

WELCOME TO BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS FEATURED FRIDAY ALUMNI. Today, we would like to recognize 2002 alumni, Samantha Lathwell. Samantha was raised on Lathwell Farms in Benzie County. She attended Crystal Lake Elementary from Kindergarten through 6th grade. She then attended the Jr. and Sr. High school 7th through 12th grades. Samantha was involved in Basketball and Softball all four years of high school. Samantha also attended the Career Tech Center for business administration and dual enrolled her senior year at Northwestern Michigan College.

After high school, she moved to Wausau, Wisconsin where she received her veterinary technician certificate. She made the move back to Benzie county in 2007 where she pursued her nursing degree. Samantha graduated from Northwestern Michigan College with her Associates degree in Nursing. She completed her testing and became a Registered Nurse in 2013. While finishing her nursing degree, she met her fiancé Brian Adams while working at a golf course. Together, they took a leap of faith in 2012 and opened “The Stone Oven Restaurant” in Lake Ann. In May 2018 they will have been open for six years. Being an entrepreneur has always been in her plans, she just wasn’t sure how! Samantha shared, “This has been an amazing adventure, with a growth rate that has been fast and furious. We are grateful for our community and our staff for the support and hard work through all of our growing pains we have endured these last six years. Benzie County has always been my home and I am proud to be someone that can offer jobs to others and give back to my community when necessary. Our greatest achievement was born in June, 3 years ago. Our little boy Jude is our pride and joy! He is the reason that hard work, perseverance and leaps of faith are so important!”

Samantha, thank you so much for sharing your journey with us. Congratulations on your accomplishments and on your successful local business. The Stone Oven has been a great addition to our #OneBENZIE community. Yes, you got it...Mrs. Crossman is feeling the liking, the loving and the sharing!

