

Stephanie Alkhafaji

Director of Marketing & Communications at Tada Cognitive Solutions

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This is Stephanie Alkhafaji's advice for anyone considering moving to Peoria: "Do it. If you decide to move to a community, commit yourself to becoming a part of it. Familiarize yourself with the nonprofits and the populations they serve. Patronize the small local businesses. It's so much more fun to go there and know the owner."

Alkhafaji was born and raised in Peoria, and returned home after receiving her Bachelors from EIU and her Masters from Ball State University. She met her husband, Laith, here and they have a seven month old son, Van. Alkhafaji works at Tada Cognitive Solutions as the Director of Marketing & Communications.

"There's a lot of opportunities for young professionals. Whether it's corporate or entrepreneurial. There are a lot of systems in place to help people network. I'm sure you could find those in Chicago but it's a lot easier to tap into them here," said Alkhafaji.