

Faith, Family and Career

In Perfect Harmony

Women are experts at juggling responsibilities and setting priorities. But when your responsibilities include being an Independent Senior National Sales Director, a mom to two adorable and active young children, a committed wife, and an active member of your faith, how can harmony be achieved? With understanding, unwavering values and a supportive family, says Independent Senior National Sales Director Renee Daras from Edmonton, Alberta.

Living life as an Independent Senior National Sales Director and a committed wife and mother, Renee has woven her roles into one seamless package, but she's quick to share the secret of her success. "My husband, Chris, is truly the strong man behind the woman. He believes in me and in this Company 100 percent. He shares my belief in enriching women's lives through this opportunity, while also being committed to raising our children, Troy and Chloe, in a traditional loving home. He is the reason for my success," says Renee.

With two young children and an active and growing National Area - her second offspring, Independent National Sales Director Brenda Summach, debuted at Seminar 2002 - plus a personal goal to become an Executive National Sales Director in the next two years, how does she keep the balance?

"I don't have a magic formula," shares Renee, "but each morning I get up before my family to pray, read and reflect on the day ahead." Renee and Chris make sure family time with the children remains a focal point during mealtimes (especially at dinner), bedtime and on weekends. A true pleasure for Renee is to plan and cook a variety of international meals for her family. Weekends include bike rides, lunch in a nearby small town or long drives in the country.

By watching this picture-perfect family, you'd never know that Renee had her share of struggles along the way. At 15 she was branded a "rebel" by the school principal, told she would never amount to anything, and ordered to leave the school. Wondering what to do next, she found work at a factory, putting in incredibly long days. Eventually, she began modeling before her talents led her to a career in television advertising. There, she saw herself and other women encounter the ubiquitous "glass ceiling" in a male-dominated environment, and she was determined to break it one way or another. Renee was a single, working woman when the Mary Kay opportunity was presented to her almost 2; years ago. It was then that her life changed in ways she could have only dreamed about.

"I realized early on that this opportunity could be offered to anyone - women of all ages, races, abilities and backgrounds: All the prejudice that I had encountered in the business world didn't have to exist anymore. Once I grasped this idea, I couldn't be stopped," she says. Deeply committed to sharing the opportunity, - Renee debuted as a record-setting Canadian Independent Sales Director with 68 unit members and \$28,000 production in one month. Incredibly, in the midst of all this success, she was blessed with yet another one: meeting Chris. It was he, in the early days of their courtship, who encouraged Renee to become an Independent National Sales Director, which she did, debuting in 1994. Then more blessings came her way. In 1995, married and seven months pregnant with her son Troy, Renee became an Independent Senior National Sales Director to National Sales Director Gail Adamson. And in 1999, Chloe was born.

"My dream, as it has been for almost 25 years with this Company, is to change women's lives for the better by sharing this opportunity. And when you change a woman's life, you also change the life of her family. Mary Kay was, and is, the only opportunity that allows me to work in harmony with the principles by which I want to live my life," says Renee. "This reflects my own goal - to set an example for my children so they, too, can help make the world a better place."