

Small Steps, Big Milestones

By J.R. Gerhart



In August, we celebrated our daughter, Keegan, turning two. Lauren and I delight in watching her grow and celebrate every milestone. Was it just yesterday we were watching her take her first steps? We hosted friends and family for a Minnie Mouse-themed birthday, capturing every moment. The laughter and joy on Keegan's face as we sang "Happy Birthday" with her name in it is something I'll never forget. Will she remember? Probably not, but she'll look at the pictures years from now and know how loved and celebrated she is.

This has been a big year for my entire family, as I accepted the Client Services Administrator position at New Perspectives. It meant moving from Hattiesburg, the place we got married and started our family, and going in a different direction with a different set of milestones to pass through. In the last two months, Lauren began a new job, and Keegan is in a new daycare. We're all experiencing a lot of different emotions throughout the transition. Excited, anxious, energized. And on top of it all, we are in the process of closing on a new house in the area. And, as you can imagine, it's a little bit overwhelming.

With both of us born and raised in Mississippi, it seems logical that our next home is in the heart of the state. We both grew up in Starkville and have deep roots in Mississippi. My parents still reside in Starkville, in the same house they have lived in since I was a year old. I attended Mississippi State, and Lauren went to Ole Miss (a house divided), but I also earned a degree from Southern Miss. We have it all covered!

We have family in Brandon and Clinton, so they are happy we are close by since they will get to witness every one of Keegan's milestones. I'll also be able to share my own milestones as I take on a new role and grow with this company. Like many of you have seen, the staff at New Perspectives is amazing, caring, and personable. They work hard each day to help you achieve your financial milestones, whatever they are. I'm thrilled to be part of this team.

Milestones can be a funny thing. On the one hand, they're clearly defined in terms of the steps needed to accomplish a goal, but they can change as we change. Keegan crossing her second birthday was a milestone for her, but those markers of her progress will change as she grows and matures. My own milestones have changed in the past year. It will now be my job to help you define your own milestones and help you achieve those goals.

In the short time I've been at New Perspectives, it's been fantastic hearing other people's stories, guiding them in their financial decisions, and seeing them achieve their milestones. Lauren, Keegan, and I are thrilled to be a part of this community. I'm excited to see what other milestones we accomplish, just like I'm excited to see you accomplish yours.

"Every milestone you hit is a reminder of your perseverance." - Unknown

Office: 303 Highland Park Cove, Suite B, Ridgeland, MS 39157 • **Mailing:** P.O. Box 489, Tougaloo, MS 39174

Nancy: nanderson@newper.com • www.newper.com • **Ryder:** rtaff@newper.com

Office: 601.991.3158 • **Fax:** 601.991.3158