

CLIFTON PARK

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Neighbors



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BROOKLYNNE BEEBE

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Focused on the Future



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By Jenna Caputo | Photos Contributed by Brooklynne Beebe

This magazine has been lucky to have many beautiful photographs gracing our covers and inside pages, some of which were taken by Brooklynne Beebe, a young photographer who has started her own business and is quickly expanding toward her dreams.

Born and raised in Saratoga County, Brooklynne grew up enjoying many activities, including snowboarding in the winter and swimming and playing with her friends in the summer. From a young age, her mom encouraged her to try anything and

everything arts related. "I did theater growing up and played the violin," she says. "Then I really started getting into photography in middle school for my friends, and as the years went on, it became my job. I got into drawing and painting my senior year of high school and haven't stopped since."

Her love of photography started at three years old when her grandmother gave her a camera and set her loose on the world. "I was always encouraged to show my perspective, and then around the age of six, I started entering local competitions for





fun, and from there my love took off! I knew no limits and was always pushed to do my absolute best."

Studying or sitting in a classroom was always hard for her, but she was lucky to experience fun classes that gave her hands-on experience—like interning with local photographers—or sparked a new interest—like her high school forensics class that led to her fascination with psychology and her love of reading mysteries and watching crime dramas. She is a recent graduate of SUNY Adirondack, where she received an AAS in Media Arts. The experience was one that she still carries with her. "Knowing I could be in a program where I could do my learning hands on from some amazing professors who brought professional and personal experiences to the table and know they were in my corner the whole time had such a huge impact," she explains.

She entered various photography contests from an early age, and in addition to the rankings, received helpful tips from the judges' time in the field. She earned several grand national and national awards for her photography, representing New York State from the National Junior Horticulture Association. Now she specializes in customized portrait photography sessions. Her tip for your next photo session? "Be you. Just relax and have fun. Don't sweat the small stuff as that is what us photographers are for!"

Her favorite photography experience so far has been photographing her best friend as she went from being a mom of one to a mom of two and then doing their family shoot with their new puppy. "I love when families return and I get to continue to capture the love," she says.

On a personal level, this past summer has been one of her favorite memories. "I had the opportunity to explore so many new places with my friends and try so many new things," she says. "We did everything from late-night fires to four-wheeling



and celebrating so many birthdays in big and small ways. We also got to celebrate new experiences together all summer long, making our bonds even stronger."

At three years old, Brooklynne was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. It impacted her childhood, but her mother always made sure that it didn't limit her experiences. "Having RA made my childhood a unique journey in the best way," she says. "While my mobility was limited at certain times, my adventures never had bounds. My mom always made sure I had everything I needed and could do what I wanted to the best of my capabilities. Certain activities were limited, such as trampolines and running, but that was more preventative than anything else."

Her family became heavily involved with the Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne. Double H was co-founded by Charles R. Wood and Paul Newman to provide specialized programs and year-round support for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. All the programs are offered to participants for free and feature ways to capture the magic of the Adirondack area with outdoor adventures in a way where their health challenges will not define them. Brooklynne first started her Double H journey as a camper. As she grew, she became a counselor-in-training then moved her way up to counselor. She has also served as night security, a discovery activity head, and a snowboard instructor, teaching students and training junior instructors. When she's not volunteering at Double H, she can be found helping out the Girl Scout troops, local animal shelters, and volunteering for The Franklin Community Center with her family. She is also a certified adaptive swim instructor and teaches classes at the Goldfish Swim School here in Clifton Park.

Outside of work, Brooklynne enjoys enhancing both her physical and mental health by participating in various sports and meditation practices, including bowling, yoga, and



reading. Trying new foods is another favorite activity but her ultimate comfort food is a chicken burrito bowl.

She is very close to her family. Her mom, Jeslyn, her grandmother, Robin, and her three-year-old German Shepard, Bear, all live with her in the area, but she has a huge Italian family spread across the US, giving her an excuse to travel and explore. Cruises are her favorite form of travel. "My family and I really enjoy cruising because it allows for maximum fun," she says. "I am so thankful to have seen as much of the world as I already have at the age of



21. I think my most recent favorite travel spot has to be Amber Cove in the Dominican Republic. The scenery was just breathtaking and the sand between my toes was instantly relaxing."

Brooklynne firmly believes in living true to yourself. "Be authentically you, the purest version of yourself is the best," she says. As Marilyn Monroe said, "Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are." Brooklynne strives to live up to that every day. She looks forward to girls' day out, when she heads out on the town with friends, grabs coffee, window shops, takes pictures, eats out, and then heads home for a movie/wine night. If it's an at-home day, she loves to curl up with a good book (anything Stephen King or Colleen Howe) and a cup of coffee.

Her photography work has given her a chance to partner with local non-profits to capture their special events, and she relishes the opportunity to constantly meet new people. "I love learning their stories and capturing all of the amazing memories they wish to share with me," she says.

She's looking forward to one day becoming a mentor to rising photographers and instructors. "I would love to share my knowledge and encourage someone else to follow their dreams and passions and show them that the skies are the limit. In this world, I want to push community over competition. Being in the arts makes

it a challenge to support others because you worry you won't have enough work for yourself. I don't want rising artists to ever have that fear. I want them to be excited for the unknown! My biggest wish for the future is to always be happy and learning. So many times people get to a point where they are content but stuck and not moving forward. I hope to always be moving or doing something creative/active with my life."

Interested in a portrait session? Mention this article and get a 15% discount off a session with Brooklynne! Visit [bb-photography.show it.site](http://bb-photography.showit.site) for more information.

