



Dreaming Big

Shelby Bowman lives debt-free and dreams of giving to others.

by Alicia M. Collier

As a young mother and student, Shelby Bowman knew she needed to find employment to provide for her daughter and supplement her husband's security guard income. Inherently shy and lacking work experience, Shelby launched her It Works! business, and a year and a half later, her family is debt-free.

"Before, I saw myself working a full-time job as a nurse practitioner, but now I see I can be home with my kids and they don't have to be in daycare," Shelby gushes. Her ability to dream enables her to take risks offering the rewards she longs for.

Achieving an Education First

Shelby was 16 when she had her first daughter. A high school diploma seemed a stretch. Her husband Tycen was a security guard and national guardsman. Tycen was slated for deployment once and it was deferred, though he did serve in Afghanistan a few years later when Shelby was expecting their second child. Tycen quit his security guard job before deploying, devoting himself to fatherhood and assisting with their It Works! business full time on his return. "He had planned to be career military, but now he gets to be home and not miss a birth, a dance recital, any of those things a parent wants to be there for," Shelby says.

Growing Personally and Professionally

In addition to the steady income and security of being at home with her daughters, Shelby considers the personal growth invaluable to her and her team. "I love to see my team grow and I love watching their personal growth," Shelby says. "They were strangers, then business partners, and now they're friends!"

As Shelby's business grows, so do her financial goals. She and her husband drive cars purchased with cash and they are building their dream home.

Shelby dreams of paying forward the scholarship she received as a teenage mother. "It is so hard trying to go to school when you have a child. I'd love to set that up and give that to someone else." **SfH**

It Works! Accomplishments:

- Living free of debt
- ► Relocating from subsidized housing
- ► Driving cars purchased with cash