



STORY BY PAMELA BAUMIESTER

Richard & Linda Eyre

Jetsetting From Home

You could say the life of Richard and Linda Eyre is all about home. Their first date was Homecoming. She was the Homecoming queen for Utah State University when Richard cajoled his buddy into setting them up for the Homecoming dance.



COUTESTY PHOTO

Their honeymoon was spent driving from Utah to Massachusetts for Richard to attend graduate school at Harvard. Many years and nine children later, they have returned to Utah, this time calling downtown Salt Lake home.

Over the years, the Eyres have lived and worked in some of the biggest cities in the world. From Boston to New York to the Washington, D.C., area as Richard managed a political consultancy—the couple even lived in London for three years while presiding over a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The couple continued raising their nine children in the suburbs of Salt Lake and Washington, D.C. Once the last of their children finished college, the Eyres downsized to a high rise condo downtown—a somewhat less complicated life.

Linda and Richard Eyre are used to an on-the-go lifestyle, while still making family their business. Their books on parenting have been national bestsellers, in one case reached No. 1 on The New York Times Bestseller list, and they have graced the sets of national television from Oprah to The Today Show helping parents navigate the unpredictable terrain of raising children with values. Living downtown means the busy couple can experience the empty-nest freedom of going out when they aren't traveling. Cultural, religious and sporting events are all within walking distance of their downtown digs.

Not too many years ago, the downtown area wasn't much to look at let alone a hub of activity that it is now. The Eyres attribute much of the revitalization of the downtown area to the vision and work of leaders of the LDS Church. The beautiful Conference Center and the rebuilding and revitalization of the overlooked downtown malls into vibrant, attractive areas for shopping, dining and gathering makes the city more appealing than ever. Everything downtown is both polished and close by. Access to the arts, shopping, cuisine and entertainment is steps away for the couple. Richard loves to take in a Jazz game and Linda is enamored with the symphony. They both get what they love just across the street or down a block or two—easy!

Living downtown makes for what they call an “ideal base.” With more than 100 days of travel each year for speaking and publicity events, fast access to the

airport has been a dream come true for them. “The quick convenience to the international airport is a huge advantage. There are an exceptionally large number of non-stop flights for a city of this size, and we just catch the TRAX right outside our front door and get to the airport in 17 minutes,” shares the jetsetting couple.

Offerings like arts and entertainment, music and restaurants, the ease of transportation as well as sights you can walk to make Salt Lake extremely livable for the couple. They love Temple Square, the new City Creek mall and all of South Temple, from its historic and exceptional residences on the east to Symphony Hall and EnergySolutions Arena on the west. Richard directed and managed the bond election campaign back in the '70s that built Symphony Hall and restored the Capitol Theatre, so he is particularly fond of those two venues. The couple enjoys riding the GREENbike system downtown, a low-cost bicycle sharing program, and jogging through flower gardens and great landscaping surrounding Temple Square.

“We don't think there is a city of similar size in the country, or even in the world, that has a downtown that offers as much as ours does,” write the Eyres.

As experts on families, the powerhouse couple count Salt Lake as an ideal place to raise a brood of any size. The Eyres were in Salt Lake City for the majority of the time they were raising their nine children.

“Salt Lake is an awesome city for families,” they write. Their children now live in Boston, New York, Washington, D. C., Palo Alto, Phoenix, San Diego, and Maui, “but all say that they are glad they grew up in Salt Lake and that they may end up here too as they raise their own children. Salt Lake City is not without its problems, but in balance, it would be hard to find a safer, more values-driven community in which to raise a family.”

Coming home to Salt Lake City means more than convenience for the Eyres; it's bound to become a family tradition.

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