

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
522418-70079  
SECRETARY

Beth,

2005 was a year to remember for my family. As the year began we were filled with excitement and were awaiting the birth of our second child. We were busy preparing our toddler to become a big sister, and spent our weekends working on the baby's room.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we welcomed little Abbey into the world. Everything was great until my husband came home from work to tell me that he was going to be deployed to the Middle East in just a few weeks. We frantically tried to fit in some fun family time, but with a newborn and not quite 2 year old it was very hard to do. Larry left on the day before Mother's Day for a 4 month deployment. I cried all of that weekend wondering how I'd make it through these months with no family nearby and a limited support network.

The days went by quicker than I had expected. The girls kept me going all day and night long. We counted the days for daddy to come home and my dreams of sleeping through the night and feeling less overwhelmed were getting closer to becoming a reality. We welcomed daddy home in late September and enjoyed the family time together. Larry went back to work at Mac Dill in October and I soon realized that things were not any easier. I was still exhausted, overwhelmed and felt like post partum depression was taking a hold of me. The baby was now 7

months old, and things should have been getting easier but they weren't. I cried every day and would get overwhelmed by things like doing laundry, feeding the dogs, and doing dishes. I felt like I was on a verge of a breakdown one day, so I headed to the park with the kids. I thought maybe I'd meet another mommy there who I could talk to. That's the day I met Kim, my sponsor.

Before I knew it I was a consultant with Southern Living at HOME. My husband was supportive because he saw that it was the first thing I was happy about in months. I did my launch in early November and was suddenly filled with a sense of purpose and was eager to share my new business with others. I did a few parties in late 2005 and started to feel like this was what I was meant to do.

In January 2006 I attended Kickoff in Orlando. It was awesome and I came back with a feeling of excitement that I had not experienced in so long. I quickly shared my desire to earn the trip with husband, family members and customers. My excitement at my parties was infectious and before I knew it I was on track to earn my first General Incentive trip! In April I sponsored 2 new people, promoted to a star consultant and earned the general incentive trip!!

From late April through mid May my children and I took turns being sick, going to the doctors, and even making a trip to the ER for my 3 year old! In May we also found out

that my husband was not able to go on the incentive trip with me. At first I was disappointed, but then I realized that I really did need some "me" time. I was excited and a little nervous about the trip, but I was really was looking forward to not answering to calls for "mommy" for a few days.

I thought I knew what being part of Southern Living at HOME was all about until I actually went on the Incentive Trip. All this time I thought it was about earning some extra money, earning free products, and getting out of the house as a little break from the kids. Boy was I wrong!!

My time in Puerto Rico was truly amazing. I had a great roommate on the trip. She has 2 young children like myself and is a director from Georgia. We shared lots of stories about our families, our businesses, and our dreams for the future. No matter where I went or what I was doing I was greeted by smiling faces everywhere. I met so many people from all over the country who are just like me. It was then that I realized what this business is really about for me. It's about the connection with others. It's about feeling like part of a family, it's about making friendships,

sharing dreams, and empowering others to make a difference in their lives.

I got to see first hand how much can happen with Southern Living at HOME. I got to see and meet people that we all admire in this business, like Dianne Mooney, Connie Ashburn, and our own Beth Erb. I also had the opportunity to talk to Gail Pittman and got a photo with her too!! Now that was cool!

The next stop on my SLAH journey is Convention. It's just 38 days away!! I also have my sights set on promoting to Director by the end of this year. I want to grow my team by 8-10 people before the end of the year, and I want to earn the Director's Retreat in January. A few months ago I would have thought these goals were too big and unrealistic, but I've since realized that opportunities are limitless in this business. There's no other way to dream but BIG with Southern Living at HOME!!