

## Meet the Mentor: Lesley Marcus

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Publication: Shore Publishing

Published 05/25/2011 12:00 AM

Updated 05/24/2011 03:25 PM



### Meet the Mentor

Lesley Marcus is a local realtor with Page Taft-Real Living in Guilford and manages national accounts at The Globe Pequot Press, also in Guilford. Her love for working with people combined with her drive and willingness to put in extra hours makes her busy sales career possible and still allows her to mentor a junior at Guilford High School.

Lesley grew up in Connecticut in both Fairfield and New Haven counties. She attended the University of Hartford and earned a B.A. in communications. After college, she relocated to San Francisco, where she remained for the next seven years, working first for San Francisco-based couture designer Lily Samii and then as a buyer with the Discovery Channel. Lesley returned east in 2007 to be closer to family and friends. Her job at Globe Pequot brought her to Guilford and also to the mentoring program at Guilford Public Schools.

Mary Norris, a colleague at Globe Pequot, has been a Guilford youth mentor for many years and encouraged Lesley to try it. Lesley became interested immediately, ultimately choosing to mentor a high school student.

"I was looking for a volunteer opportunity on a consistent basis where I could make a difference and help a student during such an important and overwhelming time in her life," she said. "I wish there'd been a mentoring program when I was in school! My hope is to help a student to have the best life possible after high school."

In other volunteer work, she works on the P.R. and Communications Committee at the Guilford Chamber of Commerce and is an on-call reception volunteer at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford.

When I asked about her family, Lesley's face lit up as she talked about her baby.

"I am the proud mother of Cadie, an 80-pound golden retriever-collie mix. She's very pretty with a wonderfully charming disposition and believe me, she knows it!" she said. "Cadie eats up the attention she gets on our walks on the Green."

Lesley enjoys mentoring because it allows her to shift gears and regain balance with the things in life that really mean something-like her mentee's successes and challenges.

"No matter how many meetings or deadlines I have, that hour with her is just as important as anything else that's going on," Lesley said.

Her favorite moment with her mentee came a few months after they started meeting.

"There was just this 'click,'" she said. "We made a great connection-we were laughing and having the best time! I left the high school that morning feeling on top of the world and that I had really made a difference."