

Kelly Davis



Kelly Davis, wife of Carolina Panther linebacker Thomas Davis, met her husband during his rookie season with the Panthers. As Executive Director for the Thomas Davis Defending Dreams Foundation (TDDDF), mother of four and on-camera family relationship expert this woman is far from the average NFL wife.

Born Kelly Stokes, Mrs. Davis utilized her strong personality to ripen her natural people skills by participating in numerous events and groups at school and around her hometown of Greenville, SC. Kelly, like her husband, is a product of a single parent household; she was the 7th of 8 children growing up. Along with a full home life, Kelly joined various organizations both in high school & college. Mrs. Davis worked in the food service industry, in character education, substitute teaching and as a travel impresario before settling down as a full time mother to her beautifully blended family.

Kelly provides leadership to TDDDF board; serving as the liaison to connect the Foundation to communities in the Charlotte, Greenville and Shellman, Ga. areas. The Davis' formed the nonprofit organization in 2007 as a catalyst that serves underprivileged children, with an emphasis on students in middle school. According to the Panthers, TDDDF has distributed more than \$650,000 worth of aid since its inception. Kelly received her Bachelors of Science degree from Winthrop University and has used her entrepreneurial spirit and educational background to 'pay it forward.'

She volunteers at her children's schools each week in the classroom and won Second Harvest's Ted Heyward Award for Compassion in Action. The award was given for helping families and making sure children don't go hungry.

Thomas and Kelly has kept a long standing relationship with the Salvation Army's Center for Hope. Each year their foundation transports and feeds the entire shelter to a restaurant for Thanksgiving dinner where Carolina Panther players serve the women and children a homestyle meal. Kelly also visits the center to serve lunch, encourages the single mothers with words of inspiration and provides financial support to various events.

"It all starts at home," Kelly firmly believes. Her loved ones affirm that she is truly a pillar of strength for her family. Thomas has suffered three tears to his right knee ACL during three consecutive seasons. Standing by her husband during the recovery process with a positive 'keep pounding' spirit drew them closer than ever. "I definitely feel like at this point, knowing where I am and knowing what I had to go through, I couldn't have made it without her." Davis recalls.

Kelly's passion for strengthening the core connections within her home has offered her a platform as the Family Relationship Expert for My Fox Carolinas in Charlotte and the CW local affiliate, WCCB. Her featured topics have covered cyber bullying, the importance of 'date nights', encouraging kids in extra-curricular activities and more.