

# Elizabeth StClair Spotts

## Broadtree Partners, LLC, Associate

### **AGE:**

25

### **WHERE WERE YOU BORN?**

Richmond, VA

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?**

2 years

### **TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?**

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and am the oldest of four children. We all attended the same school, Collegiate, Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We lived in the middle of Richmond, but also on an island, so it was a weird mix of city life yet full of isolation. We lived on the river and our yard would flood every couple of years. My dad would have to kayak half a mile from the main road to the house to make sure it was still there. We had pet chickens from the time I was born, and this led me to gradually become a vegetarian (much to my parents' dismay). I knew how to drive a tractor before a car, and I'm not afraid of animals. Snakes are fine with me so long as they're not poisonous. I was very shy in school and despite knowing the answers to most questions, rarely spoke. A lot of my life has been me trying to push myself to raise my hand. Despite this shyness, I loved the spotlight and was active over the years in theater and on some sports teams. In volleyball, my ideal situation had me serving the ball at game point, or in a track relay getting the baton while we were behind.

W&L was the second or third university I toured and as soon as I set foot on the campus, I knew it was the place for me. In college, I was active on campus through Bonner (a nonprofit volunteer organization) and within my sorority. I majored in Business and minored in Poverty and Human Capabilities studies. I would have also minored in creative writing and/or Spanish, but both required more literature credits and even though I love reading, I despised literature courses. I took a lot of random classes and was in five plays. By the end of senior year, I was also actively participating in class discussions, which was a point of pride for my younger self.

I joined Broadtree at the end of 2019. We're a lower-middle market private equity firm that mixes PE with entrepreneurship. I was one of the first non-partner hires, and so have gotten to work on just about anything you could work on within a company. Deal origination, deal execution, recruitment, data, investor relations, portfolio support, etc. My favorite thing about our team is the people. I'd challenge you to find a kinder, more well-rounded, determined, and fun group of people in finance.

When I'm not working, I try to get out of the city. I'll go up to the mountains (Dublin, VA) and work on the farm. Riding tractors, mending fence lines, and going after Canadian thistle and multiflora rose. I also try to get home to Richmond when I can to see my family and my dogs.

### **DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?**

I spent a lot of time in college volunteering with numerous organizations. I was able to tutor the same elementary school student for four years and it was amazing watching him grow. He was the sweetest most kind-hearted kid – he even called out a book character (a spider) for doing something rude. He grew a lot academically and was able to go on to middle school without needing additional support. We also had just a lot of fun together – a lot of laughs. All around great person. We took a break from tutoring that last day and played baseball. I know he's doing well.

I also volunteered at a domestic and sexual violence shelter. Despite having many great memories and helping many people, my most memorable moment was with someone I couldn't help. She called in from a neighboring county looking for shelter. She had exhausted all options in her area. She had been kicked out of some and didn't qualify for others and just needed a

place to sleep. She was outside of our radius and likely did not qualify for our services. I stayed on the phone with her for a while – she was calling from a police station – but in the end, there was nothing I could do. I still think about her and wonder what else I could have done to get her help.

**IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.**

I think I contributed greatly to the Rockbridge community when I was back in Virginia. I was involved in both elementary and high school tutoring, shelter work, as well as the occasional Campus Kitchen shift, Habitat for Humanity build, and other volunteer activities. In Richmond, I volunteered with a refugee resettlement organization and at the local food bank. Since the move to Charlotte, I've spent most of my time at work and am still looking for a nonprofit that can work with my schedule. The last thing I'd want to do is agree to something I can't commit to and let the organization down.

There are small ways I've made a difference since being in the city though. I'll pick up trash when I'm walking to or from work. Nothing big, but it's something. I try to leave a place better than I found it. I also try to stand up for people, whether that's a couple's fight that's getting dangerous or a stupid kid at a party who said something that he shouldn't have. I'm not going to be shy about things or let people push me or my friends around. Again, nothing big, but standing up is important.

On a more fun note, I love ice cream. Golden Cow is right on my way to work which makes it hard to ignore and Two Scoops is only a ten-minute walk away. Sometimes I think I'm their best customer.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?**

Reading, yard work, and learning new things. Seriously, I try to get up to the mountains at least once a month, hop on a tractor, and clean up the fields. I'm also constantly trying to learn new languages and/or instruments. Currently working on Korean. Also reading the news. As a kid, I'd get up at 6 and then 5 AM to watch the news. Now I prefer reading from a variety of sources and just generally keeping up with current events.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?**

"A prayer for the wild at heart. Kept in cages." – Tennessee Williams.

"It matters not how strait the gate/How charged with punishments the scroll/I am the master of my fate/I am the captain of my soul." – William Ernest Henley.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?**

In the short term, I'd like to go back to school to get my MBA. In the long term, I'd like to run a non-profit and publish a book.

**CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?**

I've always wanted to travel to Ukraine. That's not a possibility right now, but I hope to one day visit. I'd also like to see the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia. It represents one of the many overlooked genocides in history. I know I'll bawl my eyes out when I get there, but I still want to go.

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?**

Corporate trip to Chicago.

**WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?**

I was once run over by a horse.

**WHO IS YOUR HERO?**

The US Women's National Team in soccer. Also, maybe the men's team as well but a lot will depend on how they do this November. And Angelina Jolie. I learned a lot from her work with the UNHCR which drove me to research and read about histories that were never taught to me in high school or college. And my parents. No explanation is needed.

**WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?**

*Under the Lights and in the Dark: Untold Stories of Women's Soccer* by Gwendolyn Oxenham. I aim to read at least 60 books per year because the average CEO allegedly reads as many. My goal this year is 100, but I've been exchanging reading for listening to audiobooks to realistically achieve that number. I also started and finished the *Harry Potter* series on audiobook and would highly recommend it. The narrator is excellent.

**WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?**

Not a movie, but currently watching *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* on Netflix.

**WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?**

Hootie & the Blowfish.

**HOW DID THE COVID PANDEMIC AFFECT YOUR PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?** Moving to the city at the peak of COVID was not the easiest experience. The streets were empty when I walked to work, as was our building. I swear I was one of ten people in Uptown those first few months. I find I'm just now experiencing everything that Charlotte has to offer.

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