

Gwen Boyd Moss

**Author, Speaker, TV Personality
& Mental Health Advocate**

Who Is Gwen Boyd Moss?



Gwen Boyd Moss is a mother of 3, Justin (Jo Jo), Damon and Brandon. Inspired by her personal experience with her oldest son Justin, who was diagnosed with Autism at age 3 and Schizophrenia at age 14, she decided to create a series of children's books centered on the characteristics of children with special needs to assist their peers in understanding their developmental differences and encourage friendships. My Big Brother Jo Jo & His Friend Schizophrenia is the first book release to the series "My Special Friend."

A motivational speaker, it is her desire and passion to continue to bring awareness and inspire hope. She understands the despair that is felt when you receive any diagnosis for your child, and how this can affect everyone in direct connection with the child. She believes that you cannot let the diagnosis and statistics determine how far your child can go, but that you must BUILD on the gifts that your child may have!!!

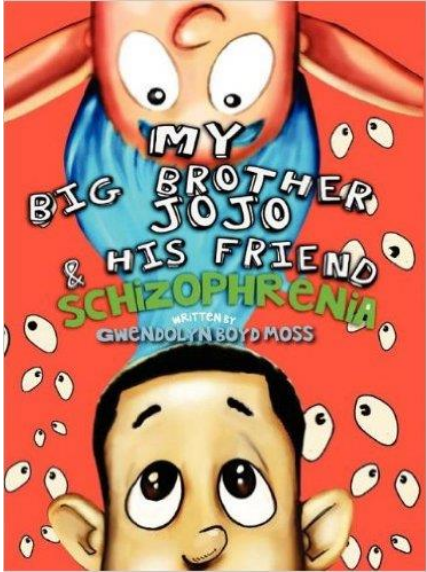
Gwen's personal journey has been one of triumph and struggle. She is a professional licensed Realtor of 16 years in Georgia, and has now added to her resume Reality TV personality. She is featured as a main character on the WeTV Reality Series which premiered on November 5, 2015, "Selling In The ATL – and has been seen on a slew of Morning TV Segments, mainstream media inc. Forbes.com & AJC.com & more.

She recently launched her non profit organization to further her mission called My Special Friendz
(<http://myspecialfriendz.org/>)

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What is the My Special Friend Book Series?

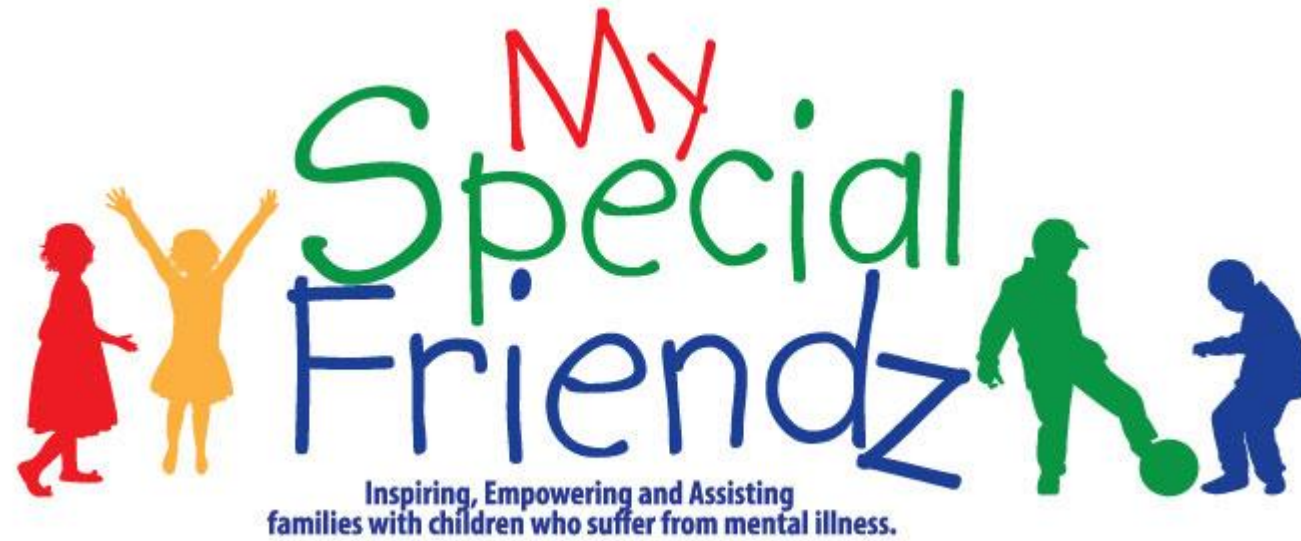


This 'My Special Friend' children's book series & the the first release available now 'My Brother Jo Jo and his Friend Schizophrenia' are fun teachable tools for younger children and siblings to learn about the developmental differences of their peers. It delightfully and delicately gives a descriptive depiction of a young boy diagnosed with schizophrenia and the love, understanding and support shown by his younger brothers. The book has had an overwhelmingly positive reception and 2016 will see the remaining titles; Mr. Autism Can Andrew Come Play, The Bipolar Bandit Has Captured Ben and Angelina & The ADHD Fairy released on a national and international timeline.

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What is the Special FriendZ organization?



My Special FriendZ seeks to inspire, empower and assist families who suffer from mental illness or disabilities. By providing these families with support tools that can better equip them to deal with the challenges that can arise from parenting these special children. We also seek to provide opportunity for these children to flourish in society by creating programs that are supportive of their special needs. Visit <http://myspecialfriendz.org/>.

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Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

January 11, 2016

Forbes / Media & Entertainment

The Little Black Book of Billionaire Secrets

JAN 11, 2016 @ 05:26 PM 634 VIEWS

Gwen Boyd Moss Uses Reality TV Platform For Mental Illness Advocacy And Children's Books Promotion



Seamus Kirst
CONTRIBUTOR

I write about TV, from ratings to cultural representations.

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FULL BIO >

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.



Gwen Boyd Moss with her three sons. (Credit: Gwen Boyd Moss)



Gwen Boyd Moss featured on the esteemed Forbes.com Media & Entertainment section for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's'; Selling It In The Atl

View Full Article:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/seamusfirst/2016/01/11/gwen-boyd-moss-uses-reality-tv-platform-to-promote-her-mental-illness-advocacy-childrens-books/#69fef637b3dd>

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Gwen Boyd Moss Celebrity Profile



Celebrity Stylist & TV personality Derek Warburton celebrated the Winter 2016 LAPALME Magazine Cover at Downtown LA hotspot Continental Club, alongside cover star AnnaLynne McCord and star of WE tv's Selling It In The ATL Gwen Boyd Moss.

Hottest Celeb Pics This Week
NaN shares
By OK! Staff
Follow Email me

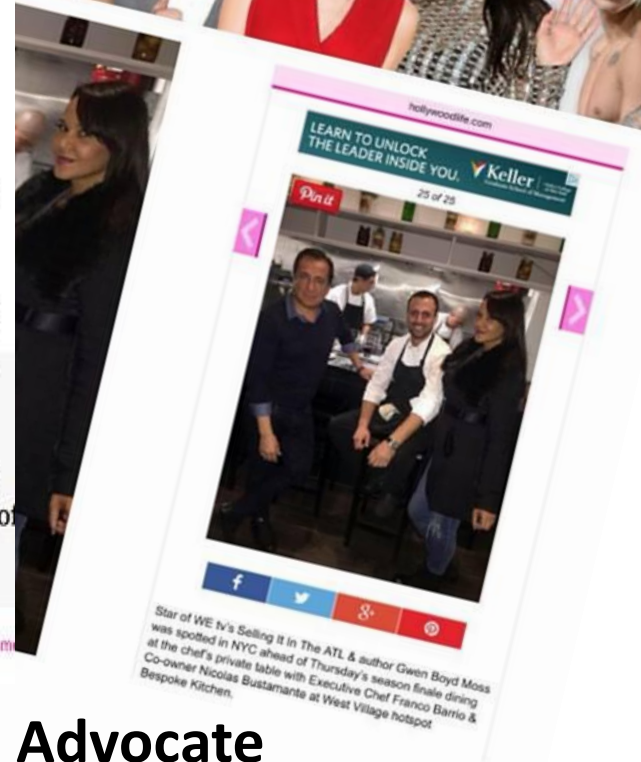


Hottest Celebrity Pics This Week Of Feb. 08-14: Kate Middleton & More

WEtv Selling It In The Atl star Gwen Boyd Moss at Buca Di Beppo in Times Square, NYC having her hand prints cast for the restaurant's Celebrity Wall of Fame. (Photo credit: Brice Glikas/Buca di Beppo)

19 of 20

1 Comment



Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



November 9, 2015

Daytime TV (National)

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on set, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aum4y4t3mgc>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



November 2, 2015

11 Alive NBC 'Atl & CO'

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on set, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuwlj2leO9E>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



November 13, 2015

Good Day Charlotte

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on set, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO2d205-lbU>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



November 24, 2015

FOX 45 Dayton, OHIO

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on set, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py_rRcoTi40

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



November 25, 2015

Indy Style Wish TV Indianapolis

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on set, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DFHkYmu6xw>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



Dcember 17, 2015

News 12 (Bronx))

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on location, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnYQX1MJzFo>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



January 8, 2016

San Diego Living CW 6

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on location, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<http://www.cw6sandiego.com/using-reality-tv-to-raise-autism-awareness/>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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TV Appearances



February 7, 2016

ABC 7 NY Here & Now

Gwen Boyd Moss chats on location, her book, WeTV's #SellingItInTheAtl & mental health advocacy

View Full Segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPptpHNu8O8>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

Press Kit March 2016

Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

Cumming mother uses reality TV to raise awareness about autism

LIFESTYLES By Gracie Bonds Staples - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Posted: 5:21 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015



Highlights



On a recent Friday morning JoJo and his brothers were away at school, which meant, except for a brief protest from the Moss family morkie Bentley, the house sat still and quiet.

A mother of three boys couldn't buy this kind of peace. She earns it little by little as they grow up and learn to fend for themselves until finally they empty the nest.

That won't likely happen for Gwen Boyd Moss of Cumming. You see, not only does JoJo have autism, he suffers from **schizophrenia, a severe brain** disorder that disrupts normal thoughts, speech and behavior.

JoJo is 20 and can't stand to hear loud noises, prefers smooth textures on his plate and sometimes still hears voices. Some of them nice. Some as mean as the devil and just as dangerous.

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November 3, 2015

Gwen Boyd Moss featured on AJC.com and in the print edition for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's'; Selling It In The Atl

View Full Article:

<http://www.myajc.com/news/lifestyles/cumming-mother-uses-reality-tv-to-raise-awareness-/npDzz/>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

Press Kit March 2016



"Selling it in the ATL" Star Gwen Boyd Moss
Talks Being a Reality Star and Dealing with
Son's Mental Health

By Britni Moore | November 13th, 2015 | Entertainment, Life +
Culture | 0 Comments



Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

Gwendolyn Boyd Moss has come back into the real estate industry again with FULL FORCE. Star of We TV's new reality tv series " *Selling It In The Atl*," Gwen talks being a new celebrity, a real estate mogul, and a mother raising a child with mental health concerns. Creator of a series of children's books centered on the characteristics of children with special needs, Gwen is using her new platform in some of the best possible ways.

Tell us about the show, and your current role.

So basically it's a reality show that highlights seven really diverse women in the real estate industry. We are all working different areas of town, some are investors, some work with athletes and entertainers. Where I come into play on *Selling It In The Atl*, I rejoined the real estate industry after three years not working due to a traumatic event. So since this is considered my return, they have labeled me the "come back ". I've pretty much been in the business longer than all of the other girls, Close to 16 years. They labeled me the 'Grandma Gwen' on the first episode. Haha! Of course I am not a grandma, but I am one of the more seasoned on the show, with a very high clientele.

November 13, 2015

Gwen Boyd Moss featured on SheenMagazine.com for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's'; *Selling It In The Atl*

View Full Article:

<http://www.sheenmagazine.com/selling-it-in-the-atl-star-gwen-boyd-moss-talks-being-a-reality-star-and-dealing-with-sons-mental-health/>

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

Press Kit March 2016

Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

Mother pens books about child's disabilities

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

As society makes strides for inclusivity we have seen Disney princesses of every race, films featuring gay parents, and wheelchair-bound kids in catalogs.

But when is the last time you saw a children's book featuring a main character with a severe mental disability?

Gwendolyn Boyd Moss, a Bronx-born and bred mother of three, real estate agent, and mental health advocate couldn't find any, so she wrote one herself.

After her son Justin (aka Jo Jo), was diagnosed with autism at age 3, and later schizophrenia at 14, Moss saw that he struggled to build relationships with other children, and was often the victim of bullying.

The Soundview mom wanted to develop a teachable tool that could be used to start a conversation with youngsters about their peer's suffering from mental disorders.

"It's a fun descriptive tool, parents can sit down and talk about the characteristics, and this way if a child throws a chair in the middle of class, or

doesn't look others in the eye, the other kids can know that it is because of a disability, and they can embrace their peer and prevent bullying when they get older," said Moss.

She mentions that one out of every 68 children is being diagnosed with autism today, and called it "an epidemic".

"We need to stop sugar coating it and really embrace what's going on," says Moss.

Moss' book 'My Big Brother Jo Jo & His Friend Schizophrenia' is written from the point of view of Jo Jo's younger brother, and is the first text of her four-part 'My Special Friend' series.

Other titles include 'Mr. Autism', 'The Bipolar Bandit', and 'Angela and the ADHD Fairy' which all delicately break down the characteristics of each disability for small kids to understand.

On a larger scale Moss believes that society needs to do more for the mentally disabled.

"We talk about it taking a village to raise a child but to me that village is our nation," said Moss. "We can't wait until we have a situation where

kids are shooting up a theater and then ask 'where are the parents?' when the fact is there are few services.

"We talk about it when it's in the public eye, or when something is in the news, or during election time, but then it's disregarded. It's important that people educate themselves, there's a lot of judgement out there," she said.

Moss says creating funding and services for afflicted children is vital so that they can access early intervention resources as well as facilities if need be.

"Some facilities only take private insurances and that leads to a child being in and out of facilities so then they regress," said Moss.

Jo Jo spent three years in facilities on and off, although it was not what Moss wanted at the time.

Jo Jo turned 21 on December 27. It's been a long journey, but today Jo Jo functions at a third grade level.

He's very sociable (an unexpected trait for his diagnosis), he loves to dance, and he manages his basketball team. He's well known and well loved by



Gwendolyn Boyd Moss holding her book 'My Big Brother Jo Jo & His Friend Schizophrenia' a children's book which aims to promote understanding about mental disability.
Photo Courtesy of Gwen Moss

those around him - his school even had a parade for him after he returned from post-brain surgery.

Moss appears on the new

show, 'Selling It: In the ATL', a WeTV show based in Atlanta which shows her juggle life as a single mom, career woman, and mental health advocate.

January 1, 2016

Gwen Boyd Moss featured in Bronx Times for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's 'Selling It In The ATL'

Author, Speaker, TV Personality & Mental Health Advocate

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Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

March, 2016

Gwen Boyd Moss featured on the March 2016 Cover of STS Entertainment & Fashion Magazine for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's 'Selling It In The Atl'.

View Full Article:

<http://www.flipsnack.com/stsbranding/sts-entertainment-fashion-magazine-march-2016.html?b=1>



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Make an Impact

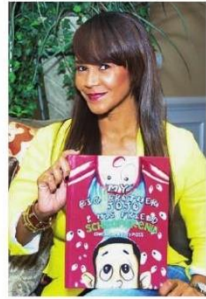
Every day, our world becomes more tightly interconnected. And it's true that what you put out, you get back. These inspiring women prove it is possible to connect with others and make a positive difference in their lives.

By Vanessa Coppes



KIRSTEN DICKERSON | RAVEN + LILY

Kirsten Dickerson is synonymous with social business and ethical fashion. Before starting her company Raven + Lily, Dickerson's career was divided between her passions for social justice and fashion. Dickerson founded Raven + Lily to alleviate poverty among women. Currently her company helps employ more than 1,500 marginalized women at fair-trade wages. This gives them access to a safe job, a sustainable income, health care, education, and a real chance to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families. Raven + Lily is committed to providing products that are made by hand, follow fair-trade standards, and honor the company's eco-friendly commitment. RavenAndLily.com



GWENDOLYN BOYD MOSS MY SPECIAL FRIENDS

You may have seen Gwendolyn Boyd Moss on WE TV's "Selling It: In the ATL." Boyd is also a real estate agent, author, and single mother of three boys: Justin (Jo Jo), Damon, and Brandon. At the age of 3, her oldest son Justin was diagnosed with autism, and when he turned 14, with schizophrenia. Inspired by personal experience, her new book, "My Big Brother Jo Jo & His Friend Schizophrenia," sheds light on the subject. What's more, Boyd decided to create a whole series of children's books centered on the characteristics of children with special needs, with the goal of assisting their peers in understanding developmental differences and encouraging friendships. "Not only do I want to bring awareness to these conditions, but I want to take action. It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a nation to provide services to get help needed for these children," she explains.

"My Big Brother Jo Jo & His Friend Schizophrenia" is the first release in the "My Special Friends" series. Boyd works with Autism Speaks and is launching MySpecialFriends.org this year.



JESSICA FELDMAN MASHKEVICH | KONA BENELLIE

Jessica Mashkevich created Kona Benellie Designs, makers of the Throwbee Blanket Poncho and OmniRobe Bathrobe, in 2010 with only a pair of scissors and a desire to improve lives through comfort. Mashkevich entered the world of innovation, manufacturing, distribution, and retail on a shoestring budget, while managing her family and a full-time job. With much determination, she brought her products to the public. In the spring of 2014, Mashkevich visited a local animal shelter and noticed the dogs had very little to bring them comfort and security. After discovering that blankets are atop shelter wish lists nationwide, she knew that this was where she could help make a difference. For every blanket sold through KonaBenellie.com, another blanket is donated to a shelter dog. KonaBenellie.com

Print, Radio Spots & Online Features

March / April 2016 Issue

Gwen Boyd Moss featured in the March 2016 Issue of Bella NYC Mag w Kristin Cavallari on Cover for her advocacy, her book series and her starring role on WeTV's'; Selling It In The Atl.



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