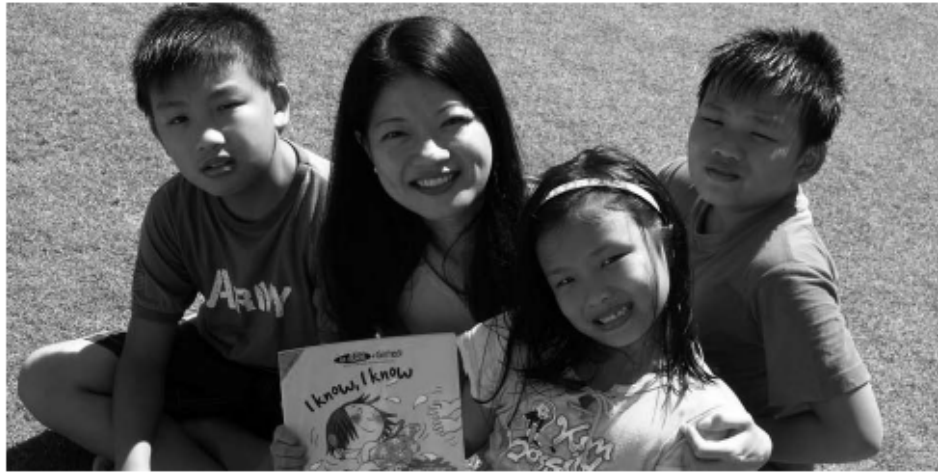

BREAK TO DAWN

BY Thaddeus Lawrence

Here is one woman who keeps getting up from life's knockdowns in the form of career and marriage failures.



NOTED psychologist and theorist Albert Bandura may well have been talking about Wendy Chua when he said: "In order to succeed, people need a sense of self-efficacy, struggle together with resilience to meet the inevitable obstacles and inequities of life."

Here is one woman who keeps getting up from life's knockdowns in the form of career and marriage failures.

At 39, Ms Chua now enjoys an impressive career portfolio as writer, coach, consultant, facilitator and parent. Happily remarried with four children, the founder of Wand Inspiration still finds time to give back through pro-bono projects.

Her journey was not always plain sailing though. A dyslexic condition was a constant thorn in her side during her school years. Then ten years ago while heavily pregnant with her third child, Nicole, the education company she was working for closed down and left her saddled with a hefty overdraft, mortgage, car payment, and an overwhelming sense of failure and fear.

Around the same time her marriage broke down. Although given custody of her children, no alimony was granted as she was considered financially self-sufficient.

Said Ms Chua: "It was a frightening time. I questioned my self-worth and doubted my ability to handle both my emotional pain and financial pressure."

But handle them she did, picking up the pieces and moving on to create a brand new life.

A graduate in first-class honours in psychology and education, Ms Chua attributed her resurgence to her training and faith. Above all she credits her children for giving her the strength and love to carry on.

Recalled Ms Chua: "They were the bright spots in a dark period of my life and there was no way I could let our lives fall apart just like that."


And so she rose from the ashes of despair to join Raffles Institution as School Psychologist where she spent three

years counselling and coaching students and parents to peak performance.

She then left to set up her own consulting company that creates programmes for schools to build resilience and enhance socio-emotional learning.

She also had a radio show "Aunt Agony in the Living Room" on radio 938LIVE and, inspired by her children, wrote a 20-book series called "All Kids R Gifted". She also published "Break to Dawn: New Challenges, New Commitments", a self-help book on drawing strength from setbacks.

Ms Chua continues to count her blessings every night and is glad that her work allows her to reach out to others.

"I am grateful to be able to make a difference and empower others to learn from their own setbacks" she said. 

Wendy Chua is the founder and managing director of Wand Inspiration. She is leading a workshop entitled "Coaching Your Child for Success" on June 13. For more information go to www.wandinspiration.com