

Like Mother, Like Daughter

by Candy Arrington

Are you just like your mom? If not in looks or personality, do you have the same interests? Would you consider following your mother in her career, or going into business with her? A number of upstate women have done just that.

Mitzi Kirsch, daughter of real estate broker Peggy Blackwell, never wanted a career in real estate.

“I said I didn’t want to do it because growing up the phone rang all the time and there was always a real estate crisis while we were on vacation,” Mitzi says.

But Peggy encouraged Mitzi to get her real estate license at age 18, and the first summer Mitzi worked as Peggy’s assistant, we sold two houses.

“I made more money that summer than any of my friends. I didn’t think I wanted to be in real estate, but it stuck. I grew up around the business and it’s all I’ve ever known. After a few sales, real estate just seemed to fit,” Mitzi says.

Mitzi graduated from the university of South Carolina Spartanburg (now Upstate), attending the last two years on a grant from the South Carolina Real Estate Foundation. Although USC didn’t have a real estate major at the time, the college worked with her to get as many courses as possible in the field. Mitzi’s success in real estate quickly garnered her professional awards.

“People always ask how I can work with my mom, but we don’t see each other that much because we’re so busy. We have a good relationship and enjoy being together. We look forward to vacations because then we can spend time together,” Mitzi says.

“We actually have to make an appointment to see each other,” Peggy says.

Mitzi has learned a lot from her mother about business, meeting clients’ needs, treating people with respect, and living by the Bible.

“Mom has built this business from the ground up. I hope my children find real estate interesting so they can continue the business one day,” Mitzi says.