



photos by Breshers Photography

# Kristin Hunt

## How does she do it?

Five states, five cities, five beautiful children and five very individual birth stories. We got the chance to ask busy Cover MOM Kristin, how does she do it?

Each child has a personality and characteristics that make them who they are. As individual as the child, so is their story.

I'd already been to the hospital twice in anticipation of our first baby to be born—I didn't know if it would be a boy or a girl. Living in a small upstairs apartment in Provo, Utah, I awoke at 1:30 a.m., I was sure these were the type of pains that I'd been waiting for and we rushed to the hospital. By 6 a.m. our neighbors below us figured we must have gone to the hospital during the night as we'd forgotten to turn off our alarm clock and it kept ringing and had awakened them. At 8:10 a.m. our first baby, Brendan was born. Two weeks later, I graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. Four months later, my husband graduated with his Masters Degree in Accounting. His first job would take us to Concord, Calif.

Baby number two would arrive while we lived in Concord. Again, we didn't know if it would be a boy or a girl. Due to some complications near the end of my pregnancy, we had a series of ultrasounds, and we couldn't wait any longer to find out that Brendan would soon have a baby brother—Dallin, born at lunchtime. He was my smallest baby, but had a ferocious appetite—perhaps it's because I ate a Reese's almost every day during this pregnancy. He's certainly no longer my smallest, but still has the same appetite. We loved our days in California, where we went to the park most days, visited beaches and made great connections with other stay-at-home moms with young children.

When Dallin was just 18 months old, we were offered the chance to move to Bellevue, Wash., which would put us closer to our family in the Tri-Cities.

Newly pregnant and not feeling well, we moved to Bellevue, where we lived for a mere 10 months. During that time we moved three times, finally purchasing and settling into our first home just before baby number three was born. Surprise! It's a girl! We welcomed Aubrey, born on her Great-grandma Maude's birthday. She arrived at 3:34 p.m.—just in time for an afternoon snack. My husband arrived home from a business trip just two days before she was born, and left again one week after she was born. That same day my mother returned to her home after helping me for a few days. I was left to enjoy three little children under the age of five and a big basket of chocolates sent by my husband's boss. A few weeks after bringing her home from the hospital, my husband mentioned that his client, the one we moved to Washington for, was moving to Arizona. He wanted to know if I wanted to move to Arizona. Why not—we'd never lived there before. Three months later we met the Arizona summer.

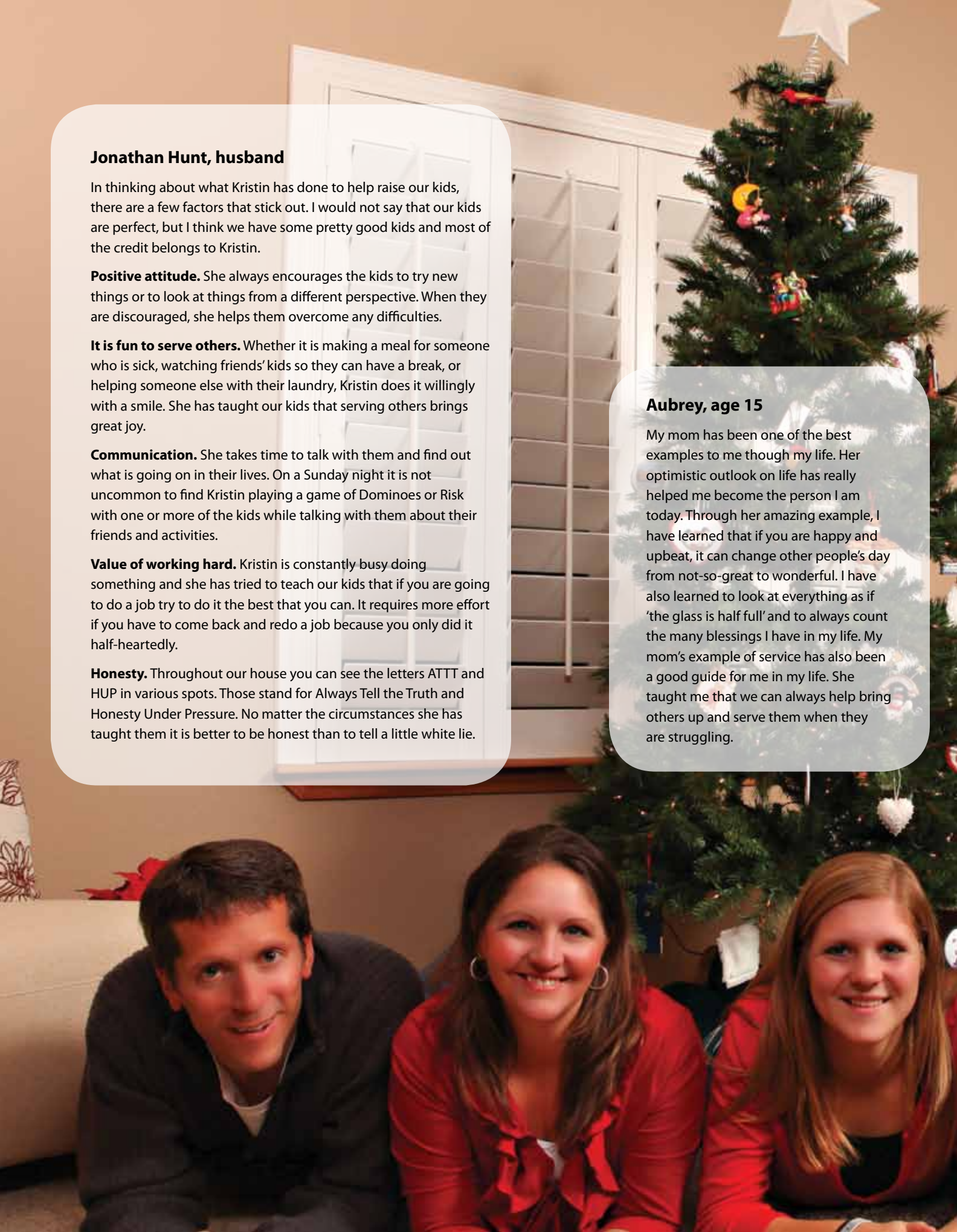
And, you guessed it, another move brought another baby. A boy or a girl—we wouldn't know until baby number four was born. But a new baby sister arrived in a downtown hospital in Phoenix, Ariz. at 8:42 p.m. Four states, four babies, and making our way around the clock. The score was even now—two boys, two girls. Did we need a tie-breaker? My husband said that no matter how many boys there were—the girls would always outnumber the boys. We declined the offers to move to Seattle or Utah again. Cactus, swimming pools, the summer heat and the wonderful Arizona winters would remain home to us for many years.

When baby number five was to be born, we wondered if we needed to move to a different state—we (well the doctor really), opted for a hospital in the city of Scottsdale. As contractions began, I was determined to stay at home as long as possible before going to the hospital. After a full day of sporting events, cleaning the house and dinner at a restaurant for Aubrey's birthday, I decided I was about ready to head to the hospital.

On the way to the hospital, I firmed up rides for the swim team carpool, attempted to contact my doctor to let him know I was headed to the hospital and endured a few contractions. Arriving at the hospital, I was nearly ready to deliver. The nurse continued to try to reach the doctor, but to no avail, this baby was ready and without a doctor or an epidural, so was I. Baby number five arrived at 11:18 p.m.—into the capable hands of a well trained nurse.

The doctor arrived about a half hour later, but forgot my midnight snack. We'd realized the children had been born in different cities and states, and had arrived "around the clock," but it wasn't until after Elizabeth was born that we realized our kids names started with A, B, D and E. Baby number five's name had to complete the alphabetical gap and begin with the letter C. We pondered long to choose just the right name. Each of our children has a special family name—named after their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents on both sides of the family. Baby number five would be named after her now-96 year old great-grandmother, Deon. Calla Deon completed the "day"—with not much more time on the clock and filled in the alphabetical gap. Each of our children was also born between my husband's birthday and my birthday—a six month span.

*Continued on page 14*



### Jonathan Hunt, husband

In thinking about what Kristin has done to help raise our kids, there are a few factors that stick out. I would not say that our kids are perfect, but I think we have some pretty good kids and most of the credit belongs to Kristin.

**Positive attitude.** She always encourages the kids to try new things or to look at things from a different perspective. When they are discouraged, she helps them overcome any difficulties.

**It is fun to serve others.** Whether it is making a meal for someone who is sick, watching friends' kids so they can have a break, or helping someone else with their laundry, Kristin does it willingly with a smile. She has taught our kids that serving others brings great joy.

**Communication.** She takes time to talk with them and find out what is going on in their lives. On a Sunday night it is not uncommon to find Kristin playing a game of Dominoes or Risk with one or more of the kids while talking with them about their friends and activities.

**Value of working hard.** Kristin is constantly busy doing something and she has tried to teach our kids that if you are going to do a job try to do it the best that you can. It requires more effort if you have to come back and redo a job because you only did it half-heartedly.

**Honesty.** Throughout our house you can see the letters ATTT and HUP in various spots. Those stand for Always Tell the Truth and Honesty Under Pressure. No matter the circumstances she has taught them it is better to be honest than to tell a little white lie.

### Aubrey, age 15

My mom has been one of the best examples to me though my life. Her optimistic outlook on life has really helped me become the person I am today. Through her amazing example, I have learned that if you are happy and upbeat, it can change other people's day from not-so-great to wonderful. I have also learned to look at everything as if 'the glass is half full' and to always count the many blessings I have in my life. My mom's example of service has also been a good guide for me in my life. She taught me that we can always help bring others up and serve them when they are struggling.

*I have no greater joy than to h*

**Dallin, age 17**

My mom has always told me that 'attitude is everything.' You can change your whole day by changing your attitude. If there is something that I don't like then it is my attitude that needs adjusting. She helped me to learn how to try my very best in everything that I do and to never give up. She taught me to treat everyone with respect and to not judge people especially based on appearances. She has been one of the biggest and best role models in my life and I strive to be more like her every day.

**Calla, age 10**

My mom has helped me learn how to share with others and play nicely with my brothers and sisters. She also taught me how important honesty and service are. These traits have helped me in school and at home. I am grateful that she demonstrates these traits to me. I am glad to have a mom like her!

**Brendan, age 19**

is currently on a mission.

**Elizabeth, age 12**

Mom has taught us kids to be hard workers. On Saturdays we all do our part to clean the house. We weed our grandparents' yard with the encouragement of mom. Mom also is always optimistic and always has a smile. She is always encouraging to others. When you lose a sports game she only points out the good. She encourages us to do our best in everything we do. My mom has influenced me to be the girl I am today.



*"Being a mom is one of my greatest blessings.  
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stage of their growing years."*

~ Kristin Hunt



*Continued from page 11*

Five years ago we were back in the Tri-Cities, where my husband, Jonathan and I both grew up and graduated from high school. We love living here where we continue to raise our family, enjoy time on the Columbia River and serve in this great community.

Being a mom is one of my greatest blessings. Being a stay-at-home mom is something I thank God for every single day. I've often had a little side business (vinyl lettering is what I do now), which I could either involve my children in or do while my children were in bed or at school. I can honestly say that I have loved every stage of their growing years. In the younger years, I felt like the children were always chasing me around. Now that they are ages 10 through 20, I find I'm the one chasing them around. With one on a church mission in New Jersey, two in high school, one in middle school and one in elementary school—I wish I could stop the clock and just enjoy it all a little longer.



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