

May 9, 2005

Dear JoAnn and John with Schwartz and Woodward,

It has been nearly 7 weeks since our wedding and Stephen and I are still receiving compliments from guests who loved our wedding and reception. Several have commented that it was "the most beautiful and memorable wedding" they've ever attended. One friend who flew in from New Jersey to attend said that it was by far the most beautiful and well-organized wedding he'd ever attended. (This was especially significant as his SISTER had recently been married!!)

We could not have enjoyed our day or had so amazing and memorable a wedding experience if we had not used your services. When we first started planning the wedding, Stephen and I really thought that we could "handle it" on our own. When my mother insisted we hire a wedding coordinator since she lives out of town, I was slightly insulted. However, from the first moment I met JoAnn, I knew we had made a good decision. She helped me with food-tasting, cake tasting, wedding dress shopping, and was a friend to me when my mother wasn't as supportive as I had hoped she would be during the process.

This was before all the hurdles were thrown in our way...

Hurdle #1: The wedding reception venue is going out of business.

WHAT? I found out 4 months before the wedding that my reception venue (which I thought was PERFECT) was going out of business before the wedding. I, of course, found this out while I was traveling for my residency interviews and not even IN Houston to deal with the problem. I was freaking out, as many of the other venues I had originally also considered were booked by then. JoAnn, though, made phone calls and by 8pm THAT NIGHT, I had a new reception booked at an even better place! Without a wedding coordinator, there is no way we would have had the connections to book our amazing reception at the Plaza Club. JoAnn also convinced the original reception place and the original caterer to give us a full refund!! (which according to our contract, they were not obligated to do!) This really was a lifesaver! Thanks, JoAnn!

Hurdle #2: Stephen won't decide how many groomsmen he wants.

This made me insane. However, John when at the Tuxedo Junction, was always extremely courteous and made it seem like it was okay that Stephen didn't know who his groomsmen were going to be—6 weeks before the wedding! It all worked out of course, but I thank John for keeping his cool!

Hurdle #3: Stephen was admitted to the hospital the Monday before our wedding.

It was a very scary and emotional week for me. Stephen has a chronic illness, and that week (probably due to stress) he had a flare and required emergency admission to the hospital. All the planning we had done seemed pretty silly to me by this time as I really just wanted the GROOM to be there! Stephen told the doctor's that he absolutely must be out of the hospital by Friday, but I was doubtful. I called JoAnn and John from the emergency room and from the beginning, they helped me realize that Stephen was my focus and they took care of all other details for me. When I couldn't leave Stephen's

bedside to pick up my dress, John picked it up for me. They even offered to deliver the wedding favors and reception items to the reception venue for me. In the end, Stephen was dismissed from the hospital around 10 pm on the Wednesday before the wedding, so the wedding went on as planned. JoAnn spoke with all the vendors and made them aware of the situation so that we were able to speed things up and leave the reception slightly early so that he could rest.

Hurdle #4: The wedding guild coordinator was a total control-freak.

The wedding guild lady at my church was rude to my friends and family at the rehearsal and even on the wedding day. JoAnn and John dealt with her so that my family and I could relax on the big day. They were courteous and sweet to her even when she refused to LET John put boutonnières on the groom, groomsman, and my father!

All in all, the wedding turned out to be the most memorable day of our lives. The wedding service itself was moving and meaningful to both of us and to the guests as well. The reception was beautiful, the view was amazing, and if there were any "hiccups" at all that day, we were unaware of them as you two kept it a secret from us so we could enjoy our day.

Thanks so much for making our wedding day the most memorable day of our lives. We couldn't have done it without your help.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle & Stephen Powers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed names.

Michelle and Stephen Powers
3-19-05