

Fabulous

Celebrating some of Katy's fantastic, ambitious, and beautiful moms

Miranda Rodrigues

Registered Nurse - House Supervisor
Houston Methodist Hospital
Mom of Baeleigh, 8 and Davis, 6

Miranda Rodrigues made headlines recently when she chased down bank theft suspects and detained one of them near Holland Elementary. The five-foot-one petite powerhouse saw a car fleeing from police, driving erratically down a residential street. When their car hit a curb and got two flat tires, the suspects jumped out of the car and began to run. So did Rodrigues. "I didn't know where the strength came from, but I picked her up...laid her down on the ground, then held her arm behind her, and sat on her until the cops got there," says Rodrigues. In addition to a mama bear crime stopper, Miranda is a registered nurse, marathon runner, graduate student, and Katy ISD volunteer. "I cannot say that any one thing I have achieved is greater than another, because each has served its purpose of molding me as an individual," she says.

When it comes to parenting, Miranda admits her biggest struggle is learning to let go. "I want our kids to grow and be everything that they want to become." She and her husband Kevin strive to model self-confidence and empowerment for their children. "We work together as parents and love each other as well as we can." Rodrigues' advice to Katy moms is to take time for you. "This has been the greatest challenge for me, and I will admit that it

has gotten easier as the kids get older." Rodrigues says she is finally able to take the advice she offers parents of little ones in the ICU. "It's important that you care for yourself so that you can care for others."

Kevin, Miranda, Baeleigh, and Davis Rodrigues



Katy Moms

Holly Walsh

Neuroscience Area Manager/Long-Term Care
Avanir Pharmaceuticals
Mom of Sam, 7 and Wes, 5

Holly Walsh has raised awareness for an often untreated or mischaracterized neurological condition called pseudobulbar affect (PBA), which is prevalent in the elderly dementia population. She has been married to her college sweetheart Jay for 11 years, but most of all, she is mom to her two boys. “They have challenged, amazed, and inspired me and make me incredibly proud to be their mommy,” she says.

Walsh can't help but laugh looking back on her first-time parenting skills. “I literally had never changed a diaper before having Sam.” Like many career-driven mothers, Walsh struggled with the decision of going back to work after having her sons. “Initially I felt a little guilty for doing so. However, I'm a firm believer in living your values, and one of my top values, secondary to having good morals, is to make a difference while growing yourself developmentally,” she says.

Walsh and her husband take a team approach to parenting. “There is always some sort of family activity going on here,” she says. The family enjoys visiting LaCenterra and kicking the soccer ball around or listening to live music after dinner. “There isn't anywhere else we'd rather raise our family.”



Sam, Jay, Wes,
and Holly Walsh





Erica Rico

Morning Show Radio Host
The New 93Q

Single mom of Danielle, 20;
Alex, 19; Ricky, 14; and Dallas, 4

Being a three-time Grand Champion at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and voted the Hottest Woman in Radio are definitely on Erica Rico's high point list. But admittedly, being a single working mom was one of the hardest and most rewarding things she's ever done. "It's a thankless job that is so worth all the hard work."



Danielle, Erica, Ricky, and Dallas Rico

A self-proclaimed mother bear, Rico struggles with allowing her kids to do things on their own. "I want to be the best at everything I do whether it's at work, being a mom, a chef, everything. I'm still learning how to balance everything, but a good family planning app has changed my life," she laughs. "I'm not good at delegating, so I end up doing it all on my own."

A Katyite since 2004, Rico says, "I've always known that my neighbors were just a call away. We are always looking out for each other's kids and houses; it's pretty amazing." Rico reminds herself to thank God every day for the amazing children she has been blessed with, even when they are not listening or are driving her crazy. "You'd be amazed how a change of attitude in you will change their attitude. One day you will miss this craziness."



Kayce, Grant, Brian, and Avery Reina



Kayce Reina

Director of Tourism, Marketing, and PR
City of Katy

Mom of Grant, 3 and Avery, 1

Reina and her husband Brian love raising their children, Grant and Avery in Katy. "Katy is a very unique and special place," she says. "The support and encouragement of families is one of the main reasons we moved here."

Becoming a mother for the first time made Reina ask two questions that many new moms experience, "How will I handle it all, and will I be a good mother?" She found herself nervous about all the little things - but quickly learned that everything works out, even if it's not as planned. "That fear was gone from the very instant I held my baby," she says.

Not to say being a mother is easy. Reina admits her biggest growth area has been realizing not everything goes according to plan. "Before kids, day-to-day life was much more planned out and predictable. Now, every day is a new challenge," she says. From an explosive diaper to epic meltdowns, Reina catches herself feeling frustrated and tries to choose to be more relaxed and easygoing. Her best advice for new moms is to create and maintain balance. "I always say, 'My children are my world,' and they are, but the world doesn't revolve around them," she says. Don't give up everything you and your spouse enjoy. "Let your child become a part of your life, not the center. Once you find that balance, your life is more fulfilling and happy."



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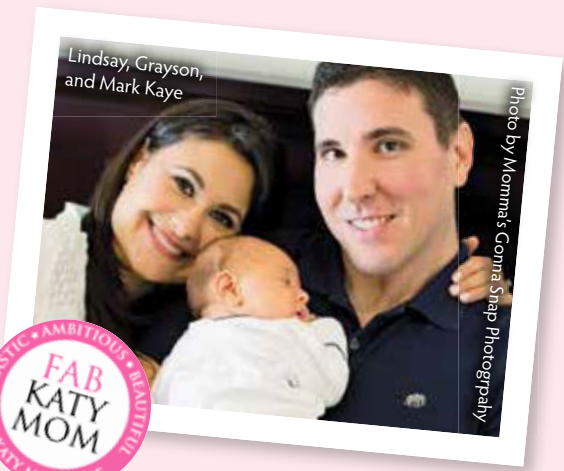
Director of Marketing and PR
LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch
First-time mom to Grayson, 6 months

As a new mom Lindsay Kaye is finding each step in their journey to be an exciting challenge. "From the moment I first met my baby boy I learned with him and still grow with him every second. Everything about being a first-time mom excites me," she says.

Kaye is grateful for the support of her husband Mark and a company that is conducive to working moms. "My career and home-parenting life is a delicate balance," she admits. "A mother can never truly take off her mommy hat, and at the same time I am very career driven. I take every day one day at a time." Grayson has even been able to accompany Kaye to the office at LaCenterra while she makes the transition of returning to work after maternity leave.

"Everyone always told me that time goes by so fast and now experiencing it firsthand, I can truly say they are 100% correct," she says. "Soak up your time at home with your family. The dishes, laundry, and household duties will always be there, but these special moments will not. Always realize that someone may not agree with your method of parenting. Do your best, and that is all that your loved one needs." **KM**

KIRSTEN CORNELL is a lead associate editor for Katy Magazine and grew up with a pretty fabulous mom who still makes the best turkey noodle soup hands-down.



Lindsay, Grayson, and Mark Kaye

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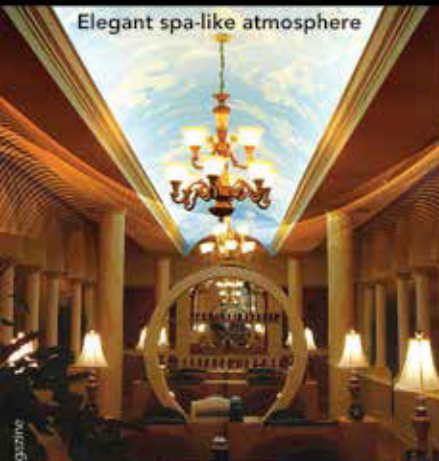
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Fabulous Moms

Josephine Taylor

She and her husband John operate Eternal Food Ministries in Katy, providing food, Christian counseling, and a resale shop for families in need. She also has two sons, Samuel and Abraham, who help with the ministry.

Lena Carlberg

Carlberg and her husband David are raising their 10 children in Katy and are about to welcome another. Their second oldest daughter, Annie, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Ashley Gallivan

Only a few days after delivering her third child, this Katy mother of three was diagnosed with stage 3 triple negative breast cancer. She is confronting cancer head on with remarkable confidence and strength during this difficult time.

Missy Acosta

Founder of the non-profit organization God Is Love, Acosta and her family bring food, education, and love to families in Bogota, Colombia.

Kim Elgie

This Katy supermom and breast cancer survivor enjoys homeschooling her four children. She and her husband adopted their youngest Isabella, who was diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome.

April Hunt

This wife and mother of two to Ryleigh and Aiden also works as a dance teacher and head drill team director at Morton Ranch High School. She is known for teaching her students how to be women of integrity and has built an amazing program at MRHS.

Brandi Nester

Nester founded Bennett's Bears after her son was diagnosed with brain cancer. She is currently spreading the word about the non-profit by attending speaking and photo engagements.

This is only a few of Katy's fab moms!

Do you know a fabulous mom? We would love to hear about her! Email editor@katymagazine.com.

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