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In The Trenches: Aesthetician pays it forward

Name: Michelle Borio

Age: 43

Job Title: Aesthetician at Rager's IntegraLife Spa and Skin Clinic in Fort Myers.

Why did you choose this profession?

I was involved in a motorcycle accident in 2003 that caused traumatic scarring to my face and body. A referral to Rager's IntegraLife Spa Skin Clinic offered me gratis treatments when I couldn't afford to pay. They welcomed me with open arms and the "angel" aestheticians treated me with loving care and entirely changed the condition of my face so that the scars are no longer visible.

I chose to become an aesthetician to make a difference in other people's lives because mine had been so touched.

What is it you like most about your work? Having the opportunity to become an aesthetician has been very rewarding: the interaction with clients and being able to provide services to enhance their look and knowledge of skin care.

What did you do for work before that? My previous job before becoming an aesthetician was a dispatcher for a crane company.

In the near future:

Taking advantage of the education offered through the clinic to extend my skills and knowledge

Long-term goals:

To educate preventive skin care. My reward is in seeing people gain self confidence as their appearance improves.

Hobbies, interests, activities:

Faith, family and friends, travel and the beach. And "Pay it Forward." (Basically, a philosophy that advocates thinking of an idea for world change and put it into action.)

Last book you read:

"True Faced" by Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol and John Lynch. The book is about a very real spiritual experience, involving "taking off our masks" (disguising us from others and being our genuine true selves.

Role Model:

Eric Clapton

Why Clapton?

My daughter, Brooke, died in 1999 at the age of 16 from a heart attack due to a congenital heart condition. Eric Clapton has risen above the adversity life had dealt him, the tragic sudden loss of his son, Conor and the addictions in his life through a daily spiritual experience. He has no excuses and no blame. He's honest and real. He chose to use the "Pay It Forward" philosophy to be the founder of the Crossroads Centre Antigua.

Word of advice:

Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.