

# Wesley Chapel

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Donna Robbins & Shelby  
of Streetside Classics



# Small Town Girl Makes it Big

By Living Her Faith and Turning Her Employees into Family

*Streetside*  
CLASSICS  
Donna Robbins

In Donna Robbins' high school yearbook, she was quoted as saying she dreamed of becoming a teacher, getting married and having ten children. Little did

she know that after having her two sons and five grandchildren, her brood would eventually grow to include 65 other beloved family members, and that she would go on to own the nation's top classic car consignment dealer, Streetside Classics.

She grew up in a faith-based family, the daughter of a Baptist minister and a stay at home Mom in a small town of 800 in Missouri. Donna said, "God was part of our everyday lives and me landing here wasn't in my plan, but it was definitely God's plan. It seemed everywhere that I turned in life, one incredible opportunity after another was placed before me. God made my path and each step brought me to where I am now. I often prayed, asking, 'Why me? Why am I so blessed?' At last I got my answer. I was given so much so that I, in turn, can give to my employees, so they can give to their families."

Donna's career took her around the

country working in corporate America at Frito Lay, and as a business consultant before she joined her first classic car business. After a time, she decided to launch her own dealership - her way - and vowed to treat her people like gold. It was at this first dealership that she met and worked with Bob Mueller, now V.P. of Sales and Marketing. He became her right hand man in business and later on, in love. Both of Donna's sons work in the business as well. Matt is the Director of Operations and Brian serves as V.P. of Finance. Her most recognizable 'employee' and Streetside Mascot is Shelby, her beloved 11-year-old Golden Retriever who acts as a greeter everywhere she goes. Shelby has been there for every new store launch as well.

She explained, "When I open a location in a new city, Bob, Shelby and I move to that city for a minimum of 1 to 2 years. The reason we make this big time investment is specifically to find, train and develop the right team so that each location operates as the Streetside Classics brand from top to bottom. We take the time to carefully choose this team of people that we will welcome into our family. People always ask how I've been so successful. Every single time I answer, 'It's my team - God and my employees.' Our people are not only extremely skilled





and knowledgeable about our business, but most importantly, are good-hearted solid human beings who deliver client service like no other."

Donna, Bob and Shelby call Charlotte, NC home base but they just purchased a home in Tierra Verde so they can spend winters in the Bay area. Streetside has now grown to six locations: Wesley Chapel / Tampa, Charlotte, Atlanta, Dallas / Fort Worth, Nashville and Phoenix and they're still growing. Many area residents don't realize what is nestled in their own backyards. Streetside's gorgeous Wesley Chapel facility opened its doors in 2015, and at approximately 43,000 sq. feet, it has room for over 200 vehicles. They carry everything from street rods to newer exotics and are just minutes away from Tampa Premium Outlet mall. They are open to the public and

showroom admission is always complimentary.

The dealer hosts monthly events such as Streetside Caffeine & Classics Cruise In, coming up on February 29th and many other local Car Club events. Their two largest shows occur in the spring and during the holidays. Their Annual Spring Car Show is on Saturday, March 7th from 8am-2pm and during the holidays each year, they host a Toys for Tots holiday fundraiser.

Many times, new customers are surprised to find out that Streetside Classics is owned by a woman, as it is often perceived as a male dominated industry. Donna said, "They always think I must really be into cars, when really, I just saw classic car consignment as an excellent business model. That really is what drew me to this business. I do enjoy bringing a woman's touch to the industry though. I love pink and wear it often so every one of my showrooms has a foyer with a huge vase of gorgeous pink flowers to greet our clients." She added, "It's my signature."

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The Streetside Classic Tampa showroom is located at 4610 Pet Ln #105 in Lutz. For more information call (813) 501-1630, or to view their vast inventory online, visit [www.streetsideclassics.com](http://www.streetsideclassics.com)

