



## Living Your Core Values Is Your Lifetime Choice

We got up early one Saturday morning at 5:30 am (early for me and late for Gary), while Brett was sleeping, to go through our photo albums for a “Brett surprise.”

We went through all the photo albums since Brett was born and picked out our top 25 favorites that depicted Brett’s spirited personality. We were going to tape them to the kitchen cupboards for his grad party. I don’t know if it was the magic of “sneaking” and getting up early to surprise Brett or the “goosebump” nostalgic memories of looking at the old photos — but that early morning photo search has stayed with me longer than Brett’s grad party.

Looking through the photos was bittersweet. Bitter in that Brett graduated from high school, which means Gary and I have to transition to this “empty nest thing” that I have been dreading. And sweet in that Brett did what he was supposed to do — be responsible and graduate with good grades. More delicious, in that Gary and I did what we were supposed to do — raise a kid with core values that will empower him to make a difference in this world.

What the kids heard all the time were “The Borks are gentle, caring and kind and the Borks get results.”

Gary and I knew that our core values needed to be practiced understood and lived as part of everyday life, which started with their bowl of cereal in morning and ended with bedtime prayers. The kids were always watching us, how we lived our values. They were constantly demonstrated, whether it be an errand to Target or a chat on the ride to school.

Whether you realize it or not, you have got values that define you. Everyone does. Your values influence your decisions. They reflect what is important to you and how you see the world. They act like your compass. Talking about your values is pretty different than living them. Living core values is a lifetime choice – YOUR lifetime choice.

### Our family’s golden rules

Be Gentle  
Be Caring  
Be Kind  
Get Results  
Be a hard worker  
Live with no regrets

Gary and I have raised another child full of our expectations and values. We expect Brett to remember the Bork’s family core values as he heads off to college.

But when you really, really think about it, college is not about what we expect. What Brett expects will guide his college choices. I believe we have instilled in Brett our values and he will be packing these values, 18 years of loving family memories and his brand new navy

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