

## Photographer Stays With What Is True

As a children's photographer, Scott Barrett has established himself as *the* source for creating quality portraits that truly capture the personality of his young subjects. And it's not only his technical skills that win raves from delighted parents—although he certainly knows how to frame a subject, set a scene and work with lighting to get exactly the right effect.

Still, it's Scott's passion for photography—and commitment to his craft—that sets him apart in a crowded field.

His excellence is evident in the 12 covers (including this month's)—and counting—that he's shot for *Indy's Child*, as well as in the portfolio of image after adorable image of youngsters (from toddlers to teens) created for clients. (See [www.adorableindykids.com](http://www.adorableindykids.com)).

But perhaps the most telling reflection of Scott's skill comes from the parents themselves, who sing his praises after seeing the stunning images of their children.

"You are a genius!!" wrote one happy mother after Scott took a series of family photos. "They are such beautiful photographs. I can't even tell that the baby is crying and my sister was late. You are truly talented. Thank you for taking such care with the pictures of my family."

"The photographs are adorable!" raved the mother of a newborn.

"Thanks again for such a wonderful experience!" said yet another happy mom.

What is it about Scott's work that wins such accolades? That previously mentioned passion, along with his total dedication to his art and his clients. "Photography is what I was meant to do," he says. "It is what I was allowed the privilege of being alive to do. I was meant to have a camera in my hand."

He also insists on devoting time and attention to each client, both during the consultation process and throughout the shoot itself. And

that's an unexpected gift to parents who have grown weary of the cattle-call mentality of point-and-shoot photos. "I'm simple with my approach," Scott says. "It's about what I see. And I'm willing to take the time to get the best photographs."

A portrait shoot, for example, generally is paced out over an hour or two, allowing Barrett and his subject plenty of leeway to adjust backgrounds, lighting and angles, whether in a studio setting or on location. It's a process that clients appreciate, especially those with children, who aren't always known for posing quickly and on demand. Scott's number one suggestion to parents is to schedule photo sessions around the child's schedule. If the child is usually in a good mood in the afternoon, rather than the morning, schedule the shoot for the afternoon.

"I love working with kids," Scott says, "because there isn't any vanity, and they are just cute being themselves." Whether in the studio, at the playground, around the zoo or in their own backyards, his young subjects enjoy the time and opportunity they are given to relax and be them-

selves—and that allows Scott to capture their true personality and style, rather than a false, forced grin.

"We can go to the park, your backyard or your neighbor's home," he says. "I also do day-in-the-life, play-date and 'afternoon with Mommy and Daddy' shoots. There are no limits to what I can do to help you capture your child's growing years."

Another element that elevates Scott's photography above the ordinary: he works with both film and digital formats to achieve exactly the right mood and look for each photo. "Just like a painter has the choice of oil or watercolor paint, I have a choice of what media to use to capture the photograph," he says. "The truth of the matter is, as a visual artist, I just prefer the way film captures

some images, while other photographs look fine using a digital format. There is a certain texture to the film that I use, something that cannot be achieved using a digital format."

Those who know Scott best aren't surprised that he decided to make photography a career—and a calling. "I have loved photography all of



my life, he says, "and I have taken photographs for what seems all of my life."

He decided to turn his pastime into a career after winning a bout with cancer. He cites a favorite quote from James Allen: "You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you." Photography, he adds, allows him to "stay with what is true."

Scott has since racked up an impressive roster of accomplishments, including being selected as the official photographer for the 2006 Indiana State Fair Marriage on the Midway and being named as chief photographer for *Indy's Child*; his photos have been published in such diverse media as Australian advertising and *The Best of Photography Annual*.

And even as demand for his photography services grows stronger than ever, he still finds time for the community work that continues to motivate him. Devoting time and attention to such local organizations as Indiana Youth Group, the Damien Center, Indy Pride, the Human Rights Campaign, the YWCA and Pet Fest, Scott is a valued player in the local charitable scene.

In addition to his acclaimed work with kids, Scott photographs weddings, pets, couples and executives. And whether he's working with a camera-shy youngster, a nervous bride or a time-pressed company president, he brings to the job commitment and compassion—skills that can't be taught in any class.

"Photography," he says, "was a gift from the universe to allow me to stop time, to be able to put myself into something that will last and be part of something forever."

That's a philosophy that parents especially seem to appreciate. Scott's captivating images of their children's precious (and fleeting) growing years, they say, are simply priceless. ■