

Linda Blechinger **Bio For EVE**

Linda Blechinger was born in Manhattan, NY, and grew up in a small town on Long Island.

Linda had a difficult childhood, placed in an orphanage, a foster home, and then living with her mother, who had mental illness and drug addiction.

Linda left home at the age of 14 and was living in California. By the time she was 16, she had worked three jobs and put herself through cosmetology school.

By the time Linda was in her twenties, she had left the world of beauty and pursued Defense Contracting as a manager. She stepped away from the corporate world at the age of 29 to have children and raise her family. She and her husband Dan moved to Georgia in 1989.

She and her husband have raised their sons in Georgia and have been Auburn residents for years. Mr. and Mrs. Blechinger were married for thirty-three years before Dan died of Lymphoma in 2020. They have three boys: Derek, DJ, and David. Sadly, DJ died when he was almost five. Linda re-published her book, "From Mourning to Morning," which gives an account of this family's grief, mourning, and victory. Their two sons Derek and David, are both wonderful, delightful young men.

Says Linda, "When we moved to Georgia, it was because we wanted to raise our children in a place that fostered our values, in a place that we could settle in and put roots down. We first moved to Newnan, and then we found Auburn. We knew when we moved here that this would be home!"

After first serving the city by chairing the newly formed Parks and Recreation Commission, she then served on City Council from Nov. 2006-August 2007.

Ms. Blechinger now serves as Mayor of the City of Auburn since 2007. She says, "It is an honor to serve the citizens of Auburn. I look forward to the future. Linda has the city's vision before her and is determined to achieve the goals that have been set!

The city has been moving forward even during an economic downturn, "we have been right on target with our plans. It is exciting to be part of something so wonderful, working side by side with the best group of people I have ever had the privilege of working with; this is exactly what I want to do, contributing to the city we call home!"

Both Linda and the city have won numerous awards over the years. They are a reminder that we are doing important work, building a community that is alive and healthy.

Linda serves on many boards, expressing, "There are so many needs! If I can make just a small impact for the better, I am all in!"

Linda served as President of the Georgia Municipal Association, which provides training and services for all 537 cities in our state. Working with state and federal partners, she continues to serve in different capacities at GMA.

Linda has served in her church for 30 years, teaching Bible studies, leading the women's ministry, teaching marriage seminars, personality profiles, providing lay counseling, and speaking engagements at businesses, churches, and retreats.

Not one to sit still, Linda has two projects going on – because her heart is to impact people for the Kingdom of God and foster healing and her desire is to show people how significant they are, she has formed a 5013C – ***EVE Empowering, Visioning, Equipping women*** to succeed. A ministry for women to encourage them to step out and be who God made them to be. The ministry goals are two-fold; empowering and helping women to discover their vision and then equipping them to succeed. Because of Linda's life experience, this ministry will also support widows and orphans through giving.

Secondly, Linda has begun her second book, which is her life story. She spoke from her heart when she said, "This book is a work of love for all those hurting people, all those that feel lost, used, and thrown away. I can't wait to see how God uses this to impact lives. After all, that's why we are here!"