

Marina Bird, BS, RDMS

Sonographer

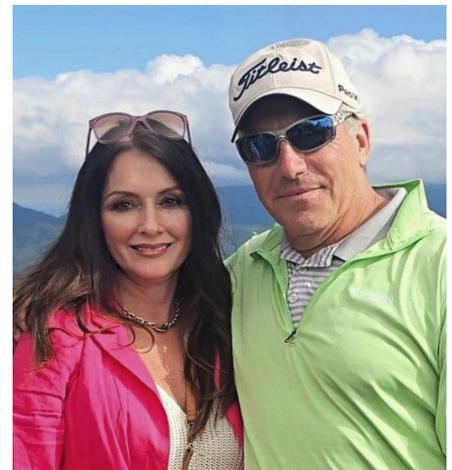
As a first generation American growing up in a strict Serbian household, I always knew that my family and upbringing were very special and unique. Completely immersed into the culture, I was accustomed to traditional home cooked meals, Serbian music, and participating in the various Orthodox church functions. My brother and I were raised in a household where respect, a strong work ethic, and education were highly valued and expected above all else.

I always knew that the medical field had been my preferred career path. I desired a challenging and rewarding profession that allowed me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, which in time led me to the field of Sonography. After earning my BS Degree in Marine Biology/Pre-med from Eckerd College, I enrolled in a local ultrasound program. Little did I know that this decision would over time lead me to a wonderful and fulfilling 32-year career working in hospitals, private practice clinics, becoming a program director for my own Sonography program (15 years), and eventually to the doors of the Christian-based, Daybreak LifeCare Center.

Nearly two years ago while attending church, I was approached by a friend who informed me of Daybreak's sonography needs. A volunteer there herself, she spoke highly of the variety of support services they offered, their nurturing staff, and their crucial and important mission. I immediately knew I wanted to be a part of this worthy facility that genuinely takes care of women and their emotional, psychological, medical, practical and, most importantly, their spiritual needs.

For me, the most enjoyable aspect of my career at Daybreak is the truly amazing patients I come in contact with. A woman who is in the valley of despair between choosing life or death for her preborn child will change her mind almost 80% of the time after viewing her baby on an ultrasound! When a woman is able to see her baby with a heartbeat on the screen, a shift in thinking takes place, causing amazing things to happen. She quickly realizes that her condition changes from one of despair to an amazing miracle of life growing within her. It is moments such as this, as well as many others, that make me realize that I am truly where I need to be and hope to be for many years to come. I have also had the privilege of training several new sonographers, expanding Daybreak's physical long-term resources. Just as someone once helped me realize my potential, it is my pleasure to do the same for others, returning back to the community.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband 'Treye', my children, and 8-month-old puppy 'Beau', boating, jet skiing, and flyboarding on Lake Murray, or snow skiing in Sugar Mountain, North Carolina.



Daybreak Sonographer Application: <https://daybreakcola.org/volunteer/volunteer-application/>