

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: CHRISTINA CUZZI '04/'09G

Michelle Marrone  
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Inspired by the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give," **Christina Cuzzi '04/ '09G** aspires to a life of giving.



**C**hristina is the Senior Manager of Community Relations at Fidelity Investments in Merrimack, New Hampshire. She serves on the Rivier Alumni Council, and on the Board of Directors at New Hampshire Scholars and at NH Jobs for America's Graduates.

**Since your graduation, you have continued to live Rivier's mission of transforming hearts and minds to serve the world. How did your education encourage and prepare you for community outreach work?**

*Christina: I had the opportunity to serve in student government and help lead my class. This helped me to understand the need to rally people around a mission. More importantly, the culture at Rivier inspired me. We were encouraged to be engaged members of the Riv community as well as the greater community. It was part of what we did. Everyone at the University speaks the language of giving back but are able to do it in their own way. When I graduated, I didn't want to leave that culture and the feeling I had from being a part of it. I made a promise to myself to find ways to stay true to these values and ensure my family understands and has similar opportunities.*

**You and your husband David generously share your time, talent, and treasure with the University and other educational organizations. Why is education a priority in your philanthropic giving?**

*Christina: Simply put, we want other students to have the same opportunities we did. The youth are our future, and we want to help set them up for success. If we can play a small part in making that happen, our goal will be fulfilled.*

**You and David make annual gifts to the University on our Day of Giving. Is there a special connection to giving on that day?**

*Christina: Rivier's Day of Giving is a day of pride. We would give regardless of the day, but being part of something bigger is powerful. We could give individually, but we join an engaged and motivated community on one day and with one goal—to make a difference.*

**Fidelity makes substantial investments in the local community. What role do you play in these efforts?**

*Christina: Fidelity is passionate about making a difference in everything we do. The Fidelity Cares program provides employee volunteer opportunities that support students and families with the educational foundation to attain personal and financial success. In my current role, I ensure the firm's community engagement activities remain focused on education and financial literacy while making an impact on the communities where we work and live. I am directly responsible for Fidelity's volunteer programming and other non-profit funding across New Hampshire, with influence on initiatives across the country.*

**You and your husband devote a good deal of time to service. Do your children take part in your efforts?**

*Christina: We believe it is essential to instill these values and the sense of giving back. With our four-and-a-half-year-old twin boys, we try to keep it simple, but involve them where we can. It may be selecting some toys to donate to children or picking out some preemie outfits to donate to The Mom's Place at Catholic Medical Center, where we lived for the first three-and-a-half weeks of their lives. First and foremost, we ensure the words "THANK YOU" are part of their vocabulary. Those two words can sometimes go further than any item. As they grow, we will find additional opportunities to involve them in the community. We will help them to determine what they are most passionate about and how to be an engaged citizen.*

**In addition to your service to Rivier, you volunteer on the Board of Directors at NH Scholars and at NH Jobs for America's Graduates. What meaning does giving have in your life?**

*Christina: I often ask myself, "How would I feel if I was in a difficult situation?" Whether I am giving back in my personal life or partnering with non-profit organizations in my professional life, I try to remain humble. I am incredibly grateful for everything life has provided me, but don't take that for granted. I don't look at service as what is in it for me. However, if I am able to put a smile on one child's face, if I am able to let a struggling mom know people care, if I am able to support an educational institution that is going to produce strong and engaged citizens, if my children continue to grow asking how they can give back, then I feel complete. ■*