



## **PARIS' PURSE INC.**

### **MY STORY**

**On April 6, 2017 Paris' Purse celebrated it's one year anniversary. As I think back on the birth of this nonprofit that is so dear to my heart, I'd like to share with you how it all came to be. For over 28 years I have been a Licensed Beauty Professional. Since I was a child it was the only thing that I wanted to do. I guess it's in my blood. My grandfather, his sister, my uncle, two aunts, five of my cousins, and my sister all have worked in the industry. I finished Beauty College at 17**



years old, and headed to college where I received a degree in Applied Science. This degree was suppose to be my back up plan, but after a short stint working as a X-ray Technician, I realized that I needed to work in the field that I truly loved. I quickly transitioned back into the salon full time, and I knew that this is where I would spend the rest of my working days. The smell of products, the friendly chatter, the beautiful smiles that appeared once my clients saw the finished product, and being able to listen and encourage my fellow sisters were all the things I relished.

In 2009 it all came to a sudden halt! While working as a Cosmetology Instructor for Elkhart Area Career Center, I began experiencing numbness in my right foot. I went to my doctor for a different exam, and I mentioned the issue to her. Naturally, she was very concerned. I later discovered that she thought that the numbness might be a symptom of MS. After being referred to a neurologist and going to Mayo Clinic, no one could diagnose my condition. To make things worse, I began experiencing numbness in other areas of my body, and also migrating pain. After many test I was diagnosed with two chronic diseases, Ankylosing Spondylitis and



**Fibromyalgia. After months of being ill, I had to resigned from my position.**

**In 2016 I began desiring to do something for others. I needed something to help take my focus off of my illnesses. Dealing with a chronic disease can be both life altering, and depressing.**

**In 2016 I started reminiscing about the feelings that I received from every satisfied client. I also thought about the many women that I had previously met in the homeless shelters while volunteering in both the salon and kitchen. I remembered how great this made me feel, and how happy they were to receive what little I had to offer. My career had been spent working with women, listening to women, uplifting women, and making them look and feel good about themselves. As I reviewed my life, I recalled the many trials that God had helped my family and I endure, and how so many people had came to our aid in our difficult times. I decided that I would pour into these women a small portion of what had been given me. I wanted to empower, encourage and embrace them.**

**My desires and thoughts culminated to birth "Paris' Purse Inc." Instead of standing behind the chair, I would stand infront and give purses, health/beauty products, and encouraging**

**messages to uplift my fellow sisters, and show God's love.**

**Since starting in April 2016, we have worked with Hannah's House, Faith Misson, Spa Ministries, Hope Ministries, Center For Homeless The Safe Shelter and the YWCA in both Elkhart, IN and South Bend, IN. We have gifted over 160 women with purses and health/beauty products last year, and plan to reach a total of 400 this year. Our Advisory Board is in place, and we have recently been approved for 501c3 nonprofit status! None of this would be possible if it wasn't for God's Grace, my Advisory Board, my husband Gabriel (President of Paris' Purse Inc.) and my two children, Paris and Conner. I sincerely want to thank each and every Donor. You all are the ones sowing a seed into every woman that is reached by Paris' Purse. It is amazing how whenever the supplies run low, someone steps in and gives us more. We were recently able to deliver over 200 purses for Mother's Day!**

**New/gently used purses, health/beauty products, purse supplies, and monetary donations are always needed, and appreciated. Paris' Purse is always looking for organizations/salons/groups/individuals to partner with. You can stay connected with us by following us on:**

**Facebook and Instagram. @ ( Paris' Purse Inc.) To give tax deductible donations please contact us:**

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