

& thanks

My family, like so many who live in Anthem, have just recently arrived here. We've been here just exactly 3 months, yet feel like we've always been a part of this wonderful community.

It makes me laugh when I think about how hard it was for us to get here. Once it was clear that God was calling us to the Phoenix area, the most pressing question in our minds was..."where will we live?"

Since we had no connection to any realtor in the area, we did our best to find one that would put our needs before their own. So, when he took us to see properties in town that literally had either a high school stadium or an adult book store in the back yard, my hopes for finding a true community were quickly being dashed, and I was really doubting that this man had OUR best interest at heart.

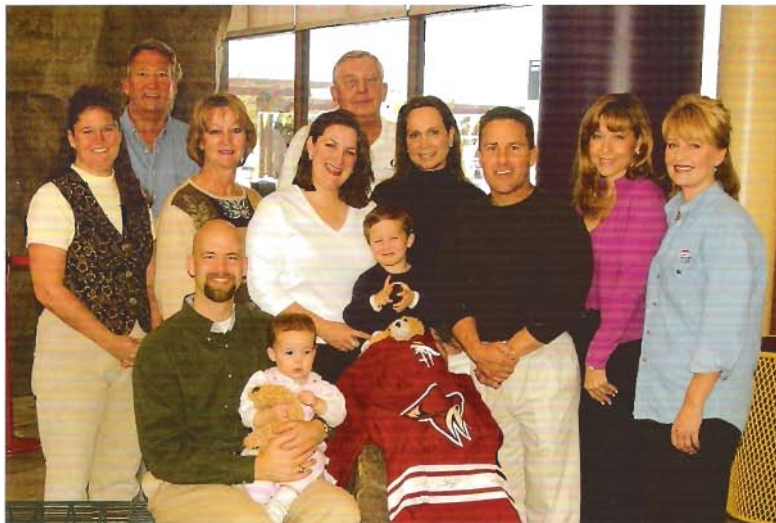
Thankfully, I had insisted that this male realtor bring a woman along with him, since I didn't know him. It was she who asked me what I wanted in an area. When I said that I wanted "community"...a place where my husband and children could flourish and where I could meet other stay-at-home moms to grow friendships with, she focused in on Anthem.

I get a real kick out of thinking how quickly the realtor said, "Oh no! That's way too far out!"

I insisted that he bring me here, and once he did I was thrilled to tell him that we didn't have to look anywhere else, we just had to find the right house in Anthem.

God was so gracious to direct each footstep, and to lead us to this community that we love, and to surround us with the most precious neighbors whom we cherish.

Just a few days after we moved in, I made the trek to the grocery store and spent a full 3 hours there getting everything that we needed to set up our new home. We had just opened our account at Wells Fargo, and as I gave the cashier my check, she informed me that a check without my name and address printed on it was not acceptable. I thought I was going to have a nervous breakdown right there in her line...actually, I kind of did! As hard as I tried for them not to, the tears just began to pour out of my eyes. It was a Saturday, the bank was closed for verification, and I had no other form of payment on me.



Left to right standing > Beth McCord w/Coble Cruise & Travel; Terry McCullough w/Town Planner; Sandy Struss w/Foothills Appraisal & Consulting; Jessica Womack (Mother of winner); Jim Moellenberndt w/Primus Group, LLC; Laura Potter w/YBR Coaching Consultant; Rick Garner w/Sports Medics; Jacque Starr-Hubert w/Window Perfection; Linda Rehwalt w/RE/MAX Integrity Realtors. Left to right sitting > Shane Womack (Father of winner); Brennah Womack (Sister of winner), and Caedmon Womack (WINNER).

Anyone who has moved cross country with 2 small children knows how hard the experience can be, and how taxing that first trip to the grocery store is. All I could envision was my starving babies at home, along with a ravenous husband and me returning without even any toilet paper! At that very moment, a precious lady behind me in line said, "How about if I pay for your groceries, and you just make the check out to me?"

See...community. Would that have happened if we lived in the heart of Phoenix? Maybe, but I doubt it.

Margaret, if you're reading this...thank you so much for your kindness!

The wonderful blessings that have come through our living here just

continue. Our children loved the carnival that took place in October. We were amazed that our community leaders would work so hard to put that on!

We've also been blessed to find an amazing church family at Arizona Hills Community Church. Our leadership team is all so focused on sharing the Truth of Jesus Christ with Anthem. I'm told that they were praying for the people who would move here, even before the development opened!

God also pointed me to Community Bible Study, and the most precious, open and honest group of ladies that I have ever had the honor of being in a Bible study with. We welcome any other ladies that would like to join us.

In December, we took a Sunday afternoon and enjoyed the Anthem Holiday Festival. Once again, we were so surprised to see how hard our community association works to make this more than just a development! It was such a great time! We ate carnival food, let our kids play in the snow, and had an all out super time.

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Just as we were about to leave, a kindly paramedic asked us if we'd like to have our children's DNA sampled, to keep in case we ever needed it. It was so clear to us how close this testing was to this man's heart, as he explained that **having it could be crucial to finding them if, God forbid, they were ever missing.**

So, we swabbed their little cheeks, and just for fun we registered to win a Coyotes jersey that had been signed by the team. I was hesitant to do so, because I never win anything...but went ahead anyway.

Then Linda Rehwalt with Re/Max Integrity Realtors called to tell us that we were the winners! We were so excited! Our little boy was actually the winner, and he thinks this jersey is about the greatest thing since peanut butter and sliced bread!

We were humbled by the kindness of all of the people representing the Business Network of Anthem who presented the jersey to us on Sunday afternoon. It was then that we realized that the DNA testing had actually been sponsored by the BNA group...just one more example of community! These business leaders didn't have to be focused on our children's welfare, they're supposed to be thinking about P&L, right?

Evidently, to the BNA group, P&L is as much about People and Love as it is about profit and loss!

Thank you, BNA members, for caring about our families, by offering your business services with integrity and commitment. Thank you also, for caring about our children and their safety.

Community...it's so clear to me that we have found the best one in America. Our desire as a family is to do all we can to make Anthem a wonderful place for everyone who moves here. However, our family is only 4 people. So, we encourage all of you...reach out, get to know your neighbors, heck...treat them to dinner and take a real interest in them. It's safe to get out of our comfort zones in Anthem, and make ourselves available to others.

After all, isn't that what being a Community is all about?

The Womack Family >
Jesica, Shane, Caedmon and Brennah



Catherine D. Egan
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BNA Adopts DNA Collection Program for Anthem Youth

The Business Network of Anthem (BNA) is a group of over 30 local business people that live and work in Anthem. This group of individuals have dedicated themselves to providing quality service to fellow Anthem residents and are always seeking ways to give back to the community.

Rick Garner, Anthem Resident and Acting Fire Captain, and the BNA has adopted the goal of providing every child in Anthem with a free DNA kit. The kits are used to collect and store biological samples, typically skin cells from a cotton swab inserted in a child's mouth. The cells contain DNA, a genetic code that can be used to trace missing persons. "Hopefully, you'll never need it, but there's tremendous peace of mind just knowing that you have an unmistakable way of tracing your child."

The kits usually retail for \$10 to \$15. They contain a swab for taking the sample and a specially treated slide or vial. They're far better than fingerprints, which can change in a young child and often aren't very well done.

Paramedics from the Phoenix Coyotes Hockey Team and local Anthem fire fighters with Daisy Mountain Fire Department will be available to collect DNA samples from 5pm - 9pm at the Halloween Howl both Friday, October 24th & Saturday, October 25th and from 10am to 5pm, December 13th and 14th, at the Anthem Holiday Classic.

