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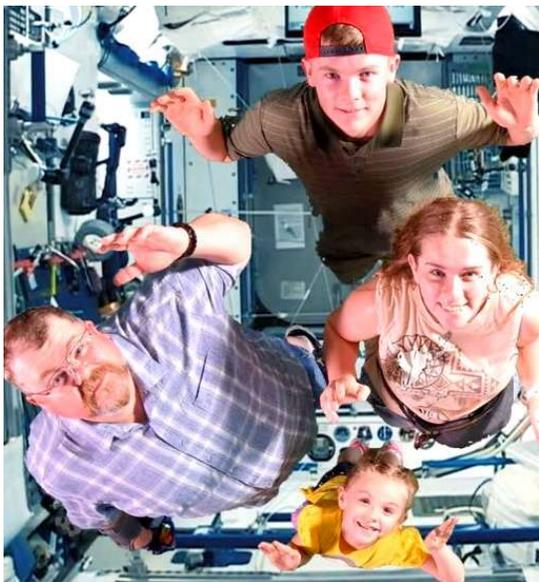
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The ‘Dad-Mom’ of Marsing

...He Takes Both Roles and Makes Good Things Happen

MARSING—Seven-year-old Scarlett likes cooking with her dad. “We made brownies for Easter; I had the ingredients all set up and she put them in the mixer, and the other day we cooked Hamburger Helper™ together.



Working full time, it’s hard finding time together, but since I’m cooking anyway, I include her and it gives her a break from looking at her phone,” he said wryly. “She loves going outside and riding her scooter around. She’ll set up obstacles and I’ll sit down and watch her. I go out there and relax while she’s riding a scooter. You don’t have to be interacting all the time, you just need to be present,” he said.

The father of three plays board games with his children—even Jessica, 19, who joins in sometimes even though her dad says with chuckle, “she likes not being around me.” Jessica is engaged to be married in July and “that’s a new kick to life right now,” Jason said. “It’s something different that you have to plan for and didn’t expect, and it’s exciting.”

“Being a widowed father has been one of the hardest things. I had to learn to do everything a dad *and* a mom might do. I call myself a *DadMom* because I have to be both,” he explained. “For instance, I take my seven-year-old fishing as a dad would, and I take my 19-year-old shopping to buy a wedding dress as a mom would—two totally different worlds. I never thought in a million years that I would be in the room when that happens (trying on wedding dresses) but I have to.”

Andrew, 18, “enjoys guy stuff” says his dad, “like going out shooting and playing ping-pong; he really enjoys doing those kinds of ‘guy things’ with me. Asked to share his parenting philosophy, Jason Sevy said this: “I think faith is important—that you raise your kids to see that you believe in something else and are humbled by something else, and having boundaries on your personal space is also important. There’s times when no matter how old your kids are, they’re still your kids, and they don’t need to go into your room. I have a lock on my bedroom door, and they’ll knock and ask for me; that’s important to maintain some basic, personal space,” he said. “Take time to breathe and enjoy time with your kids. Talk to them and try and understand what they are going through and listen to them. Nobody’s really good at it, but listening is vital.”

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—Jason Sevy