

Neighbors of GLEN ELLYN

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BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Meet Karin Daly

LIVING
LA VIDA
LOCAL



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY FELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY





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STORY BY TINA MORNA FREITAS, WHEATON RESIDENT PHOTO BY KIMBERLY FELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Sometimes things take a little while to bloom. Downtown Glen Ellyn residents Karin Daly and John Toth first met in downtown Chicago – at the venerable BBDO advertising agency, where she served as an account executive and he a copywriter on the account whose name was emblazoned on their iconic office building: “Wrigley.”

A leisurely courtship followed as their careers led the couple to Europe for 8 years and then New England, birthplace of their “Boston Beanie Baby,” Ivy – now a 6-foot tall, volleyball-loving, guitar-playing, drama crewing honor student and Girl Scout counselor-in-training who’s about to enter her junior year at Glenbard West. There, she adores working with the preschoolers in her Early Childhood Development class. You might also find Ivy donning and dancing in the Easter Bunny costume to the delight of the little ones at

the Lisle Park District’s annual Easter event. Born in downstate Decatur, John studied advertising at the University of Illinois, where he could only dream of the kinds of campaigns he’d later have an opportunity to work on. “Who would’ve thought this country boy from central Illinois would get to work with Oscar-winning directors and actors and even celebs like Tina Turner and Red M&M!” says John. A published lyricist and cartoonist, John now leads “Toth Creative,” which provides creative direction





and copy to brands both large and small. Karin was born and raised in Lisle. A graduate of Benedictine University, Karin earned a masters degree in healthcare communications from Boston University – all while serving as a VP Brand Management at Philips and enjoying her favorite role of all: mom. Her interests in public health and branding have led to a wide variety of current professional and personal pursuits, working with healthcare leaders such as UChicago and Cancer Treatment Centers of America. She's currently studying and serving the field of early childhood development and is starting her 3rd year as VP Communication for the GE League of Women Voters, in addition to serving on

the board of Friends of the East Branch River Trail. Karin is also a member of Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission and co-founder of Go Green Glen Ellyn, an organization dedicated to making it easier for residents to live more sustainably.

Go Green Glen Ellyn is part of the Go Green Illinois network that includes dozens of Chicagoland communities. The network provides a forum for members to share ideas and best practices, but Go Green GE is designed especially for Glen Ellyn residents and businesses. When Karin and her fellow Environmental Commissioner, Jacquelyn Casazza started Go Green, they knew they wanted to provide residents with an information hub specific to the Village. Go Green

Ellyn has a website and issues a regular newsletter. Recently, Jacquelyn wrote a four-part series about the curbside recycling program, detailing for each material what is and isn't recyclable. The motto for their newsletter is "Learn, Do, Participate" as they focus on simple, everyday actions to make the community more environmentally friendly. Back issues can be found at gogreenglenellyn.org. The co-founders will tell you that the most important thing everyone should learn about curbside recycling is: "Don't put your recycling in a plastic bag! It goes right to the landfill."

In its short existence Go Green has already brought several action-oriented activities to the community. They co-



Karin with Go Green co-founder Jacquelyn Casazza



hosted Glen Ellyn's Earth Day festivities, coordinated forest clean-ups and organized a Sport Swap with the Park District at Ackerman. Residents will again be able to swap gently used sports equipment by dropping off their items at Ackerman between July 18-22, and receiving a voucher to be used at the Swap event on July 23. Currently Go Green has been working in conjunction with the GE Chamber of Commerce on the Flower Pot Walk around the downtown area this summer. Each of the 12 flower pots were designed by various Glen Ellyn organizations, and each tree-themed pot includes a card

offering some interesting "tree trivia." The Daly-Toth's created the Go Green flower pot on the cover. You can find a map of all 12 flower pot locations on their website. Karin encourages community members to join Go Green in making Glen Ellyn more sustainable. "It is low stakes to get involved," she says, "but a high stakes outcome for our environment." When the family moved back to the area from Boston 12 years ago, they were looking for a town with good schools, green spaces, and a train to Chicago. They also wanted the walkability they enjoyed while living in Amsterdam, Oak Park and

Boston. Downtown Glen Ellyn fit the bill. They've been able to walk to all of Ivy's schools as well as everything downtown has to offer. The whole family, including their Havenese, Piper loves having so much to do just steps from their home. "Nature is healing," says Karin. "Like most, I need to remind myself to shut off my screen, take a walk and get outside. Walks to Glacial Ridge and Lake Ellyn are always a highlight. And Piper would love to show you where all the GE good smells are!" John, Karin, Ivy and Piper are all very happy to have put down roots in Glen Ellyn.