

Note: C12 is about community and we want to introduce you to the larger community of C12 members throughout North Texas. Look for a series of introductions that you can use to get to know others that share the bonds of C12. – Tom Hawes, Joe Galindo, Mike Gullatt

<p>C12 GROUP NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY MEET THE MEMBER – Suzanne Grishman C12 GROUP OF ADDISON</p>		
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Meet Suzanne Grishman

Suzanne and her husband Michael live in Dallas and have been married for 11 years. Suzanne has two ‘bonus’ boys ages 29 and 26 from her husband’s first marriage. Suzanne is the executive director of Mercury One, a nonprofit organization founded in 2011 by Glenn Beck. Mercury One is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore the human spirit by encouraging dependence on God, providing humanitarian aid, preserving heritage, and empowering all to stand for truth.



Tell us a little about yourself.

I am a Midwest girl and grew up in Bellville, Illinois. I moved to Texas in 1991 after attending college in Missouri at William Woods University.

How do you like to spend your spare time? What do you do for fun?

My husband is from New Orleans and his youngest son lives there, so we go there often. I love to travel and play tennis, and I enjoy all kinds of music. I enjoy listening to the talents that other people have that I do not have. I returned from a ten-day trip to Israel in March where we took 38 college students over for a leadership training trip and it was amazing.



Tell us a little about Mercury One.

I am the executive director and our team works for a very creative, bleeding heart humanitarian, Glenn Beck. He has an interest in helping so many things and has a huge heart. Mercury One is the name of the first space mission when the United States set off to send a man to the moon. So, Glenn Beck created the nonprofit Mercury One, the name personifying the space mission exhibiting having the freedoms and

opportunities that allow you to strive for something that seems impossible. We have over 160,000 donors around the country and the world that support our organization and the work we do. They have come to us through many different avenues but mainly through Glenn Beck's 'The Blaze' radio and tv audience.

We support disaster relief efforts around the country. Anytime there is a hurricane, tornado, or floods we respond. Our motto is that we partner with people that are the best at what they are doing, and we support them in whatever way that we can. We do not reinvent the wheel here. If we're doing disaster relief, we do not go in ourselves as a staff and try to figure out the best way to go in and muck out an entire neighborhood, we partner with the best nonprofit organization, which is Team Rubicon, comprised of all former vets. Working through them we fund them and support them so they can be successful. We work with others that provide food, humanitarian aid, and water. We bring in a whole team, and we work with the people that are doing the best job. This allows us to be the most effective. And most importantly, we stick around. We are still building homes for Hurricane Harvey in Houston right now.

We also work to counter human trafficking. Our education initiatives focus on educating on the Judeo-Christian values that our nation was founded on and making sure that we are preserving those values and the freedoms that we have as a nation. We do this through educational exhibits using over 200,000 artifacts in our collection with plans to build a United States history experience in the DFW area.

Additionally, we have what is called the Nazarene Fund where we go and assist Christians who are being persecuted around the world for their faith. We get them to safety, we rescue, restore, and rebuild their lives.

How and why did you come to be a part of C12?

I have been a part of C12 for a little over a year. I became a part of C12 because as a leader of a Christian organization, being able to surround myself with like-minded Christian CEO's was especially important to me. I have run many organizations, but a Christian organization is something that has been new to me the last four years. It has been a wonderful opportunity to be able to get great feedback, great support, training, and to hear what other Christian organizations are implementing within their own companies. It's been invaluable for me. There is not a lot in the nonprofit world, unless you have talked to a pastor, and there is not a lot of nonprofits who are Judeo-Christian nonprofits operating at the level that we are. It's difficult to find like-minded people. I have found that in C12.

What do you value most about your group?

I appreciate the vulnerability of the group. People are very open and honest with the struggles that they're going through personally and professionally and I value the vulnerability, the confidentiality, and just the opportunity to learn from other Christians and what they're doing within their organization to further not only the company but the ministry.

What value do you bring to the group, either personally or professionally?

I come from a for profit and nonprofit background, so I have run companies with up to 430 employees as well as nonprofits where I am currently at with 15 employees. I come not only with a for profit mindset, but also a nonprofit mindset enabling me to relate it to whatever the C12 member is experiencing. I definitely think I come to the table with many opportunities to connect people within C12, whether it be to partners, funders, clients, or potential business opportunities within my own organization where I can work and utilize the C12 network to further their mission. As business leaders, we would rather work with people that are like minded, who understand who we are and where we are coming from as an organization. So, it is great to be surrounded by people have the same value base and the same moral compass.

How do you use your business as a ministry?

My whole business is ministry. I mean, I do ministry every single day by the work we do, but it was really interesting to talk to some of the people in the group because it made me realize that as a leader of the organization, I am also doing a ministry to my staff. So, it is not just the people we serve and the donors we serve, it is also the team that we have and that we surround ourselves with. We are a small hardy staff of 15 doing a lot of work.