

*Mara's tie-dye creations capture the joys of being a child.*



At the end of the program, Mara was asked to do a window display of her products at Capilano Mall. She

was then nominated for the 'Manufacturer of the Year' award through the self-employment program. Disappointed when she didn't win, Mara was astounded when she was called up for the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award instead.

Mara's triumph as a fledgling entrepreneur came despite a year of troubles that included the end of her relationship with her daughter's father and two deaths in her family. But Mara has had to overcome a great deal throughout her life. Her mother died when she was quite young, and she was placed in a foster home in her teens. Despite the challenges before her, Mara always followed her heart and used her head.

Discovering an early calling for photography, Mara took courses, bought books, and trained herself. After "shooting" the high-school annual book, she did weddings and for a time worked with one of the school-based companies, taking up to 500 pictures a day, allotting each subject about 30 seconds. When an unexpected pregnancy took her out of the game, Mara thought it would be years before she would ever get back to photography.

Three years later, when Mara's partner left her and Maddi, Mara ral-

lied to that now familiar feeling of being "on her own." To mark this new start in their lives, Mara took Maddi into the Geoffrey Charles Photography Studio to get a commemorating mother-daughter picture taken. She found herself talking about photography with Charles; that conversation led to a partnership. Working several days of the week out of the studio, Mara-the-photographer is now basking in the luxury of being able to spend hours, rather than minutes, with a subject.

One can see from her portfolio that Mara is particularly gifted at photographing and interacting with children. She also works with couples and single subjects, waiting and working for a shot that is both attractive and revealing.

Her friends call Mara "Tornado." She can't drive down the street without looking for places to work a deal so she can display her card and promote her products and skills. She knows that fashions change and so looks ahead to the next theme to start on before the last one has run its course.

To other would-be entrepreneurs who have had a few setbacks, Mara speaks from experience when says, "When a door closes, a window opens somewhere."

*Kimberly Mara can be reached at 986-3453*

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*Mara's uses her talent as a black and white photographer to capture the lives and times of babies and children.*

