'California Dreamin'

Clarisa Ulloa-Martinez had what people thought was a glamorous lifestyle as a celebrity makeup artist, but it wasn't until It Works! that she could live the life of her dreams.

by Nicole Bywater

Clarisa Ulloa-Martinez had to take money out of her family's grocery budget in order to pay the \$99 she needed to start her It Works! business in June 2012, and remembers obsessing about how she was going to replace that money. She was working as a makeup artist in the L.A. area, which seemed like a glamorous job to others because she got to work with celebrities, but it was all "smoke and mirrors" she says.

Behind the Mirrors

"The truth was that we were living paycheck to paycheck, in debt and struggling to pay bills," Clarisa says. At the same time, she says she spotted a photograph of herself that had been taken by a member of the paparazzi, who was chasing one of her celebrity clients, and was surprised by what she saw. "I realized then how much weight I had gained and that I had really let myself go," she says. "I made the commitment to be holistic and healthy and that's when I found out about the wrap parties."

With some hesitation, and a lot of encouragement from her husband, Adrien, Clarisa began sharing her passion for health and It Works! with others, and has now completely changed her family's life. "The timing of the business was such a blessing, especially because six months later, I found out I was pregnant with my fourth child," says Clarisa, who reached the company's Presidential Diamond level in just 10 months. "We've now been able to move out of the two-bedroom apartment we were in and into a 3,000-square-foot house."

A Whole New World

Most importantly though, It Works! has allowed Adrien to quit his job and end the 14-hour days he used to spend away from his home and family. "He has always sacrificed for us, such as the old car he was driving that had horrible brakes and was just plain unsafe—but he didn't want to tell me because he didn't want to add to my financial stress," Clarisa says. "Since we're now debt-free, we were able to buy his Mercedes with cash. This has all been such a crazy ride and we're so grateful." **SfH**

It Works! Accomplishments:

- ► Buying a 3,000-square-foot house
- ► Becoming stay-at-home parents
- ► Paying cash for her husband's Mercedes

