

So, what happened to...Mariby?

I Am Mariby Corpening, aka "MadlyLiving." Having truly lived a loving life of giving, know that it had been the greatest of my life's challenges to—myself—have to ask! I will share with you that back in 2011, mid-economic recession, my spirited life of MadlyLiving, as I knew it, came to a screaming halt, leaving me with little to nothing and with little choice, but to be still. Like so many families, I'd lost my good job, my beautiful home and most devastatingly, my business—My Dream (the former MadlyLiving B&B). Never before had I experienced such an overwhelming blow on so many levels. I can tell you, that this was far beyond ego, when I found myself in the dubious position of now being the one "asking for help." *I broke down!*

STILL, in the course of it all, with loving support—My Mother's wisdom, My Daughter's youthful promise, My Good Friends' unwavering trust in me and God's familiar grace, STILL, I AM here and can *live, love* and simply *laugh*—again. I know that I am amongst the lucky because, although I had to move out of my big, beautiful house into a small apartment with—my mom; STILL, I had a warm bed to sleep in and good food in my belly; it was as if I had retreated into the protection and comfort of My Mother's womb—and like a baby, I did curl up and cry—everyday! Until one day, a friend offered me a job—at a tenth of what I used to earn and STILL, I was truly grateful! This humbling experience reminded me of just WHO I AM—forever the optimist, believing that everything (good and bad) happens for some destined reason. So, fortunately for me, I've had "time"...to grieve, to rest, to accept, to replenish, to learn...to dream again! It had been my "time" to grow, to forgive (myself), to let go and to live again! The key is that I had "time...to heal." So, despite and through it all, thankfully, I have managed to hold on to my sanity—my trust (in My God), my faith (in my purpose), my heart (for loving), my spirit (for MadlyLiving) and not so surprisingly, **MY JOY (of MadlyGiving).**

TOO MANY FAMILIES IN CRISES—It's A "Community" Problem!

Steeped in my stillness, I couldn't help but wonder about and indeed prayed for the many DISPLACED FAMILIES hit (much worse than me and my family) so unexpectedly, no matter your preparations—fortifying the future through education, certifications, hard work, long hours, double shifts, sacrifices, savings, insurances, retirement, etc.), and so unbelievably, still ending up in desperate situations. In any community, for any family, in any life, what it is to be shut out, hungry, cold, scared, betrayed, abused, uncertain of your family's future,

afraid for your children's welfare, for some, even more desperate, living in a shelter (nowhere to go), out of your car (desperate) and/or on the street (lost) AND having to ask for help (ashamed), beg with a hand out (just hungry), faced with the daunting and debilitating questions of, "*How could this happen...to me?*" But, more immediately, "*What am I going to do, NOW?*" You never imagine that this could be you!

Especially, those last several years following, in recession, we had all heard daily, the news reports of record-high foreclosures and unemployment, companies losing billions in revenue, cutting back, laying off and/or going out of business. Along with their only means and as much their pride, *too many families* not only lost their largest "for-the-future" investment (a home) in foreclosure, but also found themselves in particular need of financial, as well as, some basic-needs assistance, most often through social and other community support programs; churches, relief organizations, food pantries and shelters could not keep up with the even greater demand for vital food, clothing and shelter—now, also from the once uppered- and middled-classes—the *new wave of what it means to be "homeless."*

You can imagine that a lot of hard work, much sacrifice, many plans and many more dreams had been swept up in "*the shock of it all,*" as families seek merely to stay afloat—hold onto a job (any job), find another place to live (any place). But, like any other loss in life, it takes "time" to get past the trauma, resolve the anger, release the pain, accept the loss, in order that you somehow find the strength to "*reset your mind,*" let go of the past, hold onto your family, slowly pick up your baggage and try your hand again.

SAVING DREAMS—How Will MadlyGiving Events Help?

Never before had I been so lost, so vulnerable, effectively (perhaps necessarily) stripped down to "WHO I AM"—no longer defined by "what I do," "what I have" or "where I live." So, in my "time" of stillness, I made a proclamation that I will... AGAIN; I will LIVE AGAIN, if only that I GIVE AGAIN and ever more graciously, it will and must flow through *My Gifts*, through *My Commitments*, through advocating and fundraising events and activities in purpose-filled support for Individuals & families needing some help. My Life's Grace will be not only one of "*pampering,*" but, as importantly, one that literally and "*inherently pays it forward,*" encouraging and helping to uplift in *The Spirit of MadlyLiving & SAVING DREAMS!*

In The Spirit of Giving Forward & Saving Dreams, Inherently Doing Unto Us...All!—MadlyGiving

