



FAMILY LIVING, REDEFINED:

STORIES OF HOME, COMMUNITY, AND FREEDOM AT ASCEND TO MIDSTREAM

In a time when the idea of the ‘dream home’ often evokes images of suburban houses with white picket fences, an increasing number of families are redefining what ‘home’ truly means. At *Ascend to Midstream*, a luxury apartment community nestled in the heart of convenience and comfort, families from all walks of life - young couples raising toddlers to grandparents downsizing after decades - are making the move from

traditional houses to estate apartment living.

To understand what’s driving this shift, we sat down with several residents to hear their personal stories and reflections. Their candid insights revealed a deeper narrative - one not just about square footage, but about lifestyle, values, and the pursuit of connection, ease, and quality of life. What we found was

more than just a preference for modern finishes and walkable neighbourhoods; we uncovered a collective desire for flexibility, community, and a more intentional way of living.

This article shares the voices of some of those who have chosen to Ascend—literally and figuratively—to a new way of calling a place home. ►

VISCHER FAMILY

You and your wife both grew up in Midstream and have experienced life in different parts of the estate. What inspired your decision to make Ascend to Midstream your home?

We lived in a house in Midfield Estate for seven years before moving to Ascend to Midstream, and in Midstream Proper before that. On our family walks, we would always pass by Ascend as we walked through the golf course. We would talk about what it would be like living here, and until recently, I had family that lived in Ascend as well. Through them, we experienced the amenities like the rooftop pool, MasterChef kitchen and gym, and then last year we both felt a prompt to a 'simpler' and minimalist lifestyle. Our only reluctance was that we weren't sure if our dogs would be allowed, but once we found out they would, we started exploring Ascend. After about a month, we found a unit perfectly suited to our family's needs.

What do you love most about living at Ascend to Midstream?

We love the simplicity. The simplicity of the lifestyle allows us to spend less time on our home and more time in our home. The maintenance is minimal, being on the golf course means we have an entire 'garden' that we have access to, knowing that it is maintained year-round. The amenities are an added bonus; we use the pools, gym, cinema, and MasterChef kitchen regularly for birthdays and events.

With two energetic toddler boys, how does Ascend to Midstream's lifestyle cater to their needs and happiness?

It's having our farm life dream collide with city living. They have the freedom to explore open spaces in a safe environment with the bonus of an Ascend Community that looks out for them, greets them, and even stops to interact and engage with them. We've had teenage boys on the golf course invite our 8-year-old along to play two holes with them, taking the time to encourage and teach him. We've had neighbours cleaning out their garages stop and show them their cool fishing and sailing equipment without question or cause. Ascend has provided a place for our boys to live life freely and fully. Boredom doesn't exist in our household.



Which schools do your boys attend? How do they get to and from school?

My oldest is in Grade 1 at Midstream College. My youngest is in Midstream College Pre-Primary. In summer, we cycle to school until it starts getting too cold in the winter, much to their disappointment, as I think they would do it year-round if it were up to them!

After school, what activities do your boys look forward to most when they're back at Ascend to Midstream?

In truth, our boys spend more time outside of the house than inside. The moment we stop at the house, they bolt outside. If they're not playing golf, they're riding their bikes, fishing or playing on the lawn in front of our unit, building tents, forts, picnics, or even kicking or throwing a ball - we live in a ground-floor unit, which is a bonus. It was astounding to see that even in the heavy downpour in the summer of 2025, our boys lived outside

in raincoats and gumboots. Ascend living has offered our boys a place to be busy little boys, as it should be.

Family time is precious. What activities do you enjoy most with your boys and your dogs at Ascend to Midstream?

It's hard to pick just a few when there is so much to do. We love to take our dogs for a walk with the kids riding their bikes. We often jog together as a family. Our boys love going to the gym with us; if they are not training with us, they are outside playing on the volleyball court or jungle gym (leaving us to train in peace - THANK GOODNESS). We absolutely adore late-afternoon fishing and picnics at the dam; our dogs often join us to roam free (if there are no other dogs or people around). Our boys have even gotten their mother into playing mashie golf. We can confidently say that Ascend has enhanced our family time. There is so much to do so close in proximity.

VAN ZYL FAMILY

What inspired you to choose Ascend to Midstream as your home, and what do you enjoy most about life here?

We were drawn to the simplicity of life and the lock-and-go lifestyle that an Ascend to Midstream apartment offers. An essential aspect for us, coming from a large home with big grounds, is that we don't feel boxed in. The feeling of openness and freedom to move is very important to us. Ascend to Midstream, contrary to what people may think, offers wonderful spaces to sit, walk, entertain, and live freely. When you feel like going for a walk and experiencing the outdoors, Ascend is smack-bang in the middle of the best views and walking trails in the estate. We love doing this with our grandchildren. So really, it is the lifestyle we love that inspired us to move to Ascend to Midstream.

What motivated your children to also make Ascend to Midstream their home, and how has that decision enriched your family's experience?

Our children lived in Ascend to Midstream when they were just married, and they loved the easy lifestyle that it offered. They enjoy an active life, and Ascend to Midstream supports their busy life in every way, hassle-free. They have since added an Australian Doodle and two beautiful little boys to their family, who all live together in their apartment with ease. They can focus on the fun stuff of life and have little to no time and money wasted on home maintenance. They still get to enjoy all the benefits of a large garden, entertainment areas and the swimming pool that their previous home offered, without the hassle that came with it. As a family, it is just amazing how convenient it is to stroll across to each other for a quick visit or to lend a hand with the grandchildren at the drop of a hat. It is a wonderful blessing to be close to each other. When you think about it, it is quite unique to live in an apartment-style space that caters to both young and more mature age groups.

In what way does living at Ascend bring you closer together as a family, while still allowing everyone their own independence?

The knowledge that we are just around the corner from one another offers a



quiet peace of mind that we can assist each other. Whenever needed, without sacrificing our privacy or independence. Life at Ascend is not a hustle and bustle of people, as some people may think. It is truly peaceful and quiet, and you honestly have all the privacy in the world to enjoy your home as you prefer. Our lives and the children's lives are busy and active, and for that reason, the fact that we are all living at Ascend To Midstream allows us to connect so much more easily when we get the chance. The further away, the less we would get to connect. In today's rushed lifestyle, there is sadly very little chance that you will see one another too much.

As grandparents, what are the greatest benefits of living at Ascend to Midstream with your grandchildren just around the corner?

You can ask any grandparent this question, and I can guarantee the answer is: there is nothing better than hearing those little feet running towards your door and being so happy to see you, and because they get to do it often and conveniently, you get to enjoy a very special relationship with them. We are very blessed to have all our children live in the estate, and our grandchildren visit with us at Ascend often. We love taking walks with them while they ride on their little push motorbikes. A Saturday or Sunday morning treat is to take a walk through the pathways and golf course to Cozinha restaurant, where we can all enjoy a meal together, and they get to play and enjoy the outdoors together. It is so convenient for everyone.

What are some of your favourite ways to spend time together as a family at Ascend?

We really enjoy visiting in the apartment and having dinners together. The design allows us all to be together in an open plan space without feeling that it is too small or cramped. The walkways and expansive gardens are really a special feature that we enjoy playing in with our grandchildren. The rooftop terrace and MasterChef kitchen are areas that we have really utilised as a family for special occasions, like birthdays, baby showers, kitchen teas, and get-togethers with friends. It is probably the best venue on your doorstep to make special family memories. So convenient, stylish, and the best thing is you don't have to do the dishes.

In your opinion, what makes family living at Ascend unique compared to the rest of Midstream?

The fact that Ascend to Midstream offers a lifestyle that can meet the needs of a young single professional, a young family with children, a mature couple, a single person, and a retired lifestyle. We see this first-hand every day. I see single people, families with toddlers, primary and high school children, grannies and granddads, and they are all happy and going about their daily lives in complete peace of mind and without restrictions on their desired lifestyle. This is the magic of Ascend to Midstream. We all feel at home regardless of the phase of life we are in. ►

MARAIS FAMILY

What do you love about living at Ascend to Midstream?

We love the access it has given us to open space for our small children. We love that the sights, smells and sounds make us feel like we are in the bush. We love having access to a lovely pocket of nature, while still enjoying incredible security and being able to rest easy.

Living in a ground-floor unit gives you direct access to the green open spaces - how do you and your children make the most of this?

We go and feed the ducks almost every evening, by the pond; it is such a wonderful, relaxing ritual for us at the end of each busy day. Our children are sports-mad; if they aren't playing rugby, soccer, or cricket, they are hitting golf balls from our lawn or just running wild in the open spaces. Our children ride their bikes along the walkways and love to feed the ducks down at the pond.

What does outdoor living mean to your family, and how does Ascend to Midstream make that possible?

Outdoor living is critical to us as a family, it is critical to our quality of life, and the health and well-being of ourselves and our children. We are outside as much as possible, and Ascend provides us with ample space to do so. Whether it is playing on the lawn outside, feeding ducks at the pond, taking a walk around the golf course, playing a round of golf or taking the children to the play park, there is ample outdoor space and variety to keep us all busy and active.

Do your children have friends within Ascend to Midstream, and how has that shaped their experience of growing up here?

They do, it is wonderful when a friend pops out for a walk with their children or dog, and we bump into each other. We often have friends pop in for a coffee on their walk or even a last-minute dinner. We have wonderful neighbours with lovely older children that our children absolutely love playing with when they get home from school. It has given us a community and a village-style living that we were longing for.



How has living at Ascend to Midstream changed the way your family spends time together compared to other places you've lived?

We were in a big freestanding house in another estate in Midstream before we moved. We were sceptical about the move, but given we had to move out of that rental, we had a feeling that this would be a downscale in size and privacy but an uplevel in community and quality of life, and it absolutely has been - we haven't looked back. We just have so much access to nature that is so convenient. We can be outdoors together in a way that we all enjoy. It used to be tricky to get out of the house and bundle the kids and everything else we needed in the car to go somewhere for an afternoon or early morning outing. But

living here, we can tumble out of bed and into an activity that we all enjoy.

When you think about the future, what excites you most about raising your children in a community like Ascend to Midstream?

We won't be in South Africa for too much longer. However, if we were to stay, the freedom with which children and teenagers move around here is amazing. Friends popping by on their bikes, kids biking to school. Kids fishing, or swimming, or running, walking their dogs on their own, are always so active. They seem to have such lovely independence and a sense of community from such a young age. They so rarely need to be driven around by their parents. It's quite idyllic.

In our conversations with the families living at *Ascend to Midstream*, one thing became abundantly clear: This wasn't a move made out of necessity, but out of intentionality.

For each family, whether just starting with young children or enjoying the freedom of retirement, the decision to leave behind a traditional house was not about giving up space or status. It was about gaining something far more meaningful: a lifestyle centred around connection, nature, and ease.

At the heart of all their stories was a shared desire to spend more time outdoors, to reconnect with family in meaningful ways, and to embrace a simpler, more fulfilling rhythm of life. *Ascend to Midstream* didn't just meet those needs, it exceeded them. With thoughtful design, lush green spaces, and a hassle-free living experience, it offers a life where quality time isn't reserved for weekends or vacations; it's built into everyday living.

What surprised many residents

was just how seamlessly their vision of an elevated lifestyle could become a reality. The convenience, the community, the access to nature, all without the demands of home maintenance, proved to be a powerful combination and motivating factor.

Regardless of age or stage of life, their motivations aligned, and their decision to move to *Ascend to Midstream* became not just an address change but a conscious step toward living better.

In the end, *Ascend to Midstream* is more than a place to live. It's a new definition of home, one where life flows, family thrives, and nature is never more than a few steps away.

Is it time to ask yourself a few intentional questions about what your future lifestyle looks like? It may be time to investigate this place, *Ascend to Midstream*, which families, young and old, call home. **M.**

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