

Speaker 1: [00:00](#) I think it's just making sure that I'm home, that the time it's quality time, that I'm focused, that I'm present, that we're doing fun things together. That's kind of like the one vision for my parenting. And I know it's not that profound, but maybe it's because I felt I was missing it. It's just fun. I want to be the fun parent and it can be clean, fun, fun, can be hiking it, Zion fun can be going to the Guggenheim, you know, fun can be a Lego land or the zoo. Or I took my son scuba diving at four years old, you know, and he was so afraid he didn't think he could get into the open ocean. And then he did it and he still talks about how he was in the open ocean looking at fish and you know, so I think there's this, maybe I didn't have enough of the good, clean, fun, you know. So I went to look for fun and drugs and sex and you know, kind of much darker places and maybe I can show my kids that you know, you can have a blast and live a really exciting life filled with new experiences and travel and you don't have to compromise your values or your integrity to do it.

Speaker 2: [01:01](#) All right guys, welcome to the front row dads podcast. I'm your host John Broman and if you are new here, this is the show for family, men with businesses, not businessmen with families in this case, family, men with charities. My, my friend Scott Harrison is with us today and likely many of you know his name and you know what he's done. There may be some things that you don't know about his world and that is that he's married to his beautiful wife Victoria. He has two kids, Jackson and Emma. They live in New York. And uh, what you may know and have heard for the last, what is it, 12 years now,

Speaker 1: [01:32](#) Scott just hit 1313

Speaker 2: [01:34](#) years is that you guys have raised, and this number is changing all the time. About 400 million box funded, 44,000 water projects in 28 countries. Is that still accurate?

Speaker 1: [01:47](#) Uh, it's a little more than that, but yeah, that's exciting. I figured that whatever number I had and your share it all good. All good.

Speaker 2: [01:55](#) Yeah. So, uh, and, and that's, uh, something fun, which I think is really cool is that you are in the number 10 spot. I didn't know this on fast company's a hundred most creative people in business. Your book's killing it, man. Uh, I'm a big fan. I listened to thirst. I thought it was great. Congrats on that. And then, uh, and, and on a personal note, I met you in st Louis for everybody out there listening. How did I get to know Scott? Uh, I think I got a chance to introduce you when you were sharing your message on stage. And then we got a chance to sit down for a drink and

some dinner and talk about life. And I walked away, uh, a bigger fan than I already was at the time. So

Speaker 1: [02:31](#) that's very kind. St Louis was awesome. We got to talk about my, my experience with my kid in st Louis going back. Yeah, let's start there. What is it? Uh, well, I had to speak, uh, so I was there for what I guess EO when I met you and then I wound up getting invited to speak at a mega church. I want to say it was two hours outside of st Louis. It was on a weekend and I decided to take my, let's see, I think it was four at the time cause I heard city is amazing.

Speaker 2: [03:00](#) Yeah, yeah, that's right.

Speaker 1: [03:01](#) And uh, we flew out there on, I want to say Thursday and we rode bird scooters all around town. Then we flew out with one little piece of carry on. My son likes to sit on my away luggage. Yeah. I take them to the airport. We flew out with one little piece of carry on two helmets and we did the arts. We scooted around, we did city museum twice, took them to a jazz club. He paid the \$5 cover out of his, uh, you know, the money he'd been saving and it was a great trip. So he still talks about st Louis to this day. Daddy, what are we going back to st Louis? When can we bring his sister?

Speaker 2: [03:38](#) How old are your kids now?

Speaker 1: [03:39](#) A five and three. That's probably way a younger girl

Speaker 2: [03:43](#) dude. How, how are things going at home? How's your personal life? But by the way, I say this and I'm smiling cause I'm like, I know you've been talking a lot about the charity. I don't know how much you get a chance to talk about your family. So hopefully this is a breath of fresh air as well.

Speaker 1: [03:57](#) Look, the reality is the, the travel is really hard. I mean, uh, for the last 13 years I averaged somewhere between 70 and a hundred airplanes a year. So you do the math and you know, I'm on a plane every four days. Yeah. Uh, on average, uh, you know, I worked with my wife for the first nine years of charity water. She was the second employee. She was the creative director. So she certainly understood the travel. She's been to Ethiopia, I dunno, 10 times. I've been 31 times. Yeah. Though I think she knows, she understands the travel, you know, it's, it's harder when you have kids. I'd say that's the hardest thing on, you know, on the family is I miss them and they miss me. Uh, I

will say that, you know, the way I'm able to make that work is that I live, uh, seven minute walk from the office.

Speaker 1: [04:48](#)

So when we get done, I'll go pick up my daughter from school and it'll take me four minutes to get there and then, you know, I'll run home and it'll take me two minutes to get home. Cause my entire life, my entire New York city life happens in about six blocks, so that I'm also pretty disciplined when I'm in New York and I'm not on the road. I don't do work breakfast and I don't do work dinners or at least I don't do work dinners before the kids go to bed. So every once in awhile, you know, put them to bed at eight, I'll do an eight 30 donor dinner in the neighborhood. But what that means is that, you know, I'm doing every morning, I'm doing breakfast with the kids, I'm doing school drop off every day and then I'm home for dinner every day. Yeah. So my hours in the city are, are pretty much nine to six at the office, sometimes nine to five 30.

Speaker 1: [05:38](#)

You know, tomorrow I'm going to pull my son out of school and we're going to go to the Guggenheim museum because we just built it, uh, using Lego architecture. Nice. Nice. I can take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off and you know, he could miss a day of kindergarten and we'll just spend the day, you know, running around the Lego land or the museums or, you know, we'll to MoMA, we'll go to the zoo, something like that. So I think that's the, maybe balanced isn't the right word, but I'm trying, I'm trying to even out the travel when I've gotta be in Ethiopia and Uganda for two weeks to come home. I'll take the next couple of days off and I'll do, yeah, some four day weekends. Did the kids travel with you overseas? Yes. Not to Africa yet. Uh, they've done, my son's probably done 40 flights in five years, so he's been to London, he's been to spend a Necker Island.

Speaker 1: [06:25](#)

He's been to San Francisco and LA and Atlanta and Orlando and you know, a bunch of places on the book tour. And then sometimes I'll just bring him speaking with me. My daughter's done a little less. Her stuff would be more family vacation stuff. Um, I'm thinking of taking my son to Madagascar next year. He'll be almost six. What's the debate for you on that? This is a long way to fly. It's 26 hours and coach out in 26 hours back. And that's just a long, long time for a six year old to be on an airplane. Are there any concerns with, you know, safety, uh, you know, overseas bugs, anything like that? [inaudible] I mean, there may be, but I'm not that guy once. No, once your kids are this age, I mean, malaria doesn't kill them. You know, I would say the first few years you, you, you go through a period where it's not safe really to give them the medicine and the

prophylactic and if they get malaria, that could be a real issue, you know, immune systems of five or six, it's just less of an issue, you know, you can treat this kind of stuff.

Speaker 1: [07:26](#) I mean, my wife's had malaria and you know, it's very unpleasant, but, uh, it's, it's very, it's very preventable or it's very treatable I should say. Yeah. So I don't really worry about that kind of stuff. I mean, uh, I think the most dangerous thing that I do in my life is go back and forth the JFK about 150 times a year in an Uber. Okay. I think that's more dangerous sometimes than being in a land Rover in Bangladesh. That's so great. Do you think that you'll stay in New York city to raise your family? Are you, are you committed to just locking it down there? The answer is we're not sure I have an aversion to the suburbs. You know, so what most people, what most of my friends, my my dad friends are doing is they're taking the money that they would spend a rent an apartment here in the city in proximity, and they're taking that to about an hour outside and then you get a five bedroom house with the yard.

Speaker 1: [08:19](#) Yeah. So I mean, we are, we are renting a 1200 square foot, two bedroom apartment in a high rise that is a few blocks from the office, uh, that, that gets a lot more value the minute I start driving two hours a day out to New Jersey or up to Westchester. So that's, that's just untenable. I would never see my kids if I was leaving the house at six 30 in the morning to commute in. And then if I was, you know, stuck in tunnel traffic, getting home at seven or seven 30 after two hours stuck in the car or on trains like that, that wouldn't work for me. Yeah. So I think we'll try and fight out the city. So it's expensive. Yeah,

Speaker 2: [08:56](#) absolutely. Yup. When you, uh, I want to get into a little bit about your, how you're approaching parenting right now. So when it comes to literally the, the, you got into a little bit about your daily routines and things like that, but what do you think you're doing that where you're just knocking it out of the park and I know your kids are young, but, uh, that, that certainly doesn't exclude the things that you could make an impact with. So where are you giving at home where you feel like you're having the biggest impact? [inaudible] what are the little nuances of that as a dad?

Speaker 1: [09:27](#) I mean, so, you know, we have a family of, of faith. I mean, prayer is a big part of, of our, you know, family practice, gratitude. Uh, we have a church community. Mmm. You know, there's a lot of reading. You know, I'm, I'm kind of, I mean, gosh, I don't know how tax will you want to get? I'm a, I'm a note TV guy, so there's no TV during the week, you know, Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Uh, it's not allowed. Uh, we, we actually don't have a, I mean we have, okay, you have to imagine three rooms. So there's a living room and then there's our room. We don't have a TV in the living room, so we've kind of stuck it in an unattractive part of our bedroom. Uh, so I'm, I'm kind of against the screens, you know, I grew up without them and became very, you know, computer proficiency starting at a very long age, very, very old age.

Speaker 1: [10:19](#)

And I can type a hundred words a minute, you know, use the devices just fine. So I never really subscribed to the idea that three, three or four year olds need to be on iPads. Got to train them for the future to be prepared for the future. That wasn't true for me. It wasn't true for you. And we do just fine. So, you know, that means then there's a lot of Legos. I mean, Legos is the thing. I mean, I probably spent more money on Legos than that. I, that I want to know, you know, Amazon prime makes that a little too easy. Yeah. You know, a lot of board games, you know, are, are our three games at the moment are, sorry, connects four and shoots and ladders. So it's kind of fun. You know, you get to go back into your history and introduce these games to kids and they love it. No, all my son wants to do is play. Sorry. Right now,

Speaker 2: [11:04](#)

do you find, let me get into that very specific part about when you're planning and you're building Legos, when you're playing games and [inaudible] no. Do you find it's difficult to totally check out a work and get into that space where you're not building the Lego castle but trying to figure out how you're going to raise 1 million bucks at your next gala?

Speaker 1: [11:23](#)

1 million. I wish we just raised seven and a half million dollars and that wasn't enough. It depends. It just depends on the ebb and flow of what's happening. There are highly, highly stressful moments at work. I mean, we're heading into the end of the year, uh, know we're raising over \$80 million this year, but 20 million is going to come in in the next four weeks. And I'm going to have to do at least 10 of that personally. Yeah. So this is a time, high stress. I'd be lying if I wasn't waking up at three in the morning, lying awake in bed from three to four, mulling over conversations, mulling over flights. I need to take donors, I need to get in front of strategies and tactics. Uh, and I'd be lying if that doesn't bleed into this holiday weekend coming up. Maybe. Uh, I think, uh, you know, you're aware of it. I, I try to, I try to stay off my phone, you know, I tried to at least be present, but it's hard.

Speaker 1: [12:22](#) Other times in the year it's very easy, you know, the January and February, March season at charity water, you know, in, in some ways fundraising is very much like retail. You know, there's that rush and you know, the malls are not full in mid January. The malls are full in mid December. Yeah. And everybody's working crazy hours in sales and changing up, you know, all the, the storefronts and all that. So I think there's just a cadence that's different throughout the year. Yeah. And I do my best, but certainly I'll be playing Legos, thinking about an HR problem I have, right? You know, a donor that I'm really not sure how to approach for a \$5 million ask. And when you guys all run in the background, you mentioned just a moment ago about like how you didn't grow up with TV and you've in your book and you've talked about your life growing up.

Speaker 1: [13:09](#) You talked about your mom getting sick and there's a lot that I do know about your family. I'm curious as to Mmm. [inaudible] so I'm going to take a little, I'm going to divert here a little bit. I'm going to just take us in a different direction because I want to talk about this period of your life where you call it three acts, right? You have this act, one of this young Christian kid playing piano at church two is your 18 to 28 debauchery of in New York. Right? And then, and then there's this chapter, the act three. So I want to talk a little bit about, first of all, going back to your childhood [inaudible] I guess big question that I was mulling over thinking about this conversation is how much do you think that your upbringing with your parents, provided you, the North star or the compass to get [inaudible] back to where you were?

Speaker 1: [13:56](#) Right. Does that make sense? Yeah. How much of those that there's that proverb in the old Testament, it says, train up a child in the way that you know, they should go and when they're old they won't depart from it. Right. The kind of, yeah, even in that proverb, it kind of leaps time. So when they are older and maybe allows for a messy middle. So no, I mean my parents, you know, not only instilled in me a deep sense of morality and spirituality, they also lived it out. So they weren't hypocrites. Yeah. And even though, you know, I wanted to kick against the goads and it turned out to be 10 years of rebellion and you know, the rules suck. I don't want to play by any of the rules. And I explored the opposite of all the rules. I think it the, the deep unhappiness with just about every, you know, quote, opposite path that I took and where that led me made it very easy to want to come back home.

Speaker 1: [14:50](#) You know, in I guess in a symbolic sense to those, those really virtuous values that my parents had taught to a place of unselfishness versus selfishness to a place of, you know,

kindness instead of rage or anger or lashing out. What are the specific traditions that you want to carry forward? Like what happened in your youth that you're like, I've got to repeat that with my kids now that I know what I know about life. I mean, so much of it in my childhood was, it was due to a really horrible circumstances of, of an invalid in our house. I mean, my mother was not able to be a mother to me. Uh, I think that taught me a sense of self-reliance, of self confidence. I was needed in the family because I was doing so much. I was helping with the cooking. I was helping with the cleaning.

Speaker 1: [15:37](#)

I was kind of, yeah, looking to protect my mother from all the things, all the toxins in the world that would make her sick with her or her degenerated immune system. So, you know, in some ways I don't want to wish my experience on anyone else, uh, or certainly not on my kids, but I learned a lot from it. You know, I was an entrepreneur at the age of 13 or 14. I was asking my dad for spare jobs so that I could raise enough money to go buy a leaf blower. So then I could go blow leaves from the neighbor's porches and charge them five or 10 bucks and then use that money to save up to buy a car. You know? So there was this kind of a sense of always striving for independence and self-reliance and a lot of that, you know, I think a lot of that character was built through hardship.

Speaker 1: [16:24](#)

At the same time, I don't want my kids to go do drugs for 10 years and slowly with everything that moves, you know, so there's a whole part of my life that, uh, was absolutely destructive and could have turned out a different way. No. I had friends over that 10 year period thought they're doing cocaine. They did heroin and they died. Yeah. So, you know, I, I think I was very lucky to, uh, walk away relatively unscathed, at least from a health perspective. Yeah. From a lot of things I did. It could have killed me yep. Uh, over 10 years and a lot of situations that I really shouldn't have been in that were deeply damaging and destructive. So it's hard to, yeah. I mean, I don't, I don't see my life as a playbook or anything that I want to run or, you know, a drop on the my kids.

Speaker 1: [17:10](#)

I think I just think about how do I instill character and then how do I, you know, we talk about kindness a lot. Um, my son, you know, the other day it was upset because his friends weren't playing with him. And you know, the lunch room and you know, it was really sad, like they weren't playing with him and I said, well, you know, do you feel like anybody else is having the same experience? He said, Oh, there's a little boys, Sam. He was sitting alone in the lunch room crying. I'm like, [inaudible], well son, you can go up to Sam, right? I mean, just trying to draw

that parallel. See how those two boys made you feel when they wouldn't play with you. You have the opportunity to go over to Sam and say, Hey Sam, do you want to play? Well, why are you, or, you know, can I make you feel better?

Speaker 2: [17:52](#)

So

Speaker 1: [17:52](#)

I don't, I don't know. I think it's just trying to take the values that I deeply believe in and find ways to, to teach my kids. What kind of schools are they at the end of the day? I think so much of it is just they watch you. So you know, how do I speak to my wife? How do I speak to my employees? They spend a lot of time here at the office. Yeah. My kids will, we'll sit in meetings every once in a while there'll be, you know, a, I don't know, there's a doctor's office or some sort of scheduling thing in there. They're parked in my office for a little bit. So they're, they're always watching.

Speaker 2: [18:22](#)

What kind of school are they in?

Speaker 1: [18:23](#)

My daughter's in a kind of a half day preschool and my son's in public school. Kindergarten.

Speaker 2: [18:29](#)

Cool. And do you think you'll stay the public school route? Have you thought about that? The path?

Speaker 1: [18:34](#)

I think we're just not sure yet. You know, we don't, I think we hold all these questions, but right now there's no plan to do anything different. Just fits where it is. Yeah, I mean, you know, and there's also, there's also a deep convenience at the moment, the public schools across the street from our apartment, half a block. It's more than I commuted, you know, it's less than my community growing up.

Speaker 2: [18:55](#)

My son was in a private school the last three years, and then we moved him to a public school this year. And I think there's pros and cons to both. But I'm so happy that we made that decision and I can do 20 minutes on that subject alone. But that was really a good decision for us right now at this stage of our life. So giving me the, give me the cliff notes. What are the cliff notes where the, you know, there's other, so there's, so one is at the school he was at for three years called whole life learning center. Amazing school run by a credible people. There's a lot of freedom. There's a lot of choice to do what you want to do during the day. There's not a heavy emphasis on academics. Right. And it was also a drive. So we had to drive 2025 minutes either way to take him to this school and, and then, you know,

so they're, the pro of that is lots of free time, lots of nurturing of the spirit, lots of digging your, your hands in the soil, they're building fires, there's animals out back, right.

Speaker 2: [19:47](#) There's, there's all that. So hippy, I love it is so hippy, man. It's definitely like an Austin's goal for sure. So it was great. It was a great experience. Now his, his school now, the pros of the school now is that he actually feels great about the fact that he's learning more academically. He'll actually say, he'll say, I'm learning a lot more than I was at my old school. You know, and, and there's pride in that of actually being able to learn and becoming a learner in that sense. He also bikes to school now and I would say if there is one, I didn't even see this coming as a huge benefit is hit the pride he feels of getting himself to school and back by just biking there is really cool. He's 10

Speaker 1: [20:30](#) 10 yeah.

Speaker 2: [20:30](#) Yeah. So, and he's in a situation where he also now is playing in the neighborhood with all the kids that go to the local school. Whereas before I didn't recognize the disconnect that came and him going to a private school and then not being connected to all the kids here in the neighborhood. Sure. You also save some money

Speaker 1: [20:48](#) to saving 10 or 11,000 bucks a year. It doesn't hurt make that 40 in New York city. Exactly. That depends on the type of school for sure. Oh, I think make that 40 to 60 in New York city. That's insane, man. Nuts. As your kids grow up, Scott, what do you know, you wrote in your book a lot of detail about your 18 to 28 period of your life, but what are your thoughts about when your kids read that and how you might talk to them about that era of your life? Cause that's, I know it might feel like it's a long way away, but I'm guessing it's going to be here quickly. Yeah, I mean, I guess just to have a conversation with them that these things, you know, well maybe the, the culture tells us that's what should be celebrated or what should be pursued.

Speaker 1: [21:37](#) At least for me, led to ruin [inaudible] dissatisfaction. Because when you start collecting watches, you're never going to have enough watches. When you start collecting cars, somebody's always got a better Ferrari. Yeah. Or a newer Ferrari or a, and I think I would hope to just say, you know, I found the freedom maybe is really the best word or joy [inaudible] asking how I could use my time and my talents and my money in the service of others. Yeah. A two to improve the world to end the suffering that we see here maybe in our local community or in the global community. And in our case specifically, and just have that

honest conversation that it's not about what you accumulate. And I can also, you know, show him some of the, when, when they're at that age, I can show them some of the richest, most unhappy people in the world.

Speaker 1: [22:28](#) Yeah. Um, and that's just, that's kind of a part of my life and, and I could, I, I hope to be able to show them that, you know, I mean, gosh, it's so tripe, but money really doesn't buy happiness. And when you, when you are in my line of work, right. You know, responsible for raising \$20 million a year or so. I mean I get to see, I mean, I, I spent a lot of time with a lot of billionaires and you get to see 10 car garages, you get to go out and really nice yachts and just realize, and that's not to say that all those people were unhappy. Some of them are living, you know, really generous, fulfilling lives with great families, um, in some art. But I think you, you realize that, uh, that the correlation between the things that they buy [inaudible] is not doing life well.

Speaker 1: [23:12](#) Yeah. That's not leading to happiness. Oh, I wanted to ask you about that because you know, look at, you know, living on a charitable salary and hanging out with all those people. I had the same, I had the question about how to, yeah. Are there moments where you would look around and say, I am a little jealous right now. I do. I do want more wealth in my life. Do you get there John? I think I've just [inaudible] been so deeply changed. I want more wealth to give away. Yeah. I really wish I could give more money away. So the more the board pays me, the more we give. Uh, you get 20% of your income rent. Yeah. You know, now with kids it's probably closer to 15 cents if you go net or gross. Uh, certainly, certainly of net. We're also supporting my wife's family, which is, it's complicated.

Speaker 1: [24:03](#) Look, the best way I can describe it is I drive a Kia Sorento and I, I at least the same car every three years. And it's like a \$38,000 car. It's a gray car. Uh, this year, after the three years I spent a little more and I got the leather seats because my kids trash the last car. I thought they were going to charge me like \$10,000 for what we did at the seats, right. Raisins and the kids in car seats and you know, so now, you know, I parked my car in a garage next to Porsche Cayennes and next to \$100,000 range rovers. And it was just no part of me [inaudible] envies that \$60,000 Delta in car. I mean, I like my, you know, I've said probably 30 times this year to my wife. Oh my gosh, I love this car. Yeah. Like, you know, we're able to go camping in it, you know, it has a sun roof.

Speaker 1: [24:57](#) Like it's just so great. Like I'm so grateful for my Kia Sorento and there's, you know, if I had another \$60,000, I would rather give that money away to improve people's lives, then drive a frigging Porsche or, or range Rover. So I think I haven't been bitten by that bug. I don't wear a watch. It's funny, somebody, somebody gave me a gift, hopefully they're not listening to this. Have a really nice watch. Uh, and I took it back and got a store credit and, but something very much more useful, you know, cause I just, that's just not really who I am.

Speaker 1: [25:32](#) All right guys, I want to take just a quick second to talk about something really important now and know you're listening to the show because you want to level up your game at home. But if you want to take the next step within front row dads, I want you to do something today which is text the words front row dads to three 1466517673 separate words. Front row dads. It's not case sensitive. I want to send you a few things right away. First, I want to send you a recording from a masterclass that I recorded with my good friend and author of the miracle morning. Howe L rod is a father of two amazing human beings and we recorded a show called the five habits of a front row. Dad, I want to send that to you because I think it is well worth listening to. Second, I want to give you 45 minutes of a mind blowing conversation that I had with a woman named Kim and NAMI and the show is titled have better sex, hugely popular.

Speaker 1: [26:19](#) This will rock your world and likely your spouses as well, but I want you to have access to this information. Number three, I want to give you access to 1300 other front row dads inside of our Facebook group where you can ask any question, share any win, and give any resource that you think could be valuable to the community. And lastly, I want to include you in one email I send out each week. It's short, it's to the point, and I pull from life experiences along with the insights for more than 135 members of our brotherhood. I want to give you the best of the best in each email. So all you have to do is just text the words front row dads to (314) 665-1767 and we will get you started today.

Speaker 1: [27:02](#) I'm also not a mortar, you know, my wife and I just went away for our 10th anniversary and I had no problem spending \$400 a night on a hotel room. [inaudible] 10th anniversary. Now in contrast to Uganda and Ethiopia. And you know, you could say, Oh my gosh, that's crazy. I'm used to staying \$100 a night hotel room. Take the \$300 and you could give the next 10 people clean water. So I dunno, it's, it's all kind of a balance. I'm just not, I'm not really big on material things and cause I had a lot of them and I [inaudible] saw people with even more of them and

it just, you know, I don't know. I mean, my ambitions around money is not a house in the Hamptons. It's, I'd love to write \$1 million check to a fledgling charity that helped them scale and gave them the confidence and the runway to go and build like someone did for me 12 years ago.

Speaker 1: [27:50](#) Not, you know, not, not buy a summer house. How do you start talking to your kids about it at this age? Somebody out there listening is saying, all right, I've got a five minutes, three year old, right. Young kids. How do I talk to them about giving what, how, how should this play out in our house? You know, what activities should we do? How important should this be? How often are we chatting about it? Yeah. I don't know that I'm as intentional as I could be or should be an incense. There might even be a danger because my entire life is of humanitarian organization and everything I do at work that, that, that could potentially even be lost at home. You know, I think that the trips and exposing the kids to this, you know, my son has heard me speak, I mean, he's heard me give 60 minute keynotes, uh, many different times about the work.

Speaker 1: [28:39](#) She gets it, the daddy goes out and helps people across 30 countries that don't have clean water, [inaudible] drilling Wells and you know, and all that. But, um, I don't know. I mean, just last night, uh, we were, we were trying to get, I mean again, we're in 1200 square feet with two kids in New York city, so we're trying to get rid of some toys. And I, I was talking to my three year old about, well, listen, we can give these toys to people who don't have any toys. And she loved it. And then she repeated it again two years. She's two, two hours later. She said, you know, this, this thing, like maybe somebody who doesn't have it, we could give to them. So I think you just, you know, you look for those opportunities too, uh, to serve. I think, you know, we'll start doing a version of homeless shelters and you will, we'll find ways to get engaged in, in our local community and to serve with the kids, just to show them.

Speaker 1: [29:25](#) I mean, you know, we live in very low middle class life, John. I mean, uh, you know, I'm, I'm, I'm not a, I'm, I'm no sort of martyr, you know, I mean, maybe I could be making a lot more, you know, working in tech, but, okay. My kids live in a bubble. I mean, I live in New York city, I live in Tribeca. Uh, you know, I'm a million miler with Delta. I get upgraded a lot. You know, I find a lot of beds to San Francisco and LA because, you know, I'm, I'm flying 200,000 miles a year or so. So, you know, it's not kind of this vow of poverty as well. So I think, you know, I do think about my kids getting exposed to the inequity of the world at a young age and let them know, wow, we're really fortunate.

Yeah. I mean my kids are never going to have to drink dirty water.

Speaker 1: [30:13](#) Right. Just because of the privilege they were born into. They were born into a middle class family in New York city. The kids are never going to go hungry as long as we're alive. They're never going to worry about a roof over their heads because of the privilege that they were born into. 660 million people don't have clean water. So a 10th of the world has never known what my kids just defaulted into. Yeah. I think just showing them that it's one thing to tell, it's one thing to show pictures, you know, getting, getting the opportunity to take them over there a lot when they are older. I mean I could see doing two or three trips a year with them. Yup. So I think I'm a little worried about the schooling that would be in more inflexible because I'm going to want to pull them out a lot.

Speaker 1: [30:55](#) Yeah. And give them, you know, daddy's daddy's opening up a London office, you know, let's do, we can London, we do a different culture. Yep. World schooling. You should check out Acton Academy. Have you heard of that? Yeah, I have actually. We have a, we have a lot of Austin donors that, uh, Osborn, I went to Dave Osborne and I went to the actin picnic the last time it was in Australia. Yup. That's cool man. Yeah, that's a, that's an, did you go it to Jeff's house, Sandra for [inaudible] that I met, I met downtown. Yeah. Yeah. He's a great dude. What a cool thing, man. So that's always a great option, right? To be able to travel with your kids from that school. Yeah. Yeah. That's fantastic. You mentioned that. Let me just go back and take a snippet from that. That conversation where you mentioned not having a problem dropping the 400 on the hotel for your 10 year anniversary.

Speaker 1: [31:45](#) Yeah. Congrats. By the way. That's awesome. So let's talk about marriage for a quick second. How do you and Victoria, what's working with your marriage right now and where do you want to improve? Yeah. Um, again, I would say, you know, the travel is working, you know, she's really supportive. She knows, uh, she knows I hate it. I think, uh, you know, there used to be this tension where he's like, but you get to sleep alone in a hotel room, right? W there was just this constant battle and like, I don't want to be at the Marriott, CNN Tonio or the Westin Phoenix, you know, like, it sucks waking up at 4:10 AM, you know, to drive from San Diego to lax to get on a six o'clock flight. You know, just so I can be home in time for bed. So I think, you know, I won her over over a lot of time because for her, she's got two kids in her bed and she's putting them back and they're doing bedtime and breakfast.

Speaker 1: [32:47](#) I've got these hyper, you know, kids right now who never want to sleep. They don't take naps. No, they, they want to wake up at seven in the morning and go to bed at nine 30 yeah. And you know, or, or even earlier or later. So I think just expectations, you know, we're uh, she knows why I'm going everywhere. There's also a really high level of trust in, in our marriage. You know, I wrote about this in the book, but you know, certainly neither of us were, were any sort of virgins when we got married, but we actually decided not to sleep together before we got married. Um, and again, you know, we, we've been in the clubs and have these kind of, you know, wild, promiscuous lives in a way. And someone had given me the advice saying, you know, you get to actually establish a pattern of restraints of self control, you know, with your life partner.

Speaker 1: [33:38](#) And it's really funny so that, you know, I know that's actually an issue for so many of my friends. Their wives think that they might need someone you know, at the st Regis cocktail bar at 10 o'clock and like, Oh my gosh, my husband's gone been gone for a week or vice versa, the roles are almost irrelevant. But that's just been kind of off the table because I demonstrated, you know, a high level of restraints and self control and I'm not going to throw my marriage way over a, you know, any sort of affair so that, that makes it really easy. I think where I get to travel, there's a super high level of trust and you know, we just communicate a lot and I'm FaceTiming the kids and you know, sometimes she doesn't even have time for me on the road. She's like, I'm just too busy.

Speaker 1: [34:19](#) I'll see you in a couple of days. Yeah. I feel that we get your work done and come home. Where do you want to improve in that area? Where are you continuing to? The date. Night stuff is hard, you know, with the schedules and the travels and uh, it's really hard because when I'm home, you know, I feel like I'm running often a, a deficit with the kids. Yeah. And it's easy to over optimize a three and a five year old and take the spouse for granted, you know? So maybe there are times when I get home and really my wife needs the four hours with me and instead of getting a babysitter and, and making the kids wait another day, I'm optimizing for the kids. So I think it's, we're not awesome with the rhythm. We kind of do date nights much more ad hoc, but it would probably be better to get into more of a rhythm when you're most, and then, by the way, babysitters are 25 an hour in New York.

Speaker 1: [35:12](#) Your date night, you're adding another buck 50 plus Uber home. Right. When you're most in love with Victoria, you know, and you guys are just completely in sync. What's happening? The

magic, you know, that's there. Is it the environment? Is that [inaudible]? Yeah. Where are you at your best in your marriage? Yeah, a lot of times we're away together and we've, we've done that quite a few times. We might exploring together, we might be in Mexico just for three or four days. So we've, we've gotten pretty good at, well we've gotten pretty comfortable at leaving the kids with grandparents for four nights, which feels like it's worth doing, you know, cause it's five days including the travel. And we've done that a few times and, and you know, are almost plotting the next one. Yeah. When can we ditch the kids and just get away driving through the Scottish countryside or exploring or going to restaurants or just sleeping and reading.

Speaker 1: [36:05](#)

You know, one of the days that we spent in, in Scotland know the two of us just sat by a fire for six hours and read different books. And I sipped on whiskey and she drank wine and it was like a great day of intimacy. But like we were both kind of feeding what we needed, which was a place of quiet, a place of reflection. So, you know, we also do well with the kids. I have way more energy than, than my wife. If anybody knows the Enneagram, I'm an eight, she's a four. So you know, she is restored by quiet by order and I kind of thrive on chaos and energy. So it was funny, I just started wearing one of these ad trackers, the the whoop band. And uh, yesterday I did nothing except go to the office and I burned over 3000 calories in like my day to day meetings.

Speaker 1: [36:57](#)

And this stupid band keeps popping up saying, you know, based on your heart rate, um, we sent an activity where you walking, were you running? I'm like, no. It was just presenting in a meeting though. We were looking at this laughing last night, you know, my heart rate is at one 75 and literally I had a partner from Goldman Sachs in my office. I made a 30 minute impassions presentation, like on my TV screen and you know, thinks that I'm running. Yeah. So I think just knowing how different we are in our marriage and being aware of that, you know, I come home and you know, my thing with the kids is I ring the doorbell 30 times. Yeah. And like there's just a part of my wife, it's like, Oh my gosh, like the chaos is here, you know? And the kids start screaming when they come running, they open the door and they tackle me.

Speaker 1: [37:44](#)

They're screaming, they're hiding, you know, under the beds and it's awesome. She's like light three candles, uh, you know, grab a soft blanket, some tea or a glass of wine and read a book. Yeah. That's awesome man. That's awesome. Hey, I know we're, we're running out of time here, so I want to get to kind of a big picture question, which is you, you've expressed that you have a

big vision for charity water. Nope. Nobody is without clean water. You have this giant vision, and I've heard you say even with all the success that you've had, you wish you were further along, right? Yeah. Yeah. So I want to relate this a little bit back to your family and say fast forward, out years ahead. Do you, what does that vision look like for your family? What does success look like? How do you feel you're doing now?

Speaker 1: [38:31](#) Are you behind? Are you on track? Yeah, I feel really honestly about the way that I think I've made some charity, water growth sacrifices over family. I mean there's a lot more that I could be doing. Crazy thing is as much as I'm flying, I'm saying no. An extraordinary amount. Yeah. I mean I could be on four or five times as many planes and never home and living this, you know, this very big life and you know, the Davos is of the world and you know, I'm just, I'm saying no, I'm saying no left and right to stop. So I feel really good about where we're at now. Um, you know, I remember reading a biography of a very famous humanitarian founder, um, of an organization that's a household name and I'm not actually going to say his name or the the org, but a great humanitarian organization.

Speaker 1: [39:19](#) This is many, many years ago. And the guy flew around the world and he saved millions and millions of kids lives and his daughter committed suicide. Oh. And in her suicide note, you know, wrote something to the effect of dad was there for millions of kids around the world, but not for me. Oh, I remember reading this 1314 years ago and just saying he made the wrong decision and I won't make that decision. And, but also now realizing like we're helping 5,000 new human beings get clean water every day. So between Monday and Wednesday, five o'clock, we're feeling up Madison square garden full of people. Mmm. Right. I mean, you know, I went to see a sold out concert, you know, recently. And I looked at my wife and like charity water does this volume of people. We literally moved them from dirty Brown, viscous water, killing them and killing their kids to clean water.

Speaker 1: [40:11](#) And we do this every three and a half days. Yeah. So it's easy to get too caught up in the urgency of saving lives. But I think that's just, I just have this in the back of my head. I've thought about it a hundred times, you know, over the last decade. And hopefully it's both end. Hopefully I can be strategic with my time, involve my kids as the organization grows and as they grow up and are able to travel a lot, you know, easier. Uh, and not doing anything to one sided. Yeah. So can you see, what would success look like? Like how are you gonna measure that? How are you going to know that you've done your part at

home? Because with water, I love what, I love what you've got going on with the water cause it's so you can track it, you can show the results you see it gets just beautiful.

Speaker 1: [40:58](#) Yeah. It's a family man. How do you, how do you really know? No, I don't know. I mean I think there's an intuitive sense of your kids are a little out of control. I mean, you know, often the acting up, certainly the young age is just due to a lack of attention. Yeah. You know, the acting out the rebellion can be a lack of relationship. So I think that the relationship is the most important thing. And you know, maybe I had a little bit of a fractured relationship with my mom because of the illness and my dad was certainly doing his best, but he, you know, he was basically taken care of, you know, his, his wife and then, you know, a kid. So, uh, I don't know. I think I just want to stay in really. My, my wife was yelling at me the other day cause I was carrying my five-year-old, you know, like five blocks on the street and she's like, he's five.

Speaker 1: [41:49](#) I'm like, what? He's like, why are you carrying him? I'm like, because I can, you know, I can have that sweet little Murray, you know, his breath on my neck towed and uh, that's not going to happen three years from now or five years from now, you know? So I dunno. I think it's just making sure that I'm home, that the, the, the time, it's quality time that I'm focused, that I'm present, they were doing fun things together. That's kind of like the one vision for my parenting. And I know it's not that profound, but maybe it's cause I felt I was missing it. It's just fun. I want to be the fun parent. Yeah. And it can be clean, fun. You know, fun can be hiking at Zion. Fun can be going to the Guggenheim, you know, fun can be a Lego land or the zoo or, uh, I took my son scuba diving at four years old, you know, and he was so afraid in the get in the open ocean and then he did it and he still talks about how he was in the open ocean looking at fish and you know, so I think there's this, maybe I didn't have enough of the good, clean, fun, you know.

Speaker 1: [42:54](#) So I went to look for fun and drugs and sex and you know, kind of much darker places and maybe I can show my kids that, you know, you can have a blast and live a really a exciting life filled with new experiences and travel. And you don't have to compromise your values or your integrity to do it. Yeah. Scott, man, I want to thank you for, uh, for making some time for him today. Man. I know you've got to go pick up Emma. So I want to be really respectful of your time and even in a little early here, and I do what I want to say, man, is that a, and I don't know if this would get old for you to hear, you know, but it's like really genuinely, dude, thanks for leading in such a powerful way. I

know I shared with you that I think your story is like my story amplified by 10, but there's so many parallels to what I see in your world and what I experienced in my life from, uh, you know, uh, even literally being in the promotions business.

Speaker 1: [43:49](#)

I was, I was in the promotions business for years and my job was to entertain people in Vegas and on international trips and yeah. And then made a change and found front row foundation. There's a lot of things that I've experienced in my life that I look at in your world. And I'm like, dude, thank you so much for making difficult decisions, for a, finding, a level of awareness for bringing, you know, this level of, you know, giving to the world that and in such a fresh way, in such a cool way that you've been able to attract a group of people that may not have been attracted otherwise. And even your views on wealth and how you're playing that out and what your, the decisions that you're making. And I don't think your perfect

Speaker 2: [44:32](#)

person, I haven't put you on a pedestal as a kid. Don't do that and nor have you. But I do think you're an impressive person on many levels. And I don't want not say that because I really appreciate you. So dude, is there anything that you want to say? Yeah, yeah, of course. It's from the heart, dude. I really, we got people listening with kids. We have some great resources at charity, water. Uh, they could go to charity, water.org/kids. Um, we, we, we have some kits too. Teach kids about the water crisis to some really cool video content where kids of all ages can just kind of understand a little more about this issue facing others on the planet. So we have something in New York city called the adventure tour, where you can come in as a child and you get a passport and you go to six different stations, including a VR room and you watch a 13 year old girl get well.

Speaker 2: [45:23](#)

But my five year old is did it for the first time and loved it. That's awesome. You know, we'll have over a thousand kids every year come through, you know, New York city headquarters. So he's interested in learning more about that. Just a charity, water.org/kids. We'll link it all up in the notes, man. And, uh, and, and, and for you. Um, and for our audience, I just want to say, I really want everybody to get a copy of your book. So here's what I would say, guys out there, all the money goes to charity, water. I don't, I don't make a for the book, dude. I, I, I knew that man. That's just a, yeah, a lot of things that are really impressive about how you've approached this business. But guys, write a review on this show mentioned Scott, screenshot it, email me, john@frontrowdads.com. I'd like to buy you a copy of Scott's book and send it to you as a thank you for supporting the mission and um, and also, um, consider being a spring

donor, which is a, uh, a monthly recurring donor to charity water.

- Speaker 2: [46:15](#) Like it's a no brainer. You just have to go do it. Yeah, that's, that's been the most exciting area of growth for us. We have this community called the spring. It's now over 40,000 people from 120 countries and a lot of people give 30 bucks a month. So give one person clean water. Some people give 10 a month simply to give a hundred a month, but they feel really connected to us in the content of the community and that's been growing, uh, and helping us grow our impact. So yeah, thanks John. Do it as a family. You know, my dad gave me a gift when I was like 13. He gave me a letter at Christmas and it was, I donated a flock of geese to a family in need. And I kind of felt gyped in the moment. I was like, ah, but that was a gift that's appreciated and value over time, even at 44 years old now.
- Speaker 2: [46:59](#) I appreciate it the most. And I think that these types of gifts as we enter the holiday season or the types of gifts that will appreciate and value over the course of your kids' lifetime. So yeah, make a donation in their name and their honor and talk about it regularly. And that's a great way to bring up a value it [inaudible] donut and model it. Not just give it lip service, but how old were you when he did that? I was in my early teens. Yeah. I love that. I never forget that man, that letter stands out. I remember opening it and I remember feeling disappointed, but I now I've done both
- Speaker 3: [47:30](#) Lego like the star Wars Legos and the, uh, he did. He did. So anyway, Scott, thanks again man. I really appreciate that.
- Speaker 2: [47:41](#) Hey guys, if you haven't already done so, go right now to front row dads.com/facebook and join the conversation that's happening right now on line. We designed this group for guys who are entrepreneurial in their thinking that are high performing guys with low egos. We're looking for the dads that believe in teaching their kids how to think, solve problems and be real leaders. We're looking for guys who believe in being family, men with businesses, not businessmen with families. We're looking for the fathers who have great knowledge but also believe that they have so much more to learn and we're looking for men who want to add value by sharing their wisdom and those that are willing to ask the questions that we all need and want answers to. That's front row dads.com/facebook or simply go to Facebook, type in front row dads and you'll get to our group and what we put in there links to all the podcasts and videos and other resources that you can't get access to anywhere else except for in this group. We want to give you the

best ideas to help you with your marriage, balancing work and family life communication strategies with your spouse and also your children, travel ideas, and even suggestions on the latest gear that would save you time and help you be more effective. We've got updates on upcoming events and so much more. Go right now to [front row dads.com/facebook](https://frontrowdads.com/facebook) and join the conversation. I'll look forward to connecting with you there. [inaudible].