



Images courtesy of Lilac Hill Photography. See more examples at lilachillphotography.com or facebook.com/lilachillphotography.

Family snapshots

Q-C photographers capture images and hearts

BY LESLIE KLIPSCH

Photography has changed dramatically over the last few decades and the possibilities for capturing special moments are endless. Whether you're looking for the perfect holiday portrait, planning a wedding, expecting a child, or simply want to stop time for a moment, the Quad-Cities is bursting with talented photographers. Read on to meet three women who are delighting clients with their undeniable creativity, professionalism and panache.

Lilac Hill Photography

As a public relations professional working in higher education, Jennie Barnds realized she had a deep interest in art. Part of her job included assisting with photo shoots for her university's admissions publication. "I helped to schedule the shoots, work with the photographer to execute marketing concepts we wanted to express visually, and to find willing college students to serve as



"The most successful sessions are those in which the client has an emotional connection, which is why thorough pre-session consultations are so important."

– JENNIE BARNDS,
LILAC HILL PHOTOGRAPHY



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"I believe that seeing emotion jump out of the image — true emotion — is what makes the perfect family portrait."

— JENNIE PEAKIN,
JENNIE PEAKIN PHOTOGRAPHY



models in the shoots," she recalls. "This work took place only once a year, but it was the happiest and most fulfilling week of my year."

Since then, the Pennsylvania native became a mother and capturing images took on a whole new and more personal meaning. Today, Ms. Barnds is a sought-after family photographer based in the Quad-Cities and the woman behind Lilac Hill Photography.

Ms. Barnds' work is clean, classic and genuine. "When I present a family with their proofs, I include not only the images of the happy toddler or teenager, but of the toddler having a meltdown or the teen rolling his or her eyes, because that's real life," Ms. Barnds says. She calls these images "perfectly imperfect" because they are frequently the ones that conjure up the most memories

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Images courtesy of Jennie Peakin Photography. See more at jenniepeakinphotography.blogspot.com or [facebook.com/jenniepeakinphotography](https://www.facebook.com/jenniepeakinphotography). Ms. Peakin's wedding work can be seen at vantagenine19.com, vantagenine19.wordpress.com or [facebook.com/vantagenine19](https://www.facebook.com/vantagenine19).

of a specific time in a child's life and finds that these are often the images that her clients appreciate the most.

Ms. Barnds, who has three children, especially enjoys working with families and kids from preschoolers to tweens. Clients find that she is particularly skilled at drawing out the personalities of young boys, who often require a bit more patience.

"I try to be the type of family photographer that I would choose for my own family. I want someone who is professional but down-to-earth enough to understand that my child may need some extra TLC to get the results we want; someone who shares a similar style and understands that while I like nice things, I am still mindful of my family's budget," she explains.



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Photography. See more at
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As a family photographer, Ms. Barnds finds that she is able to use the interests and skills she's acquired and honed through her education and professional experiences. "My work is equal part art, business, and public relations. No day is the same and I make people happy. It doesn't get much better than that."

You can find Ms. Barnds on Facebook (facebook.com/lilachillphotography). She also blogs and highlights her work on her website (lilachillphotography.com).

Jennie Peakin Photography

Photographer Jennie Peakin's energy and compassion come alive in the photographs she takes. After five years of living and working in the Quad-Cities, her work graces the homes and albums of hundreds of local families, each of whom hired Ms.

Peakin to capture special images of their lives at all different stages — whether a live birth, a special party, an annual portrait, an engagement, or a wedding. Regardless of the occasion, Ms. Peakin brings a unique style that focuses on the natural beauty of her subjects and their relationships to one another.

"I don't pose my clients," Ms. Peakin says of her approach. "I want them to feel natural in their images, which will in turn make them look natural. I want to portray exactly what their family or child is like at that point in time."

A natural-born people person, Ms. Peakin finds the combination of being able to express her artistic self and simultaneously work with people to be a perfect mix. "I am always so humbled when I am invited into a client's home, into the delivery room, to a



"In and around the Quad-Cities you can photograph on a country road, downtown in an alley, and in a park all in the same day — I love that! It gives me variety when editing a session and it gives my clients three entirely different types of portraits all from one session."

— CRYSTAL BROUSSARD
PHOTOGRAPHY



wedding, or to capture those special portraits that hang on the wall for all to see. It truly is so incredible that people put their trust in me to capture images of their family that they will cherish for years to come."

The popular photographer developed a passion for photography in high school and has since found it a great outlet to express her tremendous creativity. Furthermore, in

sharing her talent with others, Ms. Peakin believes they've shared something with her. "I have met so many incredible and inspiring people who have since become friends ... they have opened my eyes and heart to things that have, in turn, changed the course of my life," Ms. Peakin explains.

"I photographed a couple of foster children four years ago and in hearing their story

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GET MUCH BETTER
THAN THAT."*

— JENNIE BARNDIS

and speaking with their foster mom, became drawn to look into fostering myself. My husband and I became foster parents that year and a year after that, adopted our two youngest boys! Had I never photographed those children, our family may look much different than it does now."

You can find more of Jennie Peakin Photography on her blog (jenniepeakinphotography.blogspot.com) or on Facebook (facebook.com/jenniepeakinphotography). For information about Ms. Peakins' wedding photography, visit the website (vantagenine19.com), blog (vantagenine19.wordpress.com), or Facebook page (facebook.com/vantagenine19).

Crystal Broussard Photography

Crystal Broussard's soft, beautiful, artistic style prompts enthusiastic response from those she photographs: She captures and shoots with the heart, says one client. Another notes her passion and attention to detail. Yet another comments on her artistic eye.

It's this sort of positive feedback that prompted Ms. Broussard, who lives just

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outside the Quad-Cities, to start her business, Crystal Broussard Photography, back in 2010. She has been creating art through photography since she was young, but it was after the encouragement she received while sharing photographs of her son that prompted her to grow a business.

The primary focus of Ms. Broussard's work is on weddings; however, her portfolio is wide and includes everything from babies to toddlers to seniors. No matter her subject, she prefers focusing on the moment and spends little time developing theatrics.

"I like to get a feel for the people that I am working with and then go from there," she explains, noting that a great deal of her work and some of her favorite images are entirely spontaneous.

"I feel like there is a photography movement happening right now where the traditional aspects of photography — posing, studios, props — are really fading into this new, modern era of soft creative portraits. In my opinion, it's a beautiful thing. I think it's really giving consumers something more

individualized than that cookie-cutter 'insert family here' type of photography that used to be the norm."

Although she loves creating unique portraits and being able to showcase her work, her favorite part of being a photographer is making her clients happy. "I personally believe that gratitude is the open door to abundance," Ms. Broussard says. "It makes my day when I receive thank-you cards in the mail or messages from a client stating they love their portraits. That's really where the reward is at."

Ms. Broussard's most recent work is located on Facebook (facebook.com/crystalbroussardphotography). More images and information are available on her website (crystalbroussardphotography.com).

Each month in The Gold Standard, Leslie Klipsch, a freelance writer and editor based in Davenport, shines a spotlight on the gems of the Quad-Cities area — for Gold Book readers. She enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with her husband and three young children and exploring all that the Quad-Cities has to offer. Read more of Leslie at leslieklipsch.com.



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