

Katy's very own self-made success story, the Tissue family, shares how they encourage each other's dreams and passions while never forgetting that family comes first



Mike and Kailey McCollum, Bridget and Mike Tissue, Kelsey and Jeff Smith, and Kaygan Tissue (Not pictured Camden and Amy Tissue)

KEEPING UP with the Tissues

Written by Ashley Lancaster | Select photography by Anetrius Wallace

Since the day they married, Mike and Bridget Tissue's number one priority has been to raise happy children who show kindness to others and know that success is earned, not given. Their daughter Kelsey, an attorney for a respected law firm in Houston, believes that much of her success comes from witnessing firsthand the work ethic of her parents. "I learned how important it is to respect everyone you meet, always lend a helping hand, put family first, and love unconditionally. Every valuable lesson I've learned, I've learned from my parents."

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

During the big oil bust in 1985, Mike and Bridget were fresh out of college and facing steep financial opposition while trying to open a dental practice. "Only about five out of 140 students from my dental school class at University of Texas were able to open their own practices, and the president of Quest Bank was willing to give me a loan when not many other banks were loaning money. I am very grateful to him," Bridget says.

After a few short years, both her patient base and her family had grown by leaps and bounds. "We had three small children at that time, and I wanted to be with the children at home. So, in order to keep up with the demands of a growing practice and patient base and to be able to spend time at home, I added an associate."

On the home front, Bridget credits her husband for his support and partnership throughout the years. "He has always believed in and supported me. In addition to being a breadwinner, too, he has assumed the position of Mr. Mom on countless occasions. The girls will tell you that his ponytail-making skills lack a little," she laughs. "We are a true partnership doing anything necessary to run the household and raise four children."

Now as a six-provider practice and a household name for dental care in Katy, Bridget has obtained a level of professional success that many still strive for.

Making Sacrifices for Family

In the midst of all of the professional success, the Tissue kids cannot let it go without saying that mom and dad were always making sure to put family first.

For Kailey, this was never more apparent than when her father moved with her to Plano so that she could train at one of the top gymnastics facilities in the country. "It was a huge decision that affected our entire family dynamic for six years. Their support of my dreams and the sacrifice they all made is something I will never be able to thank them enough for," she says.

Now, Kailey and her sister Kaygan are successful business owners of their own fashion label, KISSUE, and a storefront in Memorial City Mall. Knowing that their family has their back no matter what gives them the confidence to have a dream and go for it. "Without the love and support from our parents and family, KISSUE wouldn't be alive. They were there the entire way," says Kaygan.

Surrounded by Support

Bridget and Mike have been model parents, but both must give credit to the incredible people who have helped them over the years. Their office manager, Shirley, practically grew up with Bridget and has been by her side for the last 28 years. "We will always love Miss GeGe and Margaret forever for loving our children, we could not have done it without them," she says. Bridget also credits the dentists at Kingsland Dental Group for their support, calling them, "a big group of sisters!"





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For the kids, that extra support came in the form of mentors and teachers. Kailey remembers one teacher in particular who took an interest in her success. "Debbie Camp, a teacher at Pattison Elementary, had taken a break from teaching and agreed to homeschool me for my fourth and fifth grade year while I trained at the Olympic level for gymnastics. She helped me excel academically, and I'm very grateful that I had her as a teacher."

Work Well Done

At the end of the day, Kelsey feels the family success and commitment to caring for others can be summarized by a phrase her mother stitched by hand long ago, "When a work is once begun, never leave it 'til it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all." She once told me that as she got to the end, she realized it was off by one stitch, so she started over from the beginning. I think that pretty much sums it up." KM

ASHLEY LANCASTER is an editorial coordinator for Katy Magazine who enjoys featuring families like the Tissues.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Following the Tissue kids on their pathway to professional success



Camden Tissue

Resident Physician of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, was featured on the Lifetime Original TV series, *Life Flight: Trauma Center Houston* in March 2015



Kelsey Tissue Smith

Attorney at Thompson & Treddennick, LLP, graduated Magna Cum Laude from South Texas College of Law, Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing - University of Kansas



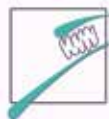
Kailey Tissue McCollum

Co-Founder/Owner of the fashion brand, KISSUE, graduated Summa Cum Laude from University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising



Kaygan Tissue

Co-Founder/Owner of the fashion brand, KISSUE, Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising - Texas Christian University



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