

Story of survival Southwest Ranches woman details in her book her story of overcoming struggles

By **SCOTT FISHMAN**
Staff Writer

Gigi Stetler has had to recover from several serious setbacks to get to where she is today.

She's detailed her story in "UNSTOPPABLE! Surviving is Just the Beginning," which is in its third printing.

The Southwest Ranches resident's RV dealerships were grossing millions a year until she said a competitor decimated her mom-and-pop operation a few years ago. The months that followed left her in near ruin. However, the savvy single mom was able to rebound with RV Sales of Broward.

"I was on top of the world but was knocked off the ladder," she said. "I might have been down, but I wasn't out. We will probably gross more than a million and a half this year compared to 2009, when we had

zero."

That pales in comparison to the day Stetler was repeatedly stabbed by a man she allowed to stay at the apartment building she owned in exchange for painting services.

"He went crazy one day and was seen drunk throwing beer bottles off the roof at cars going by," she said. "The manager I had at the time tried to calm him down. I went to the property and talked him down. He was angry. I went to the manager's office to call the police. As I was doing this, he came in the door and attacked me. He stabbed me 21 times. He thought I was dead. ... That is the only reason he left. The police found him walking down the street with the knife and my blood."

Stetler, who also has been a domestic violence victim, said that people often told her that she should write a book.

"There were so many things that have happened in my life through the years," she said. "... I didn't grow up in the friendliest environment. I didn't want to publish it initially because my mother is alive, and I didn't want people to

judge her or be angry with her. ... I put it out there because I wanted people to know I wouldn't be the woman I am today without tough love and these experiences I have had in my life."

The avid equestrian has branded her name in other ventures, including Riding Gigi Style custom sheets and RV bedding, as well as My Perfect Bones, a line of natural supplements for animals and people. Stetler also is a motivational speaker.

"Your life is not over because you made a mistake. The same thing with battered women or abused women, as there isn't anything that hasn't happened to me in my life," she said. "... I have left many abusive relationships, both in business and personally. What I like to teach is a certain attitude because with that attitude, you can get through anything. The way I look at life is any day above ground is a good day."

For more information, visit www.gigistetler.com.

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Southwest Ranches resident Gigi Stetler's book, "UNSTOP-PABLE! Surviving is Just the Beginning," is in its third printing.