

WELCOME TO BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS FEATUERD FRIDAY ALUMNI. Today, we would like to recognize, class of 1998 alumni, Christal Frost.

Christal Frost (born Christal Franks) grew up in Interlochen and Beulah, graduating from Benzie Central High School in 1998. During her time at Benzie Central, Christal was actively involved in the choir and musicals, playing the lead role of Laurie in the 1998 Spring Production of "Oklahoma." Although music played a very big part in Christal's high school experience, she was also involved in Odyssey of the Mind, with her team taking second place at High School State Finals in 1997. Christal's favorite part of her day, however, was BCTV's broadcasting class. Christal says her favorite teacher was Mr. Gehring, adding that she spent many lunches in his classroom even when she didn't have to. Christal was adopted by her step-father shortly after high school, marking the first of many name changes over the years, although, she always goes back to Frost in the end... 😊

Since her time at Benzie Central, Christal attended Northwestern Michigan College with a focus on both Early Childhood Development and, in later years, Non-Profit management. Christal served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer from 2001-2002, where she was assigned to work with at risk kids at Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Traverse. It is not an exaggeration to say that the moment Christal walked through the doors of the Club, she was in love. After completing her year of service, she continued with Boys and Girls Clubs, working as a Site Director for Blair Elementary School, Program Director at the Suttons Bay chapter and eventually, serving as the Director of Operations for the Clubs as a whole. During her time at Boys & Girls Clubs, Christal was named the Staff Member of the Year and graduated from the Chamber of Commerce's "Leadership Grand Traverse." Christal has often said that if the Clubs hadn't closed due to lack of funding, she would have been there for the rest of her life. But, unfortunately that did happen in 2006. At that time, Christal was experiencing a lot of change. She had two little ones under the age of five and was going through a divorce. Her resilient spirit kicked in as she realized she just needed a job to survive. That's when Christal found radio. She was hired as a sales consultant for Modern Rock the Zone. But, sales were not in her wheelhouse. Actually, in her words, she was "the worst sales person on the planet." But, for some reason, Management liked her attitude and decided to give her a go at Promotions. Christal loved this move—promotions gave her a chance to be creative, and she was good at it. She continued in Promotions for several months until the Zone's morning show host asked her to sit in with him on a random Monday. So, she did; getting up at an ungodly hour to be funny on the radio. For four hours the two of them laughed and made jokes, and, at the end of the show, the station's manager made it official- Mizz Christal was to be a permanent part of the Rock and Roll Freakshow.

Over the years, there were several changes and even tougher times, but in 2012, Christal started working at WTCM Radio. She was working as a Producer for the very popular Ron Jolly and, in 2013, she was given her own time slot and show. The Christal Frost Show was born. Guests have commented that Christal has a natural ability to bring out the story in every situation. She is naturally inquisitive and genuinely curious about most everything—a quality Christal said landed her in trouble in high school. Starting Monday, May 7th, Christal will begin a new journey. In addition to her current show on WTCM NewsTalk 580, Christal will join Mike Sinclair as the co-host of the WTCM Morning Show. The two radio

veterans will take the place of the legendary Jack O'Malley; and, although filling his shoes will be impossible, Christal says, she'll wear extra socks to make it happen.

Christal is also actively involved in her local community; a Board Member for Parallel 45 Professional Theatre Company in Traverse City and also serving on the Board of Governors for the National Cherry Festival. Christal is also the founder of the CherryT Ball Drop New Year's Eve event for charity, an event that has raised over \$100,000 for local food banks and children's charities since 2009. That event is now a part of the National Cherry Festival family, a merger Christal helped to orchestrate earlier this year. You can see Christal involved in several other organizations and events including the Athena Awards, Rotary Show, Father Fred Frostbite Food Drive, Signature Chefs Auction, and Paper Angels Campaign for Child and Family Services. She is also one of the founding story tellers from the very popular storytelling group, "Here: Say Storytelling."

Above all else, though, Christal is a fierce advocate for children. Serving as a volunteer for the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center, Christal has shared her own story of surviving child sexual abuse as a keynote speaker at the Circle of Friends luncheon and even put on her dancing shoes with Swingshift and the Stars to raise over \$75,000 for the TBCAC in 2016. Christal uses her radio show as a platform to share the vital message of sexual abuse prevention and intervention with a monthly segment featuring educational topics that will teach every adult the knowledge they need to keep children safe. Christal has been recognized for her professional work and service to her community, being named amongst the Top 40 Under 40 Leaders in Northern Michigan for the past five years in a row.

Aside from work and local community involvement, Christal absolutely adores her family. Her husband, Jordan, also works at the radio station and owns a DJ company, Mr. Music DJ's and Event Services. Her son, Trey is a Junior in High School and has enjoyed continued success as a hip hop artist performing under the name DupleU. Her son, Logan, is in the 8th grade and enjoys sports, comedy and watching and making YouTube videos.

Christal shared, "Thank you so much for choosing to highlight me! I am humbled and incredibly grateful. I would love to be more involved with the Benzie community, and plan to make that a part of my focus in the coming years!"

Christal, we are extremely #OneBENZIE proud of your strength and determination. You are an inspiration to many and a beautiful example of overcoming and giving back. We look forward to following you on the WTCM FM morning show. Congratulations and continued success and happiness!

