

## 2 ½ Minutes with Donna Gestl



*Donna Gestl*  
*Senior Vice President*  
*The Prosperity Consulting Group, LLC*

From the time she was young, investing was a hobby of Donna Gestl's. Now, it's her job.

Gestl is a senior vice president at The Prosperity Consulting Group, LLC in Owings Mills. She joined Prosperity almost three years ago after running her own financial planning firm. When she's not advising clients, Gestl spends most of her time with her children. She has two boys, a 4 year-old and a 7 month-old, both adopted from Vietnam.

### **What are the best and worst parts of your job?**

The best part is definitely just being able to help people. The worst part is that you don't have any control over the market. It keeps me up at night. When clients' portfolios are down, the right thing to do is to stay invested during downturns, but it's sometimes difficult to convince clients of that.

### **How did you get started on the path of adopting your sons from Vietnam?**

I spent about two years deciding whether to adopt, and if so, where to adopt from. I really like the culture and the people; they really value children in Vietnam.

### **What was being there like for you?**

It's been an incredible experience in terms of an education, just seeing how other people live, seeing different cultures. It really does change you.

### **How did it change you personally?**

You just realize how well you have it, compared to so many people. I think it makes you more appreciative of life and what you have. I'd like to think it's helped me not worry so much about the small stuff.

### **What are your favorite travel spots, besides Vietnam?**

I really enjoy going to the beaches in the Caribbean. (My 4 year-old) has been to many Caribbean islands already. The Florida Keys, Puerto Rico, anyplace warm with water.