My mother’s family came here from Europe in the mid 1700s.

On my dad’s side, my grandfather smuggled himself into Portugal to escape Spain during World War 2, and hitched a boat ride to New York, where he met my grandmother.

I was born in New Jersey, and lived in a small town called Wayne until I was 6 years old with my parents and younger brother. My parents were looking for a fresh start, so after I finished kindergarten, we all packed up and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where I lived most of my life.

We grew up near the poverty line as a working class family. Neither of my parents went to college or learned a trade, so they didn’t make much money. Sometimes we had to do without. I never felt like we were poor, but we cut it pretty close.

When I finished high school, I started college, but before I could finish, when I was in my 20s, my father had a debilitating stroke that left him permanently disabled. I ended up moving back in with him, and together, my brother and I cared for him while I worked at Domino’s Pizza as a delivery driver.

We cared for him for seven years. When we couldn’t live together anymore for various reasons, we made other arrangements for him with the help of extended family, and I went back to school.

In 2014 I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor’s in Accounting, and the following year I got my Master’s, also in accounting, at the same school (Go Tarheels!). I got my CPA license in 2016 and worked in corporate accounting for a few years after that.

Around that time I met Liz. We got married in 2018, and in 2019 we bought a house and moved to Spartanburg, to be closer to her daughter Joanna, who is now 13. After moving here, we decided to have another child – Ben is 3 years old now, and one of many bright spots in my life -, and we agreed that I would be a stay at home parent while my wife worked to support us.

Here in Spartanburg, I found my calling in advocacy, and became involved with nonprofits across the county. I found that standing up in front of others and speaking out about the issues affecting every day South Carolinians made me feel more alive than I had ever felt doing anything else.

In late 2022, I was diagnosed with cancer, which forced me to slow down in the advocacy space for a while and focus on healing. While I did, I learned a lot of hard lessons about navigating the healthcare system, and what folks really have to deal with when disaster strikes a family like that.

I beat cancer in July of 2023, and today I am fully recovered. I’m ready to get back to work, fighting for the people of our great state and trying to hold our misguided legislature accountable for their behavior.

**THE ISSUES**

* Safe, accessible, and legal abortion
  + The right of ALL South Carolinians to be in charge of their own medical decisions
* Medicaid expansion in South Carolina
* The incorporation of Boiling Springs into a municipality
* Infrastructure repair and renovation
  + Southside Sankofa
    - “Rebuilding the Southside,” applied county-wide
* Childcare/daycare reform