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Beauty queen returns to hometown

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Dec 16, 2022



National American Miss of South Carolina 2022-23 Hunter Vaughn poses with Lancaster Meat Center owner Billy Overall. The two are neighbors, and Overall

Hunter Vaughn, National American Miss (NAM) of South Carolina for 2022-23, visited the Lancaster Meat Center on Dec. 16 to meet local residents.

Vaughn said visiting local businesses and schools “makes my heart smile because I feel like a small-town girl from Lancaster, South Carolina; you don’t imagine her being Miss South Carolina.”

Vaughn was born and raised in Lancaster, and attended Erwin Elementary and Andrew Jackson Middle and High schools. She graduated from Clemson University and got her nursing degree from Anderson University. She now works as a labor and delivery nurse at Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill.



“I want to show people that you can always dream big dreams and you can you can reach those if you want to,” Vaughn said. “Just put your mind to it.”

Vaughn is running on the platform of the “I Am Enough” movement, which works to empower individuals with the courage to shift their mindset, rewrite their story and embrace the belief that they are enough, according to the organization’s mission statement.

“I want to teach girls that no matter the obstacles, you can always turn those into opportunities,” Vaughn said.

Vaughn’s platform is supported by her own struggles with adversity, after repeatedly tearing her ACL at ages 15, 17 and 20, due to competitive dancing.

“I feel like that those obstacles have promoted me and turned me into the person I am today,” Vaughn said. “I feel like it’s very, very important for me to teach young girls that no matter what you go through, you can always see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Vaughn won her state NAM title in August, and competed again in November, ultimately winning the additional title of Most Photogenic and meeting her goal of placing in top 12 in the nation.

“My goal is just to be a friendly face to just say, ‘hey, this girl is from my hometown,’ ” Vaughn said. “She is Miss South Carolina, but she’s always going to come back to her hometown and support small towns.”

Haley