

## IT'S MAGIC MONDAY: JANUARY 3, 2022!

This month we honor a Woman of Mercy who is generous, compassionate, and respectful and says, "I don't forget those who gave to me during difficult times in my life and I look for ways to give back to others. I am a cheerleader for others and love to see the underdog soar to the top. I also love to help those who are having difficulty learning make progress and attempt new things. I get to do this every day as principal at Rock Church Academy and by serving various nonprofits throughout our community." Meet **Julie Gruver Traut '00**.



**Name:** Julie Gruver Traut '00

### **Post Mercy Education:**

- B.S., Elementary and Special Education, Towson University, 2005
- M.Ed., Reading Education, Towson University, 2008

### **Personal and Professional Achievements:**

I am currently the principal of Rock Church Academy in Baltimore County, as well as the director of Camp Rock and Christian youth athletics, two youth recreational programs in Baltimore County.

My husband, Kris, and I have four children: Klairese, Karliana, Joseph, and Isaac. I am passionate about working with the next generation, especially children who are in need. My family and I volunteer for several nonprofit organizations in Baltimore, including The Hiding Place, a home for young women who are pregnant and in crisis situations. We also volunteer for Adopt-a-Block, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to rebuilding Baltimore City neighborhoods. Our family eagerly helps this nonprofit every summer when we join hundreds of other young people in East Baltimore to rebuild a home for a veteran who has never owned a home before. I love my city and serving in my community!

### **Were there any Mercy faculty members who especially impacted your life? Why?**

I am grateful for the support that I received from all the teachers and staff at Mercy. Even though I entered as a freshman significantly behind in my studies, the teachers saw the value in me. They worked together to help me fill in gaps in my knowledge and prepare me for college. An especially impactful faculty member was my adviser, **Ms. Jane Jackson P'07**. She loved, supported, and encouraged me. She reminded me that there was no obstacle too difficult for me to overcome. I also would like to thank **Sister Mary Anne Smith, RSM** who gave me the opportunity to attend Mercy and helped me to improve my study skills and expand my knowledge.

### **Were there any classes you took at Mercy that stand out to you? Why?**

I loved biology, especially that we got to interact with what we were studying. Hands-on experiences, such as dissections, really helped me to learn and understand the parts of the body and their roles. I also appreciated that Mercy offered many electives. Electives enabled me to take a dance class, which is something I've always loved.

### **What is your favorite Mercy memory?**

I'll never forget Field Day and all the teamwork and effort that went into making the dance, races, and all other festivities so special for each class. I enjoyed brainstorming themes, helping prepare routines, and then executing those plans to perfection with my classmates.

I also loved the concept of the "Big Sister, Little Sister" program. It helped a new student like me feel not so alone in a big school. I would like to remember Nancy from the Class of 1969 who donated her Mercy ring for a student who could not afford one. I received it, and her kindness to me will never be forgotten.