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**RENEE
POWERS**

be inspired 

By Jessica Dennes

Photography by Joey Ambrose

Renée Powers

SEIZING EVERY MOMENT!



There's adventurous, and then there is Renée Powers. To call her "adventurous" would be a gross understatement. In fact, the word becomes cliché next to people like her. Like an adventurous person, she tackles new experiences with confidence and excitement, but the word does not do enough to capture her audacious spirit or her holistic approach to life.

At the age of 31, she learned to ride a bicycle for the first time in her life.

Months later, she completed the Arizona Ironman in Tempe, a race that challenges its participants to complete a 2.4-mile swim, 112 miles of cycling, and a full marathon for a total of 140.6 miles in the same day as fast as you can. After all, it is a race!

"I'm an endurance athlete, I like testing my limits," she explains. "The sheer magnitude of it made the Ironman an accomplishment I will never forget... The body can do more than the mind thinks, we just have to get out of our own way."

In the same year, she rode a motorcycle for the first time and received her motorcycle license. A week

later, she bought a Harley and rode to every State Park in Arizona (31 in total) in 11 months, completing over 12,000 miles in her first year of riding. She eventually became a member of the Iron Butt Club, an accomplishment achieved after riding 1,000 miles in under 24 hours.

In 2019, she and her husband Brian hiked from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to the South Rim, completing about 23.9 miles in one day. She has also run a full marathon on every conti-

inent except for Antarctica (not yet, anyway).

When asked why she seeks out these experiences, she responds simply, “Why not? I know people have done it, why not me? I’ve never been afraid or intimidated to do something hard by myself... you’ve got to try and believe in yourself.”

In the same way that she challenges herself physically, she is also a lifelong learner. She holds a master’s degree and a Ph.D. as well as the following designations: Associate Broker, Accredited Buyers Representative (ABR®), Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), and Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES®). She also reads or listens to 50–60 books a year, choosing to listen to books on her runs and rides instead of music. She favors the personal growth and development genre with authors like Dr. Wayne Dyer and Deepak Chopra (and has completed more than 30 courses offered by The Great Courses).

While she could have pursued several professional directions, Renée knew since the age of 5 or 6 that she wanted to be a real estate agent. (It seemed inevitable, as she was only 9 years old when she wrote her first contract bidding for a raise in her allowance.) She credits her parents for kickstarting her love of homes.

“Our family ritual,” describes Renée, “was that every Sunday we would have brunch, go through the paper and pick out the open houses that sounded neatest. That is why I associate [this business] with family and fun and I always enjoyed it.” By the age of 16 she was mapping out routes

Renée and her husband Brian renovating.



for herself and going on self-guided open home tours. This hobby gives her the unique quality of knowing many area homes from first-hand experience. As a second-generation Tucsonan, chances are that she has either toured the home or visited it growing up.

Throughout her years, Renée was never swayed in her goal of becoming an agent. The week she graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor’s in Marketing, she attended Hogan Real Estate School to become a licensed agent and quickly went to work. She secured the title of Rookie of the Year her first nine months in the business in 2001. In her third year, her business had increased so much that she took on an assistant that is still with her to this day and Renée cannot help but sing her praises.

“Sherry Salah is that behind-the-scenes person that doesn’t get enough credit,” she says with gratitude. “I couldn’t do everything I do without her. She is a big part of why I am able to have a life outside of real estate.”

After several years of working together, Sherry has truly become a friend and confidant for Renée.

Not many people can say that they accomplished their childhood goal, and Renée often finds herself amazed at this achievement. She reflects, “It’s a very surreal moment when I realize that I am living my dream...I love what I do. It’s such a part of who I am, and I am grateful every day.” She loves the freedom and flexibility that this career has to offer. “It’s a career unlike any other,” she says with a smile.

Of course, Renée has seen downturns in her work. In 2009, like many agents, Renée found herself overwhelmed with stress. It was then that she found yoga. Ever the learner, Renée became a certified yoga teacher and began training in meditation. She would go on to teach yoga in a gym for eight years before starting her own private practice. In 2014, she made a lifetime commitment to daily meditation and she has not missed a day since then.

“Every agent knows that you hit these times when it can seem all-consuming,” she explains. “Having meditation gave me my life back.” She loves the Zen saying, “Meditate for an hour every day unless you are too busy, in that case meditate for two.”

Motivated to provide a lifeline to others who find themselves overwhelmed, Renée is now a published teacher and musician on the free meditation app “Insight Timer.” (Yes, she is also a trained musician with a degree in commercial music who also plays Himalayan singing bowls and Native American flute.) Her face lights up as she talks about it; she is clearly passionate about sharing this message of inner peace and balance to all who will listen.

Her desire for balance is also expressed in her work. She enjoys helping her clients find homes that will not just fit their aesthetic desires, but also their lifestyle goals. One of her favorite parts about the job is working with people who are new to Tucson. She says, “I not only learn about where they want to live but also about *how* they want to live so I can help them integrate into the community. Then, they can instantly feel like Tucson is home.”

She also maintains a cooperative style when working with other agents, approaching every single transaction as though they are all on the same side. “We all are in alignment,” she says after discussing a time that she helped agents come to an agreement that considered the best outcome for all parties.

Renée and her parents in front of a Townsend Typhoon built by her father Robert, 1st place winner of last year's Rotary Club car show.



A true lover of the outdoors, Renée is also the Vice President of Friends of Catalina State Park, a group that began in 2012 and she joined in 2015. They have raised over \$130,000 and all that money goes directly back into the park. "We have done park improvement projects such as rainwater harvesting systems, trail improvements, a new amphitheater and an art project of a tile donor wall," explains Renée. They also host the annual dinner for all park volunteers every year.

Finally, this powerhouse of a woman is also full of love – love of her career, her parents, her husband and their three fur-babies, love of her city, and love for others. Whether she is soaking in the beauty of the outdoors, guiding someone in their yoga practice, writing up contracts, or trying something new, Renée Powers is seizing every day with a heart of gratitude and a curiosity that is sure to bring many new journeys in the years to come.

"We have two dogs and a cat and they are everything to us!" Renée with her dog Dagny.



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