

From: Goddess Gina <goddessunleashed@adelphia.net>
 To: 'info@ap.org'
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 Subject: I need your help...



Please read the following story, and decide if you can help me by publishing it for me...

Thank you so very much,

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I'm a senior at UMaine Augusta, in the Bachelor's Degree in Mental Health/Human Services program, and am conducting an informal experiment about the existence of fearless, nonjudgmental, and generous humanitarians in the 21st century.

37 ½ years of living in the state of Maine has severely skewed my opinion about the goodness of humanity as I have discovered that most people, at least up here in Maine, are too fearful for their own safety and survival that they have lost their desire to be supportive of their fellow man. Our commercialized and industrialized societies have altered our communities' focus prominently toward the acquisition of financial and material wealth rather than the acquisition of strong, healthy and mutually supportive interpersonal relationships.

Our reality has been skewed by those corporate moguls wishing to expand their own financial wealth at the demise of millions of innocent citizens. Additionally, despite our government's mission to support its people in the pursuit of "life, liberty, and justice" they fail to offer the support where it is needed – in our HOMELAND; instead, they appropriate specific sums of money to support the survival of select foreign countries, and then they contradict these actions through conquering the government of other foreign countries, for what our government calls "homeland security", through the use of violence, manipulation and murder, and then they fail miserably in providing adequate housing, medical care, food supply, and employment opportunities to their "own people" as a result of these war tactics.

Since I was 19, I have raised a daughter to become one of THE most intelligent, caring, loving, and generous human beings alive today, without any type of support or contact from her father, and in one of the poorest states in our country – Maine. This child is becoming such an amazing human being that I would not be surprised if she became a historical figure in years to come. If asked what my most significant accomplishment in my life is thus far, I would never hesitate to name my daughter as that accomplishment. Through being her mother I have learned how beautiful and miraculous Life is... and what one person can accomplish due to the depth of the love that exists between a parent and child.

Throughout the last 18.5 years, I have grappled with, and have triumphed over child abuse (being both victim and perpetrator), gross poverty, victim of parental neglect and abuse as well as monumentally destructive judgments by my closest family members, I have been battling a chronic and progressive mental illness since the age of 12 that culminated in the loss of legal custody of my daughter when she was 14, I have been a victim of domestic violence in most of my romantic relationships, suffered from emotional deterioration severe enough to necessitate social security disability benefits as well as court-ordered supervision when visiting with my daughter.

In 2001, after placing emergency phone calls to my doctor (which were ignored), I discovered that I needed to take absolute control over my life and stop letting others make decisions for me. It was at that point that I telephoned Harvard Medical Schools' Bipolar Research Program and secured a meeting with their program director, Michael Ostacher, MD. Through this meeting I was referred to a group of doctors who were directly affiliated with this Harvard program but who were located 1½ hours south of my home. As regaining custody of my daughter, and my Life, was crucial to my continued survival (well, my motivation to survive) I decided to commit to working with this new group of doctors even though it caused a financial hardship for me to travel as far as I needed, as often as I needed.

As most of our medical professionals are more concerned with alleviating symptoms rather than curing the dis-ease, I experienced a debilitating decline in all areas of my life due to over-medication by my previous medical doctor. As a result of this decline, I made poor judgments about my life and stayed in an abusive romantic relationship for 5 years. However, the length of this relationship was not fueled by fear – it was fueled by my love for this man's tenacity to live, to grow, to evolve and to love without fear. This man was also grappling with mental health issues which were caused by a severe frontal lobe brain injury resulting in his loss of anger and impulse control, inability to articulate his thoughts and feelings in a reasonably swift and logical manner, notwithstanding the physical challenges he had to overcome on a daily basis. Although this man was my abuser, he was also my Rock throughout those 5 years, and is one of my best friends today, although we are no longer a couple.

Through my relationship with this new group of doctors, and because of my inherent desire to be healthy, my yearning to be a strong female figure for my daughter, and my life goal of creating a healthier and more loving world for society's children, I changed the way that I approached the direness of my situation. I decided to become the Creator of my world – I would accept responsibility for EVERYTHING that was occurring in my life because to disown something is to declare NO POWER over that something. If I was going to make changes in all the areas of my life I realized I must OWN those problems before I can CHANGE them.

As a result of this change of thought, I began to seek therapeutic help from a local mental health therapist who has been the catalyst in my progress since 2002. Through that relationship I was able to regain legal custody of my daughter only 2 years after losing it. I was without custody of my daughter from April 26, 2002 until July 1, 2004. At the court hearing where I was exonerated, the judge made a personal comment on the record about how impressed she was at the obvious hard work I had done that had me standing before her on that day, for that reason. She asked me what I had learned through this experience, and my response was, "No matter the situation, no matter the trigger event, to always act with integrity."

I was so successful in taking charge of my mind, my thoughts, and my life, that I was able to return to college full-time, and I have secured no less than a solid B grade in the 9 semesters I have attended. Within 2 semesters of earning good grades (beginning Fall '03), positive doctors notes, but yet still no employment, the Social Security Administration deemed that I was no longer disabled, and no longer eligible for benefits. However, I still grappled everyday with the severely debilitating symptoms of Bipolar Disorder, Type II (Manic). The only difference was that I had become stronger in maintaining balance for my life and my Self.

I did not appeal SS's decision because I have never been keen on allowing my government, or my community, to support me. I have

always been capable, willing, and desiring to care for my own needs and wants. I accepted that my ineligibility for disability benefits was a sign that I was becoming stronger and more capable of caring for myself. I embraced this decision and continued to work hard at my college studies.

In the fall of 2004, I applied, and was hired, for a position working with behaviorally and emotionally troubled adolescents. These children were in a 24-hour locked, secure mental health facility where they lived, slept, and went to school. (There was no way to enter or exit this house without a key.) These children had come from severely abusive and predatory homes which resulted in the creation of a violent persona in these very sweet children. My job required me to be willing and able to physically restrain them when the circumstance required, which occurred daily. This was among the informal counseling, life skill development, and independent life skills that we were obligated to teach them. I will leave the rest to your imagination.

After working with these angels for a very short time, I realized my most successful technique for making a lasting connection was to be as authentic as our program guidelines would allow me. I maintained this position for 16 months until our program administration changed, the focus of our program changed from serving disadvantaged children to making money for the agency, and the morale of my peers deteriorated to such a depth that I was ousted for having diverse and eclectic viewpoints and unorthodox intervention strategies. I was terminated on December 19, 2005.

Seeing this termination as an opportunity for further growth and evolvment, I immediately began applying for like positions with other mental health agencies within a 100 mile radius of my home. I can show proof that I applied for 50+ jobs in this field from December through May, but only received 12 +/- interviews. Of these 12 interviews I was given the very clear impression by three (and even an outright statement by one of my interviewers) that "the job was mine", upon completion of a background check with the Department of Human Services for any Child Protective cases against me. At this point I would always alert my interviewer about the nature and current status of my own child protective case (at this point, my case was dismissed and inactive, although it was previously deemed "substantiated"). They told me that my "dismissed case should not create a problem" for my potential employment with them. Unfortunately, it appears that it WAS a problem – such a severe problem that I still have not found employment in this field.

Realizing that I was chasing a dream not yet meant to happen, I began applying for jobs in other professions. I sent out resumes for clerical positions and computer technical support positions (both of which I have 20 yrs experience) still with no positive responses. I have also applied for various retail positions such as working at gas stations, local stores, and printing companies, all of which have turned me down, or completely ignored my request. Because I was still needing to pay my bills, and provide for my own survival, I resorted to less than honorable means for making money, some of which could've gotten me arrested had I been caught. I was able to support myself, without the help of the government, until this May.

In May of this year, as a result of my constant anxiety and fear of surviving, my mental health DID decline, to such a point that I am now NOT able to pay my own bills because I am too depressed to find a job. I am now facing eviction as well as the termination of other crucial survival services (electricity, transportation to/from job seeking, etc) and can get no help from our government or my community.

Because my daughter is now 18, and living on her own, my government does not consider me a "priority" for their general assistance programs. Therefore, I can secure no assistance to keep my meager \$550/mth apartment, my \$5000 car, my minimal telephone bill or my \$50/mth electricity bill. As a result, my mental health has deteriorated to such a point that my daughter was compelled to call the Crisis Response unit in our county some weeks back. As they interviewed me for potential medical services, I told them that the only thing I needed was assistance to keep my apartment. I assured them that my medical care and my counseling needs are being attended to but my decline is a direct result of my community not helping me to maintain a safe home.

Their response was that there are no housing funds available to help people KEEP their homes; however, if I GAVE UP my home, and chose to be HOMELESS, I would be given TOP PRIORITY status for securing ANOTHER RESIDENCE. However, the ironic fact is that I already live in a subsidized housing complex that would be more than acceptable for the program they are referring me to for help. Makes one wonder, doesn't it?? They will help you get housing if you are HOMELESS, but they will not PREVENT one from BECOMING homeless!!! How does THAT work??

I have returned to Social Security asking that my case be reopened but am now being told that because I was deemed "not disabled" I now have to make a BRAND NEW APPLICATION, which also means (as most of you don't know) that a rejection and immediate appeal is imminent which will prolong the approval process, and the acquisition of those benefits. This process can, and typically does, take over 1 year to complete.

Today is Sunday July 16, 2006 and I am awaiting eviction court this Tuesday July 18, at which time I will be ordered to leave my apartment although I have no means to secure another place, nor to pay the debt I have on the place I'm in now. Hey, maybe when I get the court order I can get help as a HOMELESS person?? Whatdoyathink?? You think that'd work?? **grin**

So, why the reason for this ad?? Well, this is the deal... I need financial help.... And I need help FAST. I will list my immediate financial needs below, and if you are interested in helping at all, regardless of how much, your willingness is greatly appreciated and will not go unreciprocated.

Rent \$550/mth (currently need \$2000 to reaffirm my lease)
Electric \$100 to stop disconnection
Telephone \$250 (total overdue)
Car loan \$250 (total overdue)
Car ins. \$125 (total overdue)
Car reg. \$150 (overdue since May)

Those are my imminent bills. Are you able to help with any of them?? I don't know how I would reciprocate, or repay you, but I would like to speak with you about whatever possibilities you may have thought of.

If you can, and want to help, you can send your gift to me through my pay pal account, which can be found at goddessunleashed@adelphia.net. Or if you wish, you can send me an email and I will give you information for a western union transfer.

I also am looking to establish friendships with those of you who have such a great heart that you are actually considering helping me. People such as you are those who keep my faith strong and hopeful.

Thank you for reading my story, and I hope your life is full of beauty, love and joy.

Gina