

Someone You Should Know

Tamara "TC" Leonard, Mokena

Occupation: President, Grant Seekers, Mokena

Birthday: Jan. 25, 1968

Birthplace: Blue Island

Marital status or family: Married to Bob for 14 years, with three sons: Ezekial (5), Elijah (3) and Noah (1).

What should people know you for: I opened Grant Seekers, Inc., four years ago to help not-for-profit agencies raise money. We have raised almost \$10 million.

Goal in life: To make a difference EVERY DAY to someone.

Three words that best describe me: Energetic, optimistic and perseverant.

A really great evening (or day) to me is: Going to the park with my family.

What people would be surprised to find out about me: I can break three bricks or boards at one time! I'm a second degree black belt. I've won six United States karate championships in my weight class. I won a silver medal and three bronze medals at an international competition in Ireland and Greece. I don't train anymore, life got in the way, but I am training my three sons.

Experience that had biggest impact on my life: The journey to become a mother.

I'd give anything to meet: Mary, mother of God.

What I do to pass the time on long car trips: With three kids, my husband and I use the car rides as a chance to have an adult conversation. We used to use the car to get the kids to sleep, but now with gas prices we can't afford the nap!

If I were stranded on a desert island, I'd take what 3 things: I'd take my family, my books and a nanny so my husband and I could go dancing.

If I could visit anywhere in the world, I would: Take my kids to Disney World, and we're doing that in October. That is my dream. We traveled before we had kids, now the whole focus of our lives is our kids.

If I won the Lottery, I would: Instead of always "asking" others for money for our not-for-profit clients, I would open my own foundation and give it all away.

