

My quote is: "You will never leave where you are,  
until you decide where you want to be."

Dexter Yager

The first time I was faced with this crossroad, I was the young mother of a 4 month old. I had dropped out of college the previous year to work and to have my baby. There were times my husband and I did not have enough to eat. We knew our future depended on finishing our education. Some family and friends thought I should either be working or staying at home with my baby. I decided I would graduate from college! It was not easy juggling both books and a baby, but I finished two years later.

I was devastated when our marriage of 25 years broke up. I dropped down to 89 lbs. I was lost, without a roadmap. I could not see a future for myself, without my high school sweetheart. Eventually, I decided that life could be beautiful and was worth living. I chose to make a new life for myself.

I got a job as the assistant to the office manager of a large, Houston real estate firm. This sparked my interest in real estate. I received my license in 1995 and was named the "Rookie of the Year" for that same firm.

The greatest crisis of my life occurred on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1991. I was called about 7:30 in the evening and told my parents had been found dead.

Time stood still. I remember where I was, what I said, even what I was wearing. My beautiful, sweet, and loving mother had become a victim of family violence. After weeks of shock and grief, my sister and I decided to forgive and move forward with the handling of their affairs.

We gave away much of their furnishings and all of mothers clothing to a local women's shelter. Since that event, I have spoken to others about the aftermath of family violence. I have volunteered at our local shelter and given money to raise awareness of this insidious reality in our society.

Our Bay Area chapter recently had a very successful suit drive for women in the shelter. They were thrilled to receive the gently worn, clean clothing, and other items for their "career closet". My only problem was keeping our chapter members from "shopping" among the donated items.

Our decisions shape our lives and the lives of others. The world is facing some of mankind's greatest challenges. We, as incoming LCP's have a unique opportunity to encourage our members to move out of their comfort zone and decide to make a difference. I ask you, where do you want to be?