

9/11 survivor rescued again...thanks to Bin Laden's death

DAILY STAR EXCLUSIVE

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THE woman dubbed the "Dust Lady" who was famously pictured fleeing the Twin Towers on 9/11 has told how she has got her family back after ten years of hell.

As Marcy Borders escaped from her 81st-floor Bank of America office, she was caught on camera covered in debris from the New York atrocity.

But her struggle to survive the carnage and stagger five miles home was the start of ten years of hell.

Her life fell apart in a haze of booze and crack cocaine and her two children were eventually taken away.

But amazingly she said it was last month's killing of Osama bin Laden that helped her recover.

Today Marcy, 38, is clean and has got back her daughter Noelle, 18, and son Zay-den, three, and is looking forward to their new life together after her ten years of torment.

She told how she was in a drugs rehab centre in New Jersey when she heard the news Bin Laden had been killed during the US raid on his Pakistan hideout.

She said: "The death of Bin Laden helped focus my recovery. I used to lose sleep over him and have bad dreams about him bombing my house but now I have peace of mind. On May 1 word went round the centre, 'They got Bin Laden'.

"Staff were aware of my 9/11 experience and my counsellor confirmed the news. I just sighed and said, 'Oh my God'. The next day in a group treatment it hit me. I was saved."

Marcy was just a month into her new job at the bank and was sorting out her desk after getting in late when the plane hit. She was convinced she would die but somehow managed to escape the horror.

But in the aftermath she began to hit the bottle and started smoking crack. She didn't look after herself properly and lost almost six stone in just six months.

Marcy added: "My life was over. I couldn't handle it and



BRAVE:
The iconic picture of Marcy staggering out of the World Trade Center after the terrorist attack, below. Inset left, she is reunited with her son Zay-den

MISSION OF MARCY

didn't want to live. I was out of control. I didn't do a day's work in nearly ten years.

"I was convinced Bin Laden was planning more attacks and every time I saw a plane I panicked."

Despite her paranoia, Marcy kept the dusty clothes she was wearing on 9/11 in a plastic bag hidden behind the sofa in her apartment.

She revealed: "You can still smell the fire - it makes me sick but I just have to keep them."

Eventually she could not pay the bills or look after her children who ended up being taken away from her to live with relatives.

"I was trying to kill myself with drugs, pills, crack, anything I could get my hands on," she said.

"Alcohol would make me numb and forget about being trapped in the tower and looking at that photograph. I knew I'd be dead in weeks unless I did something."

Finally on April 23 this year she got a place in rehab at the state-run Sunrise House Foundation in Lafayette, New Jersey.

She was desperate to get clean and have her kids back and spent 16 hours a day in lectures and meetings.

She left on May 20 after her 28 days of rehab and is back at her New Jersey apartment with partner Donald Edwards, 46, who has been with her for 13 years.

She said: "He's been through it all with me. The last few weeks have been the best. I got my family back and the anniversary gives me no fear."

"Now when I look at that famous Dust Lady photo it reminds me how lucky I am and that I'm around to see my kids grow up."

"This is a new beginning for all of us."



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