

Meet Lauren Martin

Introduction by Tom Jaffa

It is my pleasure to introduce Lauren Martin, the dynamic Director of Philanthropy at the YMCA of Seattle, where she qualifies, cultivates, engages, solicits, and stewards philanthropists who have a passion for changing our community and for equity in education and helping homeless youth.

Her work focuses on the Y's education initiative and life-changing services for young people who have experienced trauma. She is:

Y – Young Rotary leader

M – Making a difference

C – Competent, compassionate and competitive

A – Active and Athletic

She and her HS sweetheart, now husband, Adam, both have deep roots in Florida where she grew up near Daytona Beach and received two degrees at Stetson University.

At 5 feet 3 inches, she was happy to be the captain of her basketball team and one of two girls playing on a co-ed soccer team. She also was HS Class President and Salutatorian. In college where she was Phi Beta Kappa, she was an RA, then Hall Director, followed by an internship with a US Senator working on immigration reform. She also won a major writing scholarship award and a competitive cash award for her poetry.

She is the middle of three girls and says she got her MBA largely because her older sister called her English degree a “cop-out”. Note: she finished her MBA first with higher marks and paid for it herself.

She is very proud to be losing 80 lbs – now running a 5k in under 30 minutes and about to run her first 10k. She plays ukulele in the band at her church, where she is very active and has become a “decent barista” at church events. She volunteers at Mary's Place helping parents to get a break while their children engage in therapeutic play.

Her favorite book is “Snow Falling on Cedars” and her favorite “grown up” movie is “Forrest Gump” which inspired her. She loves seafood, lobster, crab legs, sushi, peach cobbler, skiing and the Jacksonville Jaguars...but, she is becoming a Seahawks fan, too.

If she could be Queen for a Day, she would wish for equal pay and to be a guest star on an X Files episode.



Trivia: she smokes a cigar, each year on her birthday (the only time she smokes). She was a tomboy, who enjoyed milking goats and chasing wild boar away from the chickens on her friend's farm.

Her heroes include her grandfather, one of nine kids from a coal-mining family, who went on without formal education, to be VP of a bank and his little sister, who was the longest serving missionary in a single location, Taiwan.

Why Seattle Rotary? Cathy Gibson invited her; being impressed with our programs and volunteering with other service minded people, building community.

Please help me welcome Lauren Martin.