

The Rehkamp Family:

When the Rehkamp family isn't volunteering for community events, you can find them spending time with their friends and family. Tom and Kristin Rehkamp live in the Village Preserve neighborhood, behind Lake Elmo Elementary and Arbor Glen, with their three children, Anna, 12, Jack, 10, and Lucy, six. The family has lived in Lake Elmo for two years.

"We LOVE our Village Preserve neighborhood! People are wonderful and everyone makes a point to say 'hi' or stops to talk. Our cul-de-sac often has bonfire nights, our children can be often found playing together, and we all help each other out. It feels like an established neighborhood even though it's only a few years old. Everyone who is here seems grateful to be here...kind and happy," Kristin acknowledged.

Lake Elmo has always given Kristin fond memories. Her grandparents lived in North St. Paul, so she has memories of Lake Elmo Inn and shopping in Stillwater with her mom and grandmother. Kristin wanted to be closer to a community of friends and have a simpler way of life for her family.

"We love the people, simpler way of life, small-town or community values, walking trails, green space, horse farms are wonderful, river community/culture, arts and theater...a place that feels small-town, but with all the amenities," Kristin added.

Tom and Kristin met while working at Target Corporation. They both worked in what was then called Target Property Development. Kristin was a store planner and Tom was a construction project manager. Tom worked there for 11 years, and Kristin worked there for 13 years. In 2004, Tom was recalled back into active duty and served in Iraq from September 2004 to January 2006. The store planners at Target had sent Tom a care package. Kristin ended up sending him a big bag of peanut M&Ms and Tom still remembers that to this day.

When Tom came home, he and Kristin reconnected and started dating, and "the rest is history." Kristin recalls there may have been a broom ball game involved and Tom likes to tell the story to everyone he meets that he was set up.

The couple was engaged in the spring of 2007 and were married May 3, 2008, at the Calhoun Beach Club. They had a beautiful wedding with a live band and a dessert table that Kristin's dad still talks about to this day.

Tom graduated from St. John's University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in natural science. In 2010, he graduated from St. Thomas University with a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Kristin started school at the College of St. Benedict, majoring in computer science. She then transferred to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in interior design.

Tom's career started in the Army as an Airborne Combat Engineer Officer. Most of his career includes his time at Target. He is currently employed by Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc. as their Director of Facilities and Security. Kristin started her career as an interior designer at HGA and spent eight of her 13 years at Target as a store planner. She then transitioned into Store Operations, Business/Portfolio Management. In 2016, Kristin joined NELSON and served as their Vice President of Global Solutions. She managed 200 people across 25 offices throughout the U.S., serving on the company's management committee responsible for all executive decisions of the company. Today, Kristin is the small business owner of La Vie Est Belle, LLC.

Tom and Kristin have three children, Anna, Jack, and Lucy. Anna is a seventh grader at Oakland Middle School. She is in dance at DelMonico Dance, loves to read, adores animals and anything that is related to the ocean. Anna is extremely kind and compassionate, a dreamer, a fashion designer, and loves to ride horses. Jack is a fifth grader at Lake Elmo Elementary. He plays soccer for the St. Croix Soccer Club and basketball and is a Cub Scout. Jack is also into Legos and his Playstation Four. He enjoys science, geography, and reading, and you can always find him playing with his dog and frogs! Lucy is a first grader at Lake Elmo Elementary. She enjoys dance at DelMonico Dance and gymnastics. Lucy adores horses, unicorns, and Pegasus, as well as princess dresses, fairytales, and magic!

The family has a four-year-old Golden Retriever named Finnley. Anna has a hamster named Yogi Bear and he loves carrots! Jack has two frogs named Flash and Frogeria and Lucy has a purple and red Beta fish named Mer.

"Grandpa Rohman (my dad) is a retired veterinarian and his love for animals is a wonderful characteristic found in our children...I think it might be in the genes!" Kristin exclaimed.

The Rehkamps are always busy with volunteering and community activities. Kristin serves on the PrairieCare Fund Board of Directors which is a non-profit grant-making foundation to improve the health and well-being of the community. She is also a 2021-2022 Leadership in the Valley Program participant and a member of the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce as well as part of Women's Business Bridge. Kristin will also be joining the Lake Elmo Rotary Club to support and serve community events. Tom is the secretary of Lake Elmo Village Preserver Homeowner's Association and will be applying to join the Lake Elmo Planning Commission. Kristin's business, La Vie Est Belle, LLC participated in this year's Lake Elmo's National Night Out.

"Lake Elmo holds a special place in our hearts already and we look forward to supporting and serving this wonderful community. It is a special place with a community of people who are excited and grateful to be here," Kristin stated.

When they are not volunteering for the community, you can find the Rehkamp family spending time at the family cabin or following their children's sports teams. Tom enjoys riding his motorcycle,

reading a good book, spending time with friends, and doing cross-fit. Kristin likes to go running, reading, gardening, baking, and spending time with her friends and family. She is infatuated with everything that relates to her business, spending time with her children, and is always eager for the family's annual trip to Sanibel, Florida.

The Rehkamp family looks forward to traveling when they can. This past year has been halted due to COVID, but they take an annual trip to Sanibel, Florida. This year will be their fifth consecutive year they travel to Florida over MEA break.

"We stay at Ocean's Reach and that community has become friends/family. Other friends/families from Lake Elmo have joined us and we have met families from Lake Elmo on the beach! Sanibel is known for its shelling...we have seashells all over our house reminding us of the happy moments, sun, and beach," Kristin explained.

The Rehkamps have one message for their neighbors, "Lake Elmo is a special and unique community we look forward to learning more about, learning from, serving, and celebrating. We are so grateful to be here and excited to be your neighbor!"

If you happen to see the Rehkamp family out in the neighborhood or volunteering at a community event, be sure to stop by and introduce yourself!