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Why did you become a business owner and what significant factors led you?

I am not unlike most women that dream of being a mother someday. Once I was married it didn't take much time before we were expecting. With the loss of 2 biological children we realized a family would not come to us through biological children and we turned to adoption.

After bringing our first child home and experiencing a wonderful relationship with her birth mother I dreamed of helping others become parents. And, I wanted to help other to-be mothers get through the adoption experience and embrace all it can offer.

Today I am the Founder/Director of a non-profit child placing agency and referral program. I help Expectant mothers gain the knowledge they need to make a decision about adoption. I work with families daily who are hoping to build their families through adoption. I help them through the emotional part of waiting for a child to call their own!

I am now the mother of three beautiful children which has been my Dream. Through my business I talk to, encourage and help women seeking to become mothers just as I was and helping them find adoption as the means to fulfill that dream!

What prepared you (or didn't!) for business ownership?

My passion for adoption prepared me to do as much as I have done. Having a wonderful open adoption relationship with the birth parents of my children gave me the insight to work more effectively with mothers that come to us.

What or who inspired you?

The Expectant mothers, Adoptive families and the children through adoption all inspire me. Wanting to see more open adoptions and sharing of the lives of the children we all love was a huge inspiration to me as well.

What do you enjoy most about business ownership?

I enjoy most that I can put my family first and work around the kid's schedules and activities! I love that my children are being raised to see me as mom and I am there for them always. And, I have a business to show them the important of self.

What surprised you most?

I know this is going to sound funny but I was most surprised (and still am) that people see me as "The Boss."

Who or what keeps you motivated?

Several things...

- the call from the Expectant mother who is thinking she wants to make an adoption plan but doesn't really know what to expect.
- Talking with her about what the adoption process would look like, how she could meet families and have an open adoption.

- Helping her become aware of what's involved emotionally with both choices – parenting or adoption planning.
- Working with a couple who desires to be parents through their home study process, making the call to them that a mother is considering them, making the call that they are selected and being there when the Birth mother lovingly places the baby in the arms of the couple she has selected to parent.
- Having my own daughter tell me how glad she is to know her birth mother. Seeing relationships build between the birth parent(s) and adoptive family.

What advice do you have for women considering or in the beginning stages of ownership?

If a woman has a thought about designing something, changing something in the world, supporting others who have needs or running a business they should act on it. Whatever the thought, it was there and you felt strongly about what could happen if you acted on it. It might have been a passing thought because you followed it with “nahhhh – I couldn't do that.” If you gave more time to it, took out a spiral binder and started writing down the thoughts and desires, what could happen then? Writing down what is running through your head will allow you to think further and taking action is a progression in the forward direction. Don't organize anything to begin with; just get it out on paper so your mind will have more room to store new information!!! (hee hee) You will be amazed at how allowing those creative thoughts to come out on paper will advance other thoughts and ideas to further your journey. You will soon have two or three pages of thoughts, ideas and avenues to pursue. Remember, random thoughts and ideas; do not try to think anything through at this stage.

My first three spiral notebooks had writing in the margins, on the headers, in between lines and squeezed in every place. I would put them down for a few days and then when I would read over them new ideas and thoughts came so I wrote those down also.

Once you have written down what you want to achieve then start another list of what you will need to accomplish these things. What people would you need to contact? Do you need supplies? Will you need time? Money? If you find you are becoming overwhelmed with thoughts, put it down but only for a day (if you can wait that long). Close the book. Don't allow yourself to fall into Fear because too many thoughts are coming at you too quickly. That can happen. You'll open your mind to progression and it explodes with ideas. Take a break (not a vacation!) and allow things to absorb where you are. It is down in black and white so you can come back to it!

Here are some easy ways to focus:

- a) Do a title page – Name the thing you want to accomplish at the top.
- b) Write a mission statement – what is the outcome goal of what you want to have, develop, change or become.
- c) Who will this effect or help?
- d) Break everything down into categories and work at developing a more detailed plan for each category.
- e) Set time line goals that are reachable.
- f) Sit down and talk to other woman who has achieved success – go over your “journal”, title page, mission and goals with them.

As you further yourself in the progression of success don't be surprised if your notebook grows and grows. Or heck, you may even need to purchase another notebook or even two. I found myself going through one note book and organizing the thoughts from that one into another. This really helps me to figure out where the journey is going and what to pursue next.

Always research the area of business you are seeking to enter. Interview others in that business or similar businesses. Don't take on ALL the responsibility yourself. Make sure you delegate some of the work so you don't get burned out or overwhelmed.