

# WOMAN of Towing

Brought to you by



## Stacy Vivrette

**Akins Towing Services Inc. • Franklin, Tenn.** BY TARA YOUNG-MCQUERN



Jay and Stacy Vivrette didn't know, as they casually passed one another in their high school hallways, that their relationship would grow into anything but casual one day.

In 1994, that day came, and the two married that year. Both born and raised in Franklin, Jay worked for a mechanic shop called Christian Brothers Automotive as shop manager, while Stacy became a stay-at-home mom.

The couple had two children: Emily, born in 2000 and Parker, born in 2002.

When it came time for Parker to begin Pre-K in the summer of 2007, Stacy was looking for something to occupy her time during the day, but still keep her close to the children and the house. It was at this time that a tow truck owner/operator who worked with Christian's informed Jay that he was interested in selling his small towing business. And so Stacy and Jay bought Akins Towing Services Inc.

"I suppose it's an odd thing to find a woman in her position, but it works for us," says Jay. "She treats her customers and employees with respect, but runs a tight ship. I think her experience as a mom helps her in the position. She has high expectations for her employees."

The company has three drivers and Stacy. Stacy is the main owner and handles all office work and dispatching from her office in their home, accompanied at all times by her two dogs, Sally and Lilly.

"Her three phones are like her babies," says Jay. "It's always an interesting conversation when someone asks her what she does for a living."

The trucks stay at Jay's mechanic shop when they're not being used, and he helps with all the necessary repair and maintenance work on them, as well as running calls from time to time with her drivers. She also owns an impound lot at a separate location close by.

"I'll go sometimes and help on weekends, or she'll go out with the guys herself," says Jay. "She has her license now, and she's not scared to drive out if they have to have two wreckers there, but she mainly sticks to the business end of the company. She knows what's going on, knows about the trucks and what's best for the company."

She has two flatbeds, one wheel-lift and one service truck. She runs calls for two dealerships, road clubs and six shops.

"Her goal was to bring growth to this small-time company," says Jay. "She still does family, and loves being a mom. We make sure we don't get too big for ourselves."

Stacy, Jay and the kids are very involved at their church in their spare time, turning to it for both community and spirituality.

"Church is a big foundation for us, being in a stressful business like we are, it is our solid rock," says Jay. "We feel, of course, that without God, none of this would've been made possible. We feel comfortable and trust that they do

good things for the community, and we have many friends there."

Other than church activities, Jay says that Stacy's hobbies are through her children. Parker plays baseball and football, while Emily does basketball and cheerleading.

"She's a mom first, by far," he says. "You'll always find her out in the stands at their games and such."

As for the kids, Jay says that growing up around the shop and the business has Parker packed with more experience on cars and trucks than most teenage boys.

"He was taught his numbers on wrenches," Jay jokes.

As for Stacy and Jay's future, he says they focus on each day and don't make too many plans. Stacy wants to continue growing the business, and if Parker or Emily want to take over one day, she'd be happy to keep the business in the family.

Akins' employee David Silva sums Stacy's success up well: "Stacy bought this business almost four years ago not knowing anything about the industry. She has since taken it and ran with it. In a very short time we went from a 1.5 truck company to a four-truck show. Under her we have expanded accounts, became part of the BBB and won a Geico Insurance Award for Great Customer Service for the whole south-east region. This is someone who in my book truly deserves this recognition."



800-728-0136

[www.towserver.net/about\\_wtraa.htm](http://www.towserver.net/about_wtraa.htm)

WTRAA recognizes and celebrates the vital role women play in today's towing and recovery industry by sponsoring Woman of Towing. Each Woman of Towing will receive a one-year membership to WTRAA.

Send your Woman of Towing suggestions to:

Tow Times • Woman of Towing • 203 West SR 434 • Winter Springs, FL 32708  
or e-mail [tara@towtimes.com](mailto:tara@towtimes.com)