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## NEIGHBORS

Meet the Bowling Family:

Filling Waukesha with Pove!



Best Version Media

Cover photo by Shannon Rose Photography





We met through a mutual friend in college," said Amalie
Bowling. Jason was visiting Emmaus Bible College with a
friend as a prospective student. A friendship developed between the two
and later they began dating.

Jason and Amalie both graduated with dual degrees in Biblical Studies and Youth Ministry. They got married in 2012.

Jason works as a supervisor for Starbucks and Amalie is a Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner. Where Amalie and Jason shine, is in their role as foster parents to four children ages 11, 10, 5, and 3.

"We both have a heart for helping kids," said Amalie. She shared that being adopted herself made her more open to what a family can look like.

"So many people say to us, 'I could never do what you do'. We're not special or different, there are no special qualifications," shared Jason.

"If you have love in your heart and love other people, you can be a foster parent," said Amalie.

When Amalie and Jason received their first placement, an 11-monthold child, they had just thirty minutes to prepare for his arrival. They scrambled to get the basic necessities like a car seat and diapers.



Because of this experience, Amalie and Jason founded a nonprofit, Chosen, a foster and adoptive support ministry.

Chosen has created a ripple effect in Waukesha and surrounding counties through supporting the physical needs of foster families. Families are welcomed to The Family Closet where they have access to free clothing, toys, infant supplies and school supplies. Additionally, they offer informational sessions to answer questions and share what we have learned about foster care and adoption.

The office is located at 217 Wisconsin

Avenue in Waukesha, They welcome donations and volunteer support.

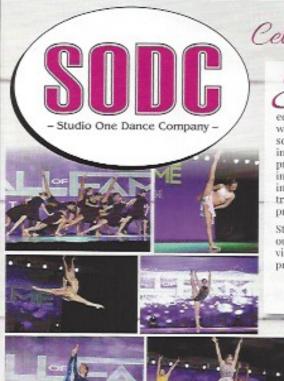
"Families come in all shapes and sizes. We don't always know or understand what is happening behind a closed front door. There are many kids and families around us that could use extra love and kindness," shared Amalie. "Life is not easy but a community can make the journey a little more rewarding."

Like many families, Amalie and Jason spend their time taking kids to activities.

"Our oldest is in swim lessons and the three girls are in dance classes," she said.

"The kids love to help at Chosen. They fold clothes for other kids, they love helping at outreach events and being a part of Chosen

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tudio One Dance Company, established in 2004 and located in Wales, WI, is looking forward to celebrating 15 years of dedicated commitment and service in the art of dance. Studio One offers an in-depth, well-rounded dance education curriculum, encompassing technique, choreography, and performance, while striving to nurture individual accomplishments, dedication, loyalty, and self-discipline. Studio One welcomes everyone, from 18 months to 18 years of age, including the beginner or those individuals interested in our pre-professional dance program. Studio One has a nationally recognized competition team and acceptance into this group is by audition only. Our pre-professional program was established in 2016 and this opportunity allows dancers to not only spend more intensive time training in technique classes, but also provides the opportunity to perform with a professional dance company, SueMo, which is based in Milwaukee.

Studio One Dance Company has partnered with SueMo to create a community outreach program called 4 Kids By Kids. Studio One staff, along with our dancers, visit various schools throughout Waukesha County as we share, teach, inspire, and promote our passion for dance.

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helps them feel special and they know it helps other people smile," said Amalie.

Their work supports their family motto: Live with Kindness. Be honest. Help others feel Chosen.

"Every night at dinner we talk about one thing that we did that was kind or share when we saw someone else do a kind act." said Amalie.

Rounding out their family is five-year-old silky terrier named Thor. "We always say he is basically a cat as he is only 10 pounds dripping wet. He can jump higher than our three-year-old and he loves to be cuddled up in the blankets and pillows throughout our house," she laughed.

Last summer they traveled to visit Jason's extended family in Iowa.

"It was a six-hour road trip and it was a blast," said Amalie.

They mapped out parks to stop and play at along the route. The
highlight of the trip: a visit to an amusement park with water
rides and roller coasters.

"It was the first time they had seen something that big, it didn't take long for them to come out of their shells!" said Amalie.

Their three-year-old enthusiastically chimed in, "The water park was great!"

In their spare time, Jason enjoys honing his Tae Kwon Do skills and kickboxing. Amalie is a crafter. She is currently working on knitting and crocheting projects. The family are also active members of Waukesha Bible Church.

"It's very grounded. The teaching is well thought out and planned, and people really enjoy spending time together, even beyond Sunday," said Jason.

"It's a family of families that meet together," added Amalie. "It feels like coming home."

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