

Meet the Knox Family: Growing a Family and a Business in Rock Hill

As a teen, Antonio Knox assumed he wouldn't return to Rock Hill after college. Now, he and his wife Mary have chosen Rock Hill as the place to raise their family and grow their careers, and they couldn't be happier with their decision.

Mary was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. After high school, she decided to attend Winthrop University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Conducting.

Antonio graduated from Northwestern High School and went on to attend Spartanburg Methodist College, where he was on the wrestling team. After a couple of years, he transferred to USC Upstate in Spartanburg, then Northern Kentucky University, before returning back to USC Upstate to finish up his degree in Business Administration.

After finishing her Master's Degree, Mary stayed in the Rock Hill area, and shortly after his graduation, Antonio returned to Rock Hill, as well. They met in a local barber shop, where Antonio says it was love at first sight—at least for him. The couple were married in 2015.

Mary's grandmother was a teacher, and Mary always had a passion for working with children, as well. She served as the Chorus teacher at Indian Land High School for 8 years. In 2018, she was awarded the Teacher of the Year for Lancaster County and runner up at the state level. She transitioned to a district role within Lancaster County Schools for the past 4 years. In July, she stepped into a new role as Director of Performing Arts at Clinton College.

Antonio began his career in banking, but discovered a passion for insurance at an unexpected time. In 2016, his mother passed away. The couple had a young baby at home, and Antonio worried about how they would pay for her funeral. Thankfully, the family didn't have to worry. He says they were fortunate for her foresight in getting life insurance. The money was more than enough to pay for a beautiful funeral and celebration of life fitting for his mother.

At that point, Antonio knew he wanted to help other families in the same way, and One Community Insurance was born. He started selling life insurance, but the business is now a full brokerage. While life insurance is still an important part of One Community, he also works with small businesses and individuals to find the right plans to fit their needs and their budget.

Though they have four children, the couple still finds time to give back to the community. Antonio is involved in the Chamber of Commerce and BNI Networking Group. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Minority Business Leadership Network and is a part of The Fellas, a group of men that mentor at-risk youth in Rock Hill schools. Mary serves in the dance team at Freedom Temple Ministry and is active in Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, as well. She has also performed with local groups. Both are always busy keeping up with their kids' activities, too!

AJ, 14, is the oldest. He lives with his mom in Washington, DC during the school year, but spends summers and holidays with his Antonio, Mary, and his younger brothers in Rock Hill. He loves football and basketball, and, like most kids his age, enjoys video games too.

Maxwell is 8. Like his older brother, he loves basketball, football, and soccer too. He recently started swimming and fell in love with that, as well. He attends the French Immersion Program at Cherry Park Elementary and is becoming more fluent every year.

Xander is 3 and lovingly referred to as their Covid baby. He was born just a few months before the pandemic started, so most of his early memories are with his tight-knit family. He's very energetic with a big imagination.

Langston is 2. He came into the couple's care from a family member in need when he was just 3 months old. Over the summer, they were given full custody for the sweet boy that has fit seamlessly into their lives.

The best days for the Knox family are the ones they spend together. On weekend afternoons, they fill up the inflatable pool with water, turn on some backyard music, and watch the kids play swim or jump on the trampoline from the comfort of the shaded porch.

The family also has a bountiful backyard garden. They grow corn, squash, blackberries, cherry tomatoes, and even peanuts. Mary's dad, who recently retired with her mother in Charleston, is the master gardener who gives them tips and ideas, and Mary tends to the garden often. Antonio, who enjoys the fruits (and vegetables!) of their labor, is usually on water duty.

The entire family loves their neighborhood near Cherry Park. The cul de sac is always filled with children playing, and Max already has several close friends nearby. There's a strong sense of community, as well, where everyone knows and looks out for the neighbor.

That sense of community extends beyond their cul de sac, as well. The family loves all the activities that Rock Hill offers, including different sporting events and venues. Antonio recently took Maxwell to the BMX World Tour and was amazed and proud that Rock Hill was hosting the event. They've also seen the shift in economic development that has allowed small businesses to flourish, from their favorite restaurants like Helen's Hot Chicken, Knowledge Perk, and Kounter, to Antonio's own small business.

While teenage Antonio wasn't sure he saw opportunity in Rock Hill, today, he's excited to see the town thriving. One Community Insurance is located in a beautiful, renovated building on Main Street. From there, he can watch the growth and change every day and be a part of that change as well.

From diving into the arts at Clinton College to helping families on Main Street, the Knox family is dedicated to serving the community and watching Rock Hill grow, now and well into the future.