

Raised in the small town of Conover, NC, Darrin Johnston graduated from Western Carolina before launching a successful career as an independent sales rep in the furniture industry. After meeting and marrying Leigh, originally from Forest Park, the couple realized they both missed the small town life they had known growing up.

Living in metro Atlanta for several years created a longing for a peaceful, community-centered lifestyle. After many visits to the mountains of Northeast Georgia, the pair made the move in 2004 when Darrin's career offered geographic flexibility. Leigh opened a small business on the Clarkesville square and the energetic duo immersed themselves in building connections. Several family members followed, further enriching the experience for the busy couple.

Twenty-three years ago, Darrin started as an entry level salesperson for one of the largest housewares corporations in the world, working with major retailers across the United States. Promoted eight times, his responsibilities evolved from day-to-day account management to international responsibilities. Five years ago, after many years of hard work and close to 3 million miles on Delta Airlines, he was promoted to lead all U.S. and Latin American operations for the company currently delivering more than half a billion U.S. dollars a year as the largest housewares and cookware company in the U.S. market.

During this time, the busy executive remained committed to serving his community in the midst of all the travel including the following volunteer positions:

- Elder, First Presbyterian Church in Clarkesville
- Member, Habersham Development Authority member
- President, Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Georgia board of directors
- Habersham County Board of Ethics

Recently, Darrin made a career shift and is now working as a Habersham County-based consultant. He brings with him a wealth of international and domestic business experience, heavily weighted in international trade agreements, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, licensing and corporate boardroom governance.







