



Photo Courtesy of Krissi Gibson Photography

What We Give

Chilean-American writer and successful novelist Isabel Allende is quoted as having said, “We only have what we give,” and those six words have stuck with me since I first took them in.

You see, as a freelance writer and editor myself, well-written sentiments mean a great deal to me, especially if they inspire the world to do better, and to do more than we ever have before. I think a lot about the future, and the impact that we humans can make during the short moments in time that we are alive. From far-off wars overseas to safe, sunny summer days here at the Lake of the Ozarks, it's bemusing for the human experience to be so very ugly and yet wonderfully beautiful, all at the same time.

“The human heart is a line, whereas my

own is a circle, and I have the endless ability to be in the right place at the right time (said Fate). The consequence of this is that I'm always finding humans at their best and worst. I see their ugly and their beauty, and I wonder how the same thing can be both.” – Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*, 2005.

Oftentimes, it becomes so easy to dwell in the sometimes perilous state of worldly affairs while wishing we could ‘wish away’ the unconscionable. Oftentimes, we try in vain to control complex situations which involve billions of people rather than focusing on what we can control. So, what can we control?

For starters, we can control our involvement within our local communities. We can join boards and vote at every given opportunity. We can volunteer at local events, donate to charities and non-profits, and support our children's schools. We can watch for signs of others needing help while offering them our shoulder or hand, and we can invest in our families.

“If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family,” said Mother Teresa.

So, with that, stop dwelling on the distorted headlines or drowning in the circus of tumultuous politics. Go home and love your family. Go home and take that boat out.

Christy Wagner, Editor,
Official Lake of the Ozarks Shootout Program Guide

Christy Wagner, presently of Linn Creek, MO, has been married to Christopher Wagner since 2010. They have two daughters, Jemma (5) and Jules (4), along with a small petting zoo which grows bigger every day. When Christy isn't writing or helping with the administrative tasks at her husband's two businesses, she invests her time in being a part-time stay-at-home mom to her two beautiful children. Chris, Christy, Jemma, and Jules are currently building their forever home on the Lake of the Ozarks in Pogue Hollow Cove, and they hope to call Lake Ozark home again by the winter of 2022.