fruition.

Greg shares his thoughts about being involved with Finch Table + Home:

"From running my own nautical gift shop in a wedge-shaped corner of my parent's boutique at the age of 10 to designing acclaimed retail experiences across the US as an architect, my story is anything but ordinary. Noted mid-century designer Charles Eames said, "We work because it's a chain reaction; each subject leads to the next." This mindset influences my journey, collaborating with visionary thinkers, rule breakers, and inspiration seekers, like Natalie, to create captivating environments. The design of Finch Table + Home showcases Natalie's vision and enthusiasm towards crafting an emotionally resonant experience across all facets of her brand."

## Do you know

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