

Mom of the week

Mariely Santana, 27, of Lima, is not just the mom of 12-month old Zoe. She's also a singer and songwriter.

Occupation: Spanish and Music teacher at Destiny School

What is your family makeup? My husband Steven F. Santana, 28, is a musician and band director at church. We are the worship coordinators at our church. We call our daughter "Josie."

What are your hobbies or interests? I love to sing and write songs. I started writing when I was just 15 years old. I write a lot with my husband. My parents discovered that I could sing when I was 11 years old. I've had many opportunities to share my gift and love for music with others. I sang the National Anthem at a Red Wings game. I also sang at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast when Pataki was in office. I've done many youth conferences through Youth for Christ and I've toured with my band and other bands. I love nature and hiking. I have a passion for teaching and love working with children in the inner city.

I recorded my first CD in October of 2003. I was very nervous, but excited. We'd talked about it for so long. We went to Puerto Rico to record. My husband was the executive producer and did some of the songs on the CD. It's amazing to achieve this. It's something I always wanted to do. Anything can happen.

Are you content with your achievements? So far so good. I am a graduate of St. John fisher College, where I earned a B.A. I have a wonderful husband, who was so supportive during my educational career, and a beautiful, healthy daughter. But I do have more goals, so it doesn't stop here.

Any recent projects? I have been working with the choir at my church (and the youth department) and really just sharing what God has given me. I have also written more songs and am planning a second C.D.

Upcoming projects: In November, I will be sharing and singing at a college conference in Syracuse called B.A.S.I.C. Out of Darkness. If anyone is interested in buying a C.D., the cost is \$15. You can call to order by calling: (585) 530-9115.



Provided photo

Mariely Santana with her husband, Steven Santana, and daughter, Zoe.

