

Kristen Stitle Lewis graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory 19 years ago! She was our 1991, \$10,000 Abe Lincoln Scholarship Recipient. We caught up with Kristen during this crazy time, and she graciously agreed to provide us some reflection on that period as well as a peek into her life now!

- **Did winning that high school scholarship have any impact on you?**

*“Winning the scholarship boosted my confidence and self-esteem. I felt like I always had to always prove myself over the years in growing up, in high school, college, even in the work force. I was different but I looked normal which made things harder. So, it was nice to get the recognition for the hard work I put in high school to succeed. I went to college, graduated college with a bachelor's degree in Business (Accountancy/General Business Double Major). I went to Miami University (Oxford, OH) to get my Master's in Business Administration. After that, I worked for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for two years then for Pacers Sports & Entertainment for five years in the Sponsorship Sales Department as a Sponsorship Sales Business Manager. I retired from work when I had my first child. I have two girls that are 14 and 12 now. I would say the scholarship did help me want to continue with my education and get my masters.”*

- **Any reflections on that time, how you felt about winning?**

*“It was so long ago! I still have the scrapbook of all the news clippings, congratulation notes people sent me! I was so shocked at winning the scholarship. I was shaking and trying to hold back tears. My mother was with me at the luncheon. My dad was at work and he was running late so he never saw it. He saw me walking outside and couldn't believe it when I told him I won. We seriously did not think I would win. It was how my life was. Work hard, never get noticed because I looked normal. It was a pretty emotional day!”*

- **If you remember, did you know back then what the Kiwanis organization did? Did you have any thoughts on the organization after being awarded the scholarship?**

*“I did not know back what the Kiwanis organization did. It was a schoolteacher who submitted me, and I was contacted after that. After being awarded the scholarship, I was amazed on how kind the people were. Seriously, these folks were the nicest and most real people I had ever met! I was the first time I met Jim Blythe. He was a wonderful man. It's truly an amazing organization.”*

- **What are you doing now?**

*“I've been married for 15 years with two kids. I'm finishing up being a PTO Treasurer for my kid's school - wrapping up my third year in it. I manage my kids and their schedules. When the COVID stuff hit, we've been staying close to home.”*

