



MEET THE

# Marcell Family!

PHOTO CREDIT: LYLA LANE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Family Member Names:** Kathleen, Jared, Margot and Grace Marcell  
**Profession(s):** Jared - Vice President of Sales for an Accounting software  
 Kathleen - Head of Customer Success for an early stage Data Engineering Automation software.  
**What college/university did you attend?** Jared - Marquette University  
 Kathleen - University of Illinois  
**Activities/Hobbies:** Kathleen enjoys writing children's books, playing

bagpipes and staying active. You will see her going for walks or playing pickleball. Jared plays golf, paddle tennis and ice hockey. He got his first hole in one this month! He also plays the drums in a cover band.  
**Park/Play Area/Place to hang out:** We love to take walks to Sereda Park. Our favorite accessible park is Soehrman Park in LaGrange.  
**Restaurants:** We enjoy Guac and Tacos for a quick dinner during

the week. The girls love going to Garden Berry Cafe for breakfast on the weekends. When Kathleen and Jared can get out without the kids, our top pick is Nabuki in Hinsdale.  
**Vacation Destination:** Our favorite spot is Paris. We are planning to go back next year for our 10 year anniversary and someday bring the girls. For now, we love spending time in Naples, Florida with Jared's parents.





**Sports Teams:** Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs, Marquette Golden Eagles, U of I Fighting Illini

**TV Show/Movie:** Ozark, The Bear, Breaking Bad

**Music:** Jared is an avid music lover. He has taught the girls love to bands from The Beatles to The Foo Fighters. The girls love playing Jared's drums and having dance parties at home.

**Did you grow up in this area? If not, what spurred your move?** Kathleen grew up in Darien and Jared grew up on the north side of Chicago. We wanted to be close to both our parents and our siblings which makes Western Springs the perfect location. We love being within walking distance of the train and a quick drive to the city.

**How long have you lived in this community? What drew you to the area? In what ways are you involved in the community?** We moved to Western Springs in January of 2021. We love how close of a community it is and the great schools. We have been part of the Western Springs Newcomers Club (WSNN) for the past 3 years. Kathleen is a member of the WSNN book club and organizes her annual block party.

**What is your favorite part about living in your community?** Our favorite part of Western Springs is that we are always making new friends. Whether

it is the library, the pool or at an event, we are always meeting new people.

**How does this community support the needs of your family?** Margot has cerebral palsy which is a motor disability and this community has shown us how inclusive and welcoming they are. It is so important to our family that Margot gets all the same opportunities as other children her age and this community has helped make that a reality. It is things like Jo's Footwork that allowed me to be in the class to help Margot, AYSO that got Margot a jersey and made her a part of the team or Grand Avenue Community Building putting up accessible parking signs when we let them know the lack of signage was making it difficult for us to park for our Mattix Music classes. We also feel very fortunate to be in District 101. Margot and Grace will be in the same classroom in the fall at Laidlaw. D101 does an amazing job promoting disability awareness through activities like the All Abilities Fair where students get real world experience into what it is like to have a disability. We are so grateful that D101 is showing its students and community that disability is a normal part of our society and all people should be celebrated for their uniqueness. Inclusion has so many benefits for children with and without disabilities and we are excited for the years ahead at Laidlaw.

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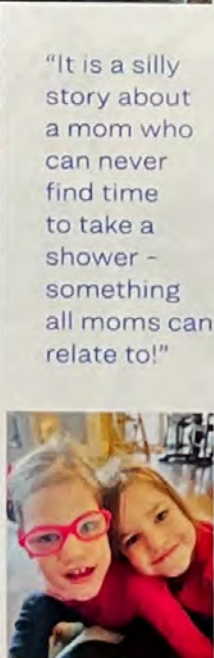
Lafont | Barton Perreira | Lindberg | Anne et Valentin | I.a. Eyeworks | FHone | Res/Rei | Kids Orgreen | Tom Davies | Maui Jim | Oliver Goldsmith | Thierry Lasry | Tom Ford | Vuarnet



**Do you have any unique family traditions?** Kathleen plays the bagpipes so we love to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

**If you have kids, with what activities are they involved?** Margot attends The Center for Independence, an intensive motor therapy for children and young adults with physical disabilities. The Center helps people with disabilities achieve their highest level of independence in the home, school, community and workplace. It was founded by Patti Herbst, a fellow Western Springs resident. Both girls are involved in swimming lessons and music class. Grace plays AYSO soccer and is in jazz & poms at Jo's.

**Help us get to know you better:** We are currently in the process of making our home accessible. We love this community and our block and couldn't imagine moving. This has been a big project with a porta-potty and dumpster parked in our front lawn for the past few months. Big shout out to our wonderful neighbors for tolerating this. It will hopefully be done soon!



"It is a silly story about a mom who can never find time to take a shower - something all moms can relate to!"

**We heard you recently published a children's book - tell us more!** Kathleen recently published a children's story called "Stinky Mama". It is a silly story about a mom who can never find time to take a shower - something all moms can relate to! Kathleen is using her books to promote disability awareness and inclusion. A portion of all proceeds benefit The Nora Project which is a non-profit that promotes disability inclusion by empowering educators and engaging students and communities. You can purchase the book on Amazon!

**What more can you share about disability and how Western Springs can support any residents with disabilities?** The best way to support our family and any family with disabilities is to never make assumptions on what someone can or cannot do. People with disabilities want every opportunity to participate and be valued in our community. Yes, they may need accommodations or modifications to participate, but it is always best to get creative on how we can include everyone. We know that many children have questions when they see Margot's wheelchair, walker, leg braces or her communication device. Please come introduce yourself and say hi! Margot is non-speaking but that doesn't mean she does not understand and she will certainly say hello in her own way. We are always happy to help children know how these things help Margot and show them that both Margot and Grace are just fun 4 year olds who love to go to the park, be silly with their family and play with their friends.