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Jaclyn
Stapp

**BEAUTY BEYOND
THE EYE**

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MAGAZINE



JACLYN STAPP



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BEAUTY BEYOND THE EYE

contents

- 6 WELCOME
- 10 HEALTH
- 12 SPOTLIGHT
- 14 BEAUTY
- 16 INSPIRATIONS
- 20 CRAVINGS
- 22 RECIPES
- 23 LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS
- 24 MOTHER'S PERSPECTIVE
- 26 SPOTLIGHT
- 28 TRENDSETTER
- 34 MEDIA CLUB
- 36 HOME
- 38 REAL ESTATE
- 40 SPOTLIGHT
- 42 TIE THE KNOT
- 44 SCENE AND BE SEEN
- 48 CALENDAR

From beauty queen, to anti-bully advocate, Jaclyn Stapp is using her platform to promote awareness for an issue facing many children across the nation. Following her appointment as a national celebrity spokesperson for an anti-bullying campaign called NVEEEE (National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment) and with the release of her new children's book about bullying, *Wacky Jacky: The True Story of an Unlikely Beauty Queen*, she chats heart-to-heart with *HERLIFE* Magazine about the release of her true story, her busy life as a wife and mother, and about the importance of being kind and giving back to the community.

Jaclyn Stapp

Teaching Children:

"You Don't Need a Crown to *Sparkle*"

Looking at Jaclyn Stapp, it's hard to believe that at one point in her life she was taunted and teased because she seemed different. "I was a scrawny, thin and an athletic girl who looked like a boy," Jaclyn says. "I often got teased in school because of my thick wild hair and for speaking a different language or eating unusual food. My confidence changed one day when in the mall, I saw an advertisement for a pageant and was very interested to enter. Instead of my mom asking why, with encouragement she expressed, why not? Competing in that pageant was the beginning of gaining courage and confidence and the premise for my book, *Wacky Jacky: The True Story of an Unlikely Beauty Queen*. I followed my dream with determination,

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I followed my dream with determination, and I hope to *encourage and inspire* others who are teased or bullied because they are different.”

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Jaclyn's book, *Wacky Jacky* comes highly recommended by Children's Literary Classics. Their review of the book states... "*Wacky Jacky* offers a heartwarming and uplifting message of acceptance and encouragement for little girls. The true story of a young girl who was treated unkindly by her classmates because she was different sets an example for children to have the courage to be different, which is what makes them and all of us unique or special.”

Told in rhyme and complemented with bright and colorful illustrations, Jaclyn empowers children through the written word to “embrace their uniqueness; and while beauty is sometimes said to be skin deep, it doesn't always have to be that way.” Jaclyn adds, “Reading *Wacky Jacky* to my children has turned into such an educational bonding experience and I hope to inspire discussions across the nation about the things that truly matter in life.”

This tall brunette beauty born in Carmel, New York, and raised in Umatilla, Florida, is a philanthropist, model and former beauty queen with pageant roots in Florida and New York.

Despite Jaclyn's busy itinerary, she is a full-time mother of three children and a devoted wife. Married to Scott Stapp, front man for the Grammy award winning rock group Creed, her unwavering faith and deep sense of family exudes in everything she sets her hand to. “Going on seven years since we met, today we are a dynamic party of five with Jagger, Milan and Daniel,” Jaclyn adds. “Scott has been an inspiration and very supportive

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of my goals and when people ask me what it's like to be married to a rock star, I tell them; he is like anyone else.”

On the road, Jaclyn says he is an artist devoted to entertaining and meeting his fans. At home he is a hands-on dad,

coaching and hanging out with all the kids. “He loves to play guitar with Jagger and nephew JonPaul in our home studio and sing with our rising star Milan who just started voice and piano lessons. Scott is a passionate and loving husband despite all the struggles in his life. He is very strong-willed and good-hearted. I admire his honesty and his love for life and his family, not to mention he makes a great Sunday breakfast. Together we are devoted and committed to our marriage and to our children. We schedule our work plans or activities around our children's events. During the summer, when school is out, the kids and I visit Dad on tour. They have a blast traveling to the many cities seeing or just hanging out on Dad's tour bus. We are blessed and very thankful for all we have in our lives.”

Jaclyn has also traveled around the world empowering at-risk youth and championing for women's rights through her national outreach foundation, CHARM: Children Are Magical. She aims to heighten awareness of children's issues and enrich the lives of underprivileged youth by providing them tools for a fulfilling future. “Ever since I was in high school, I was actively involved in volunteering in my community. With four older siblings that were my mentors, I started CHARM back then



to provide at-risk kids especially those with low self-esteem, mentors who could spend time listening, playing sports or reading together. While I started out with only three members, I kept this internal promise to one day have a foundation and be able to financially support women and children's needs." Proceeds from the funds raised from book sales will be donated to CHARM.

After graduating from Stetson University in Florida, Jaclyn moved to New York City to continue modeling and pursue a master's degree at NYU. During that period, she decided to enter the Miss New York Pageant, competing with 150 of the state's most beautiful girls, where she won and advanced on to compete in the nationally televised Miss USA Pageant. Most recently, she won Mrs. Florida 2008 and was first runner-up at Mrs. America. But for Jaclyn, the crown wasn't a destination; it was a journey to a more powerful platform. "It wasn't about winning a title or wearing just a crown and banner," she says. "It was the avenue that empowered me the opportunity to promote my platform to be a mentor for children."

Her reign as Miss New York was an inroad to some very memorable experiences. She was selected to be on *Fear Factor* and was invited to visit the troops in Baghdad. While overseas, she visited several orphanages and was allowed to speak to the Iraqi Women's Governing Council about civil rights. "It was an unforgettable experience because it gave me such a deep appreciation for being an American and I have the utmost gratitude for our service people who risk their lives so we can have all the freedoms and opportunities."

The daughter of immigrant parents who came to America to escape the war-torn Middle East, Jaclyn says although their beginnings were humble, her parents worked hard and taught all five children (four girls and one boy), to always appreciate what they had. "My dad passed away in an accident when I was very young and I recall my mom single-handedly raised all five of the children,"

Jaclyn says. "Because of her commitment to family, we learned early in our lives to be responsible, work hard and always give back to others. She continually emphasized the importance of educational opportunities while supporting our dreams."

Jaclyn adds that even when things seemed hopeless and helpless, her mother instilled in her children confidence and encouraged the children to follow their dreams, no matter how unrealistic they seemed. She not only taught them self-respect, but to respect their fellow man.

"We achieved because she guided us to be all that we could be and I hope to pass on these strong values and beliefs and traditions to my own children," she adds.

In society today, where women use their journey to attain a crown, Jaclyn uses her crown to accomplish her journey. She reaches beyond what the eye can see; a living example that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. "We live in hard times where we hear about much tragedy and despair for so many," she says. "We must get involved to support others and show love and kindness to one another and make a difference in our communities. I believe faith and family are strong foundations and one of my main priorities. Life has its ups and downs, but it's what we make of it and how we turn to each other for resolution and for comfort, through the good and bad, the rough and the easy moments; family is a strong bond and a major part of who I am." ■

For more information about Jaclyn Stapp or to order her new children's book *Wacky Jacky*, visit www.jaclynstapp.com or www.wackyjackybooks.com.

In May, she was selected as an honoree at the first City Year Miami 'Bridge Builder'

Women's Luncheon. Jaclyn was honored for her accomplishments as a children's book author and for her involvement in numerous charitable organizations. City Year Miami is a non-profit organization that supports the Miami-Dade Public School System in its efforts to help youth succeed in school and realize their potential.



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