Mike grew up on Chicago's north side in the Rogers Park neighborhood where he and his family continue to have deep roots. Now a resident of the Edgebrook neighborhood on Chicago's northwest side, Mike is an Investigator for the Cook County State's Attorney's office as well as a licensed real estate agent with Chicago-based Baird & Warner.

Mariann grew up in Oak Lawn near Chicago's south side, where she was a star basketball player at Mother McCauley High School before going on to Loyola University in Chicago on a four-year basketball scholarship. Mariann earned a Master's degree in Education from DePaul University and has taught English at a variety of private and public schools across the city and suburbs. She currently teaches at Taft High School in Chicago.

Having a combined ten siblings, several of whom are involved in various aspects of law enforcement and in both public and private education, Mike and Mariann's lives have been infused with the importance of public service and leadership. This lifelong association with the concept and value of service to others traces back decades to when Mike's dad, Tom Stanton, served on the Chicago Police Department and Mariann's dad, George Murtaugh Jr., served as an Assistant State's Attorney.

Mike and Marian's ingrained interest in contributing to the well-being of others sparked their founding of the Danny Did Foundation in January of 2010, just weeks after the death of their four-year old son, Daniel George Stanton. The name of the foundation derives from the last line of Danny's obituary, which read: Please go and enjoy your life. Danny Did.

Danny's death was due to Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), and Mike and Mariann's impetus for the creation of the foundation was to fill a fundamental gap in communication between doctors and epilepsy patients that Mike and Mariann learned about only after Danny's passing.

The mission of the Danny Did Foundation is to prevent deaths caused by seizures by way of technology and education, and since its inception the Danny Did Foundation has assisted people in all 50 states and in eight countries. The Foundation's primary focus is to research and provide devices that both alert to seizure activity and record seizure-event information that can be uploaded to a patient's doctor.

Through the Foundation, Mike and Mariann continue to mark Danny's place in the world by assisting people suffering from epilepsy in ways that were not readily available to them when they were treating Danny. Over the past eight years the Foundation has funded multiple device studies, worked with insurance companies, doctors, and nurses to find ways to cover new and upcoming technologies in the seizure-monitoring space, and collaborated with medical professionals around the globe to impart the importance of providing information about SUDEP to epilepsy patients.

Mike and Mariann have been married for 17 years and have four kids—Mary Grace (15), John (14), and Tommy (9). Their son Danny would now be 12 years old.