



# HANNAH GIGLEY

## INSPIRING IMPACT

The most difficult starts in life don't predict the future for an individual who is motivated to help others.

A perfect example of that is Hannah Gigley.

As an experienced real estate agent and Team Lead with The Luxe Global Group with RE/MAX Four Corners, Hannah makes an inspiring impact on those around her.

"I believe that each of us are given our story to help others who are going through a similar situation in life," Hannah emphasizes. "My heart is there to be an inspiration for others."

### Rising Above

Hannah's early life was turbulent. Her parents divorced when she and her brother were young. Things declined from there.

"When I was 6, my abusive birth dad abducted my brother and me. As a result, we didn't see our mom for nearly two years. He told us that she didn't love us, didn't want us and wasn't coming back. The abuse escalated, resulting in a medical emergency, putting my brother in the hospital."

Hannah's birth dad was arrested, and she was taken away and began a long journey through multiple California foster homes,

while her brother was given care and nursed back to health over time.

"Eventually, my mom received an anonymous call to let her know that I was in foster care and my brother was in the hospital," she says.

"Months later, after getting through the legal red tape, we were reunited with my mom, though I was involved in court trials until I was a teenager."

After years of going to court, her birth dad's rights were taken away. Hannah's mom married Hannah's stepdad, who taught them what a father was supposed to be like and finally was able to formally adopt Hannah and her brother as teenagers.

That early chapter was obviously a pivotal time in her life.

"Due to my experiences, I have a heart for foster kids, those that are abused, and for young adults who age out of the foster system, knowing what a rough system that is," she explains. "Your life is torn apart within a matter of minutes, with literally no control."

### Starting a New Chapter

At the age of 18, she met her husband, Aaron, and married at 20. She and her new family faced another trying chapter.



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"I got pregnant three months after we were married, after almost dying of meningitis. My son, Aaron Jr., had a lot of medical issues and that led to debt. He was born with the bones of his feet fused together and had several surgeries to fix the issues. At age 2, he had seizures and had to learn to walk and talk again, then almost cut his left hand off (he was left-handed) at 8 years old with an electric hedge trimmer. People ask why I got my real estate license, it was to pay off those debts," she explains.

"I set out to be a stay-at-home mom to homeschool my children – not to be a career woman. I had my own decorating company from home at that time, which turned out to fit nicely with real estate. Not only were we able to pay off those debts in the first year of selling real estate, but I found out that there was more to me than being a great mom and wife – I was made for this. I was Rookie of the Year that first year and haven't slowed down since." Today, Aaron Jr. is a college graduate, who got his license at 18 and is one of Hannah's buyer's agents.

#### Building a Team and Success

Hannah earned her real estate license almost 17 years ago, and also started her company, Luxe Staging and Decorating, Co., that does everything from staging to full renovations, starting a very successful new chapter.

**"I have lived my life wanting my kids to see that when you go through hard things, you don't give up ... that you complete what you set out to do – you FINISH ... and try to have balance and keep your joy in the middle of it all."**



The Luxe Global Group: Hannah, her son, Aaron Gigley Jr., and Nanette Riley



"In real estate and in decorating, I know I am nothing without my team, which includes buyer's agents, Aaron Jr. and Nannette Riley, along with a truly fantastic team of admins, decorators and marketing staff. My team provides excellence in service to all of our clients, and that truly sets us apart from the rest."

Hannah's sense of resilience is powerful.

"We were told by multiple psychologists that my brother and I would basically never amount to much and that we were broken. Even if you're told by 'professionals' that you will not amount to anything because of your past, you still have the power to choose," she says. "Through a lot of work, the love of my adopted dad and the prayers of my mother, we chose differently and are both very successful entrepreneurs."

"Don't ever let anyone put a label on you because of what you've gone through. It's ultimately a choice. I was told I wouldn't amount to anything. But, if you tell me I can't do something, well, I'm going to show you AND myself, that I can. Our past made my brother and I fighters, and honestly, I wouldn't change a thing about it for that reason alone."

#### Family Strength

One of the most rewarding parts of life for Hannah is her family.

She and Aaron have been married for 25 years and have four children. In addition to Aaron Jr., who is 24, they have 23-year-old Alyssa; 20-year-old Alaina, and 17-year-old Isaac.

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Over the course of time, she also discovered that she has a half-brother, named Abraham, on her birth dad's side; she met him eight years ago. "He has changed my life for the better, and I adore him. He has been through so much and has taught me even more about how powerful the human spirit is, no matter what we all go through."

Giving back is a central part of Hannah's life. Volunteering with her kids is one of her greatest joys. After everything her son endured, when Aaron was 16 years old, he formed Aaron's Race and Roll. During two years of events in McKinney, over \$56,000 was raised for nonprofits in a race that was designed to give people of all abilities an event they could take part in and feel a real sense of accomplishment. More than 500 people attended and took part in both events.

Hannah loves to support organizations such as Especially Needed, an organization that supports those with special needs in a way where they are valued, respected and included, as well as Direction 61:3, a group that provides stability, life skills and a place to thrive for children who age out of foster care.



In her free time, Hannah reads, plays the piano and has a passion for physical fitness, having done multiple marathons and triathlons. In 2011, she competed in Ironman Cozumel, successfully completing 140.6 miles in 13:24.53. While her triathlon days are over, she finds plenty of ways to stay active.

#### Leading by Example

Those who have the opportunity to know and work with Hannah see her as a powerful inspiration.

"I have a different perspective on life due to my past. It may sound crazy, but I saw my guardian angel in my closet while hiding from my birth dad at 6 years old, and I have never doubted God's existence or His love for me since. He told me I would be okay ... that I would see my mom soon and that I was loved – right before I was taken away. I was obsessed with angels after that.

"That experience gave me my faith, my life was forever changed, and honestly, I believe that being told I wouldn't amount to much gave me the tenacity to overcome and achieve. It made me a better mom

for my kids," she says. "I have lived my life wanting my kids to see that when you go through hard things, you don't give up ... that you complete what you set out to do – you FINISH ... and try to have balance and keep your joy in the middle of it all."



Hannah, her husband, Aaron, and their four children: Aaron Jr., 24; 23-year-old Alyssa, 20-year-old Alaina, and 17-year-old Isaac.

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