

Life on Their Terms

ACN allows Darin and Jennifer Dowd to maximize finance, family and freedom.

{ BY TRACY HACKLER }

Darin and Jennifer Dowd's 4,000-square-foot swimming pool is the featured attraction of the couple's massive new 10,000-square-foot house on 3 acres in central California. It's also another sure sign that things with ACN are going rather swimmingly for the Dowds, now in their fifth year with the company.

Living the Dream Life

On this particular day, the Dowds are driving to the airport for a fun-filled reward trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where they'll vacation with ACN's other top producers. It's worth noting that just two weeks earlier, the Dowds and their four children—Darin Jr., Jake, Kaylie and Conner—spent nine days in Costa Rica whitewater rafting, rappelling down mountains and generally having a great time as a family.

For the Dowds, it was another in a series of surreal dream-come-true experiences made possible by their virtually unparalleled success with ACN.

"There's no way we could do this without ACN—for many, many reasons," Jennifer says. "No. 1, it would be very hard to take work off. Nobody would ever have the amount of vacation time that we have. [In a regular job] we probably would've been fired for asking for this amount of time off.

"No. 2, in a regular job, we couldn't afford to not have the pay come in while on vacation. With ACN, because we make a residual income, we continue to earn income even when we're vacationing, which is awesome."

Putting Family First

And also a far cry from where the Dowds—now ACN senior vice presidents and Circle of Champions members—were just five short years ago: down on their luck and down on their knees, literally, praying for a new opportunity, hoping for something, anything, to ease the mighty struggle that saw Darin putting in grueling 100-hour work weeks running his own book fair business while Jennifer stayed home with the kids. To be sure, that was a bleak time for the Dowds, but especially for Darin, reluctantly forced into the role of absentee father while trying to make ends meet.

"I never saw my family," Darin says. "It got to the point where it just didn't make any sense anymore. I really needed to get home. That's been the biggest

highlight for me: Just being able to come home and be a husband and dad. Five years ago it was common for me to miss football games, volleyball games and track meets. Today, I'm blessed to be able to attend every one of my kids' sporting events and be the supportive dad I've always dreamed of being. Because time and money are not an issue anymore, Jennifer and I are even able to hop in our own plane and attend our son's college football games no matter when and where they are."

"The life we live is amazing," Jennifer says.

And the ability to come home and spend time with family is made all the sweeter, as the Dowds have time to spend with those who matter most, without ever worrying about tomorrow's paycheck.

Hard Work Pays Off

Another case in point: Darin and Jennifer recently joined ACN's co-founders and other leading independent business owners on *The Celebrity Apprentice* during the episode in which ACN was featured for a second time. It's hard to imagine something like *that* as a struggling business owner sleeping just four hours a night.

Indeed, times have changed for the Dowds. What hasn't, though, are the fundamental principles that have paved the way for their success with ACN, and will no doubt pave the way for more in the years ahead.

"You have to work hard," Jennifer says. "You have to apply your work ethic. You have to follow the system the way it's laid out. ACN has an incredible system that's been in place for almost 20 years, and it's been proven over and over—stick to that system. And, for us, we made it a priority to keep God in our business. We worked like it was all up to us, and prayed like it was all up to Him."

"We're so thankful to the ACN co-founders for providing, for almost 20 years, an opportunity that allows anyone to have success," Darin notes. "Without them and their hard work, we would never be where we are today." **SHH**



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