

# final thoughts... from Paula

From Widow To Winner is interested in partnering with other agencies that are passionate and proactive in making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable. In 2012, more than 23,000 children in Foster Care aged out of the system. They have no family to support them, no education, no skills, no medical care, no housing. They are being set up for failure; resorting to drugs, gangs, being exploited through sex trafficking, prison or death...the alarm has sounded and we must RESPOND!

There are many opportunities in life to do good, to do right, to advocate justice and fair treatment; for our most vulnerable population of children and women. These people can be taken advantage of and abused in the most egregious ways. Sometimes those precious opportunities to do good are passed over and a life is lost. A young girl is exposed to wickedness that is indescribable. A teenage boy is abandoned because the young Mother just can't handle him anymore. A young adult entering society without any skills or family support is feeling a sense of hopelessness and considers suicide. A widow cries in the wee hours of night, "I miss him so"! We hear the alarm ringing all around us. Don't ignore the sounds directing you to seek justice, do good, to encourage, and be an advocate for orphans and

widows. Our orphans, our emancipated youth, and widows are valuable treasures that are being overlooked. Our society must wake up to the sound of the alarm on their behalf and do right, do justice, be advocates for the most vulnerable.

**Join From Widow To Winner on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Ronald Reagan Park in Anaheim Hills, CA from 9am-2pm.** We are walking for justice on behalf of orphans and widows; to raise money for housing and ongoing services for our emancipated youth and **YES**, for our widows too.

**We are asking you to participate in this important cause by volunteering to help with the preparation or signing up to walk or by donating gifts and money to the cause.**



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A Quarterly Insight into the Current Issues of Orphans and Widows

## From Widow To Winner Projects International

Joyfully advocating on behalf of the Orphans and Widows

"Learn to do right! Seek justice. Encourage the oppressed, Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow". Isaiah 1:17(NIV)

coming soon >>>

### In The Next Issue

Walk-A-Thon Update  
A From Widow To Winner Story  
An Emancipated Youth Story  
Update on 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday goal for souls

From Widow To Winner Story - A Star is Born!

### The Rosal Dignadice Story

May 23, 1999 was an eventful and life changing day for two reasons. On that day my husband and I were celebrating our fourth wedding anniversary. We were so graciously invited by friends to go to San Diego, California for a short vacation that they offered to pay for! Yeah, I have some awesome friends.

That night, my hubby and I got away on our own and found a restaurant just off the beach shore. We sat along the window side that had an awesome ocean view. It was perfect. As we enjoyed our dinner which honestly I don't remember what we ate, I noticed how the stars were so bright. I began to think of my dad. As a little girl I use to look up into the stars to talk to him because my mom had told me that he was with Jesus in heaven.

God took our daddy Home leaving a young wife of 39 and four kids, three boys 11, 10 & 7 and me, just turning four.



Standing in the back: Dad, Jose Dignadice. Front: Lft to rt Mom, Rosal, Jose Jr., Joel, Jonathan and me, Rose.

I don't have many memories of him because he was going in and out of the hospital before I was even two years old. It didn't matter really because I was assured by my mom that he loved me dearly and that was enough for me. There were times, though, that I wish I had him around to talk to. In troubled times I would go outside, look for a lonesome star and pretend that my dad was on it and he could hear my every qualm.

Every time I would have my talks with dad I would look for a particular star that was bright and always seemed all alone. I later found out that it was the North Star.

So, let's get back to the restaurant for the life changing part. We were eating our dessert when I thought of looking for that lonely star to tell my dad how special this moment was. Something was different though. I said to my husband, "You know about that lone star that I look at every time I think of my dad?" "Yeah..." he said. "Well, there is a little star right next to it. Hum, I have never seen that before."

Later, that same evening, I found out that my mother had passed away... Call it coincidence or what I would like to think of as a gentle sign from God. I don't look for dad's star anymore He's too busy hanging out with mom and enjoying the presence of their Savior, Jesus Christ. Selah...

## From Widow To Winner Projects International

A Faith-Based 501©(3) Non-Profit Organization  
All Donations are Tax Deductible

Please make your generous donations today by mailing to:  
P.O. Box 12076, Jackson, MS 39216  
www.fromwidowtowinner.com

A special heartfelt thanks to our monthly supporters:  
DG4Life - Elder Ron and Josie Martin

Fulfilled4Life Ministries-Pastor Ron and Lady Redelia Fowler  
Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier-Pastor Ed and Lady Vanessa Smith  
One in Christ Ministries-Pastor David and Lady Keisha Hughes

Contact: 757-667-0056 Email: singhymnstohim@yahoo.com

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## Updates on Partnering With Other Community Outreaches

Our partnership with Dr. Kim's Foot and Medical Center and their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Shoe Drive was very successful. The drive resulted in the following:

Almost 2,000 pairs of shoes were collected and given away to people in need on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The following charities came to pick up shoes for their clients: COA (Christian Outreach in Action), Guam Communications, Wilderness Mission, St. Luke's Church, Catholic Charities and Communities Advocate Program. Seventeen years of doing good in the community. Ten energetic and cheerful volunteers responded to assist in the preparation and give-a-way of the shoes. Thank you to Gloria Dillard, Damon Bass, Jaylin Bass, Jace Bass, Darrylette Bass, Alexis Pitts, Delisa Cooper and daughters, Tori and Tatum and Paula Bass!

Thank you Dr. Kim and staff marketing director, Sarah Pickett for giving us the opportunity to help do good for others!

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...continued from page 1,  
From Widow To Winner,  
The Rose Dignadice Story

This is my mom's life verse; not because she told me, but because I think of her when I read it. I could not imagine the pain, loneliness and depression she felt when my dad passed away (she chose to never remarry), but I know first hand that many times she put all that aside because she had work to do for the Lord.

"And if you give yourself to the hungry,  
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
Then your light will rise in darkness  
And your gloom [Hebrew for "depression"] will become like midday.

And the Lord will continually guide you,  
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,  
And give strength to your bones;  
And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

Isaiah 58:10-11  
Written by: Rose Yu



Rose, with husband, Steve, daughter, Noelle and son, Seth

**Update on Souls For My 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**15 Souls to date...pray with me and come witnessing with me!**



Top  
Lft:Darrylette and Delisa  
Top Rt: Gloria Dillard



Delisa Cooper and her daughters, Tatum and Tori



Jace and Jaylin Bass



Group photo with Dr. Kim!

Calling All Walkers and Volunteers!  
Justice for Orphans & Widows

Winner's



We need you to walk for the cause of raising funds and raising awareness on behalf of orphans and widows.

Join us!!

Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 9am-2pm

at the Ronald Reagan Park at 945 S. Weir Canyon Rd., Anaheim Hills, 92880

Register online at:

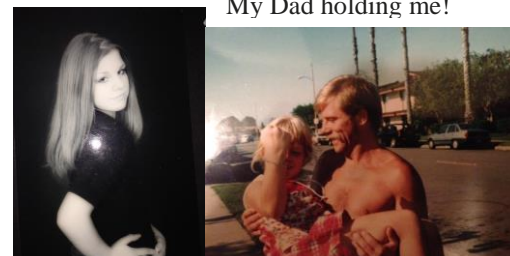
[www.fromwidowtowinner.com](http://www.fromwidowtowinner.com)

or

on site at 9am

# Let Me Tell My Story Sarah Pickett-Emancipated Youth, Pt.2

So...we pick up at Sarah's story from last quarter where her Dad opened the door and his ex-wife had a man with her that Sarah didn't know...



My Dad holding me!

I eventually fell asleep and when I woke up, my life changed. I walked into the bathroom, and my daddy was dead. The worst sight I had ever seen, at the time I didn't really understand what I saw, I didn't know what death was, after all I was only 8 years old. I remember a lot of blood everywhere the walls were covered, he was covered and he was curled up on the ground around the toilet. I quickly ran to the neighbor's place where I knew my dad's friend lived and I asked him to please come help me. He walked in and I remember him yelling out, "Oh Jesus Christ!" He quickly got me and my sisters out of there and over to his place and he called the cops. Later I found out that my father's wife brought this man over to kill my dad. He hit my dad in the back of the head with something and then they injected him with a cocktail of drugs and rat poison. This was extremely devastating for me. I felt so bad, my dad was my best friend and he was such an amazing guy. I know now that there was no one left to protect me from my stepdad. Well... fast forward about 6 years, now I am about 14 years old and in those last 6 years I was tortured by my stepdad. I remember on so many occasions he would tell me that it was all my fault that my daddy was dead. I hated him.

He would beat on me and just truly tried to destroy me as a person. I remember him taking everything I had of my fathers and burning it he made me watch him destroy every picture and every memory I had. Luckily, I kept a stash of all the letters my daddy wrote to me under my bed, I would read them every single night and he didn't know about those. The last day that I was in that home he had me pinned to the ground with a knife to my throat and told me that he hated me and wished I had never been born.

My mom walks in and screams and tells him to get off me. Well later that day I found myself being taken away to College Hospital in Cerritos, Ca where I was told I was going to be placed on a 72 hour hold for psychiatric testing. Turns out my mom and step dad lied to the police and told them I had pulled a knife out on my step dad. To make a long story short, this is where I began the process of emancipation because my mom came to see me and told me that she wanted to put me up for adoption, being that I was 14 I knew no one would want me people only adopt children I thought. Well, I asked the hospital if I can please stay there a little bit longer so I can figure my life out and find out what I can do. A nurse mentored me and helped me to get emancipated. This was a long hard process but I thank GOD every day that I made it and had the right people in my life to make it happen.

Not to mention the fact that my mom willingly gave me up, it was a little easier to get the judge to grant me my emancipation.

At 14, I was emancipated. I was a straight A student and worked full time at Boston Market. I rented a room from a family and had no choice but to grow up overnight. Today, I am 26 years old I have an amazing and loving boyfriend with an incredible family. I am a huge dog lover and I currently have 1 Boston Terrier and in the process of being approved to adopt 1 more dog who has been abused his whole life. I am a marketing director for a medical company and found a way to go to college by receiving financial aid and student loans to gain a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. I have about a year left until I graduate. I found strength in myself. I knew that I was the only person I could count on and well I made something of myself. I knew there was no time to have a pity party; I had bills to pay and a life to create. Just because we are born into a family or a certain situation by no means does that define who you become and what your possibilities are as an individual. Set your goals high and reach for the stars. Life is too short to wait for things to come your way. I still talk to my mom, I know that our relationship is never going to be that picture perfect mother/daughter relationship but I don't hold any hate or grudges in my heart. I just still thank God that I am here and didn't end up going down the wrong path.



Sarah and her boyfriend, Scott.

THE BEGINNING!