

In 1977, Jim Darwiche embarked on a journey to Yellowstone National Park, driving through the breathtaking landscapes of Wyoming. Little did he know that his adventure would take an unexpected turn in Jackson, a picturesque town with a renowned Town Square. When his Volkswagen Westfalia encountered mechanical issues, Jim found himself stranded in this charming mountain town.

Rather than viewing it as a mere hiccup in his plans, Jim saw it as an opportunity for a new beginning. Entranced by Jackson's beauty, the warmth of its people, and the vibrant community spirit, Jim made a life-altering decision a few years later. He bid farewell to his successful corporate career in aeronautics at Boeing in Seattle, Washington, and decided to put down roots in Jackson with his family.



Jim, his wife, Safaa, and their 8-month-old son Sadek moved to Jackson with humble beginnings, and opened a small seasonal Mexican restaurant called Pedro's. As their love for the community grew, so did their entrepreneurial spirit with an expansion into retail with A Touch of Class in 1983 and commercial development in the 1990s. Thirty-five years later, their dream of opening Hotel Jackson, a luxurious Forbes Four Star retreat on the Town Square, became a reality, leaving an indelible mark on the town's landscape. Opened in 2015, after 10 years of design development and construction this exquisite establishment is also home to FIGS, an award-winning Lebanese-inspired restaurant and beloved culinary gem among visitors and locals alike. For the Darwiches Hotel Jackson was an investment in downtown Jackson and the businesses that that have supported their family for so many years.

All along the way, Jim felt a strong commitment to his community, his employees, and the abundance that the valley has provided. As such, Jim wanted to give back. He was an active member of the Lions Club, starting the

now ever-present Flag Days which can be seen all around the town every federal holiday, and eventually served as a district president. Subsequently he spearheaded and co-founded the Jackson Hole Farmer's Market on the Town Square and was elected a Teton County Commissioner in a landslide election in 2002.

The Darwiche's efforts have not gone unnoticed. The family was honored as one of the recipients of the prestigious Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce Power of Place award, acknowledging their steadfast dedication to the vitality of Jackson Hole. Jim's involvement as county commissioner further underscores their commitment to fostering community growth and development.

Today, the Darwiche family's legacy continues to thrive, as they remain dedicated to nurturing a diverse and thriving community in Jackson Hole pursuing projects that they believe in regardless of the difficulty. Their story serves as an inspiration to all who believe in the power of following your dreams and making a positive impact on your community and the world around you.