

Lori Parsons, Corporate Receivables: A dynamo in a small package



The five-foot and one-inch Lori Parsons first described herself as an average person. Then she added these adjectives: outgoing, bubbly and energetic. "I love to laugh," she said. "I firmly believe laughter is the best medicine."

Her favorite TV show, *America's Funniest Home Videos*, reflects this love to laugh. The American reality television program features humorous homemade videotapes that viewers submit. Lori said, her family sits together and giggles for an hour while watching this show of slapstick physical comedy resulting from accidents and mishaps or humorous situations involving pets or children.

When asked what was the craziest thing she ever did . . .

Lori said she was so square she never stepped out of bounds. However, she did mention that when she was in high school, she and a girlfriend entered a local drag race where they raced her 1966 Ford Mustang against a Camaro Z-28. Even after hitting a top speed of 70 mph, they still lost. Lori said she now drives a boring economy family-style car.

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Her family

Lori and her husband of 21 years, David, have two children: a nine-year-old son, Chris, and 18-year-old daughter, Erica. Like most youngsters, Chris is active in sports. Lori said she spends her free time following him around to all his athletic events. Her husband spends his free time coaching his son in both basketball and football. Erica is a college freshman, who started her studies at University

of Colorado - Pueblo, but plans to transfer to another college.

Lori was born in Oceanside California, but moved to the mile-high city at age six when her father retired from the military. She said she likes to think she's a Colorado native like her husband is.

She has seven brothers and sisters, and is the second to the youngest. Lori had a younger brother, David, who had Down syndrome. (He died in 1984.) While growing up, she devoted a lot of time to taking care of David. Lori shared that he was a vibrant person, and it made her happy to spend time with him. "It taught me at an early age that everyone is different," she added, "It has given me the know-how



to work with people. Also it helped me to teach my kids that there's going to be diversity in their life. It helped me grow."

All but one of her siblings lives in the Denver area. Her older sister lives in the Phoenix area where she is a jockey.

Her childhood

Lori started playing the trombone when she was in the fourth grade. She laughingly claims that the trombone was bigger than she was when she first started playing! She continued to play the trombone all through high school, where she was a member of the school's marching, concert and jazz bands. When not making music, Lori was cheering for her junior high school sports teams. She stopped cheering after entering high school as she wanted to devote her free time to her music.



Lori did not go to college, but she said she recommends everyone should. "There are no ifs, ands or buts, my children will attend college," she added.

Her work career

Lori's first paid job was bussing tables at a local Denver restaurant. After graduating from high school, she went to work in the financial services industry, and eventually managed a financial service branch. Lori decided to leave this industry when she didn't have enough time to spend with her family. She started at the K-M/SSA Corporate Office five years ago. She shared she was ecstatic to get this job as it's a family-orientated business. Lori said she never had the opportunity in her previous jobs to talk about her family. "Here everyone talks about their family and children," she added. Lori jokingly said her ideal job would be an actor. (She did participate in her high school drama program.) She said another career option would be a special needs or elementary school teacher where she said she could make a difference.

Where she wants to visit

One day Lori hopes visit Ireland and explore her mother's Irish heritage. Another destination Lori would like to see is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a national memorial in Washington, D.C. that honors U.S. service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War. Her desire to visit this military memorial is due to her father who was a retired Master Sergeant in the U.S. Marines and who served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

What she does in her free time

Lori described herself as a movie person. "I love to go to the movies," she added, "even though my husband does not. He'll go if I bug him." She also enjoys long walks, and her husband willingly accompanies her on a sunny Saturday or Sunday afternoon - if there's not a pro or amateur football game being played. Her husband has coached youth sports for over 20 years.