





JORDANIAN BEAUTY QUEEN



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AT A TIME

by Isabella Febreze • Photography by Brian Immke

ewPalmBeachCountyresidentandJordanian-bornbeautyqueenJaclynNesheiwat Stapp is a mom who does it all. She is a loving mother to son Jagger, 10, and daughter Milan, 2, and a doting wife to Grammy Award-winner Scott Stapp, singer/songwriter and voice of Creed. She is also a renowned philanthropist and spokesperson. As if that weren't enough, she can now add the title of "author" to her ever-growing list of roles. Jaclyn is writing her first children's book, "The Ugly Beauty Queen," teaching children the age-old adage that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The book will tell the tale of a girl who, although not conventionally beautiful, shows her peers that true beauty is reflected by one's generosity and not their outward appearance. The story hits close to home for Jaclyn, who has dedicated most of her life to philanthropic causes and who describes herself as "not the typical pageant girl."



Jaclyn is our current reigning Mrs. Florida America, which celebrates women who successfully achieve a balance of work and life. She has won over 100 titles, fincluding "Most Photogenic" at the national Mrs. America Pageant, where she placed first runner-up to the crown. Yet she explained that the title is not simply about having a crown, but about using that title to make a difference in your community. She explained that to help raise awareness among at-risk youth and young women, you really have to "get out there."

"I never really thought this would be my calling," Jaclyn said. "But the titles became a great way for me to pursue my passion for philanthropy, raising awareness to important causes and giving back to those less fortunate."

Here in Florida, Jaclyn is dedicated to raising awareness for her husband's charity, The Scott Stapp With Arms Wide Open Foundation. Established in 2000, the organization has helped raise over a million dollars for children and families around the world. Another important cause for both Jaclyn and Scott is The Haven, a Palm Beach County organization dedicated to providing a safe, loving and stable environment that empowers young men to reach their full potential. This past October, she was a keynote speaker at Stride in Style, an annual Boca Raton fundraiser benefitting the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

But Jaclyn's philanthropy does not end at home. She has been awarded the President's National Community Service Award for her work with international humanitarian projects. She has traveled to Baghdad spending time with our soldiers, visiting an Iraqi orphanage and meeting with brave female members of Iraq's Governing Council to discuss human rights.

"The importance of giving back was not emphasized financially or materially with us, but with the time you dedicated," she said. "My mother worked, raised kids, and always made time to volunteer in the community, which I remember made me feel great inside."

In South Florida, Jaclyn explained, it is especially important for families to remember just how fortunate they are to be living in such an idyllic location.

A primary goal for Jaclyn and Scott is showing their children that charity is important, even at a young age. They spend a lot of quality time with their family and children, who are very active in local sports like baseball, football and basketball. Scott is heavily involved with the kids, helping to coach their little league and West Boca Football teams.

So, we asked Jaclyn the million-dollar question:

You're 28 years old, which is fairly young to be a mom, accomplished philanthropist, beauty queen and rock star wife – what are your secrets for keeping the balance?

"Keeping your family together and having a team mentality is so important. My mother and husband are my foundation. I was 9 years old when I lost my father to a tragic accident. My mother single-handedly raised all of my four sisters and brother and each one of us became professionals — one a doctor, another a lawyer, one works with the government. My mom is the incredibly important reason why we have been a success, and is who I learn from when I work to achieve balance. My spirituality and faith in God is where I find strength. I read devotionals with my husband, who inspires me, and they help me regain balance." PBG