



20 QUESTIONS

ACS Team

Celebrating 20 Years of ACS

ACS is 20 years old! We're celebrating this milestone with a game of "20 Questions" with our amazing ACS team!

Allison Marker, Senior Strategist

1 What's your philosophy for life?

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond." –Gwendolyn Brooks

2 Best book you've read lately?

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

3 Something you've done in your work that you're most proud of?

When I worked with ACS as a client at YWCA Northeast Kansas to defend Kansas' constitutional right to abortion.

4 Favorite watering hole?

The Bourgeois Pig in downtown Lawrence, KS. It's the perfect mix of "Cheers" meets a café in the Latin Quarter of Paris.

5 One public policy you'd change?

It's past time for Kansas to expand Medicaid. 150,000 Kansans are living without health insurance, and 59 rural hospitals are on the brink of closing.

6 What made you choose your career path?

Even though I was a History major in college, Poli. Sci. was my real passion. One summer in college, I interned for the Kansas House Minority Leader. On day one, I got to help facilitate a community forum on the closing of our local social services office. Seeing the power of local organizing had me hooked.

7 A favorite mentor?

Marie Pyko, CEO of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. We have worked together on a number of community projects, from YWCA's Racial Justice Book Club to Rotary. She is someone I look up to in terms of the way she leads. She's one of the best active listeners, she doesn't shy away from tackling the big issues, and she is always on a quest to learn more and do better by her community. To me, Marie truly embodies the Rotary 4-way test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



8 Rock, rap, or country?

I'm a bit of a music nerd, so any good playlist is going to have a mix of all three, in my opinion. I'm strictly an old country fan, though (If Patsy Cline, John Prine, or Townes Van Zandt mean anything to you, we should be friends.)

9 Dogs vs. cats: who rules and who drools?

We currently only have one fur-baby, our cat Maurice (a.k.a Momo), but I have a lot of dogs in my life who mean the world to me, so hopefully one day we'll add to our pack!

10 Favorite thing about working with ACS?

Getting to help our clients move the needle on transformative issues is what gets me motivated every day.

11 A skill that might surprise us?

I can perfectly put lipstick on without looking... Does that count?

12 Biggest "win" or "lesson learned" of your career so far?

Whether it's a big win or a little win, it's important to celebrate progress along the way.

13 Favorite vacation spot?

Northern California, where my future in-laws live. The Muir Woods National Monument is particularly magical!

14 Ideal weekend activities?

Going to the farmer's market, beating my fiancé at a round of dominoes, and sharing a meal with loved ones.

15 Pet peeve?

Loud eaters. *shudders*

16 Advice for rising leaders in your field?

Every day is an opportunity to learn something new. Growth takes vulnerability in admitting what we don't know, which can be uncomfortable, but so worth it!

17 If you could magically become an expert in anything, what would it be?

Finance and accounting—because magic is the only way I could ever become an expert!

18 Favorite holiday?

Thanksgiving.

19 Country you'd live in if not this one?

France—a country I called home for 11 years growing up.

20 Most recent thing that made you smile?

Watching a little girl at an election night watch party take a photo of her mom right after she found out she had just been elected to the Kansas House of Representatives. Priceless :)