



## Lucy Accardo

### *Webmaster*

Lucy Accardo was born in Astoria, Queens in 1974. She has an identical twin sister and two older brothers. From elementary through high school, Lucy and her twin sister, Anna attended the same schools and made it a tradition to switch classes every year. Their college days were spent in different schools, but still living at home, they saw each other regularly and looked forward to exchanging stories every night.

Lucy's parents were both born in Italy and migrated to the US in the late 60's. Having a strong positive influence in their children's lives, they taught them the values of love, tradition and family unity. They also blessed Lucy and her siblings with the memories of enjoying almost every summer with their grandparents in Italy and the privilege to be bilingual.

In 1998, Lucy married Claudio, an amazing man, husband and father. She met Claudio through his older brother, who she had known from Baruch College. Lucy and Claudio have four beautiful children: Alessia, 10, Valentina, 8, Massimo, 7 and Stefania, 3.

Growing up, Lucy had a love for numbers and computers. She was fascinated about computers from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, enjoyed solving problems in Trigonometry and Advanced Calculus and decided to follow her heart when going to college. Lucy attended CUNY Baruch College where she obtained her BBA in Computer Information Systems. Also having a love for culture, writing, theater and the arts, Lucy was an active member of the Theater, Journalism Club and Italian Club at Baruch College.

Immediately following her graduation, Lucy obtained her first corporate job as a computer programmer at Metro-North. She went from a mainframe position to a web developer position after boldly approaching her I.T. Director and asking if instead of working on boring Cobol Programs, she could work on Metro-North's then-non-existent web site. Lucy became part of the team who led Metro-North's and the entire MTA's web sites to where they are today. Lucy's web expertise grew and her visibility both in the company and in the Technology field grew as well. As she climbed up the ladder in the Information Technology field, she also completed an MBA in Finance at Baruch College.

In her early twenties, her career in the corporate world as a web developer consisted of high salary offers, 4-6 week vacations and swimming during her lunch hour each day! She was truly spoiled, however, once she became a mom, the dreams she once had of being a corporate career woman changed.

Lucy dreamt of being home to share each moment with her children, being there to raise them and to wipe their tears and bandage their boo-boos. She also wanted to find a way to earn an income from home, so as to supplement and help pay the bills!! Shortly

afterwards, Lucy found the perfect home based business with an INC 500 Company that has allowed her to stay home ([www.ahealthyworld.com](http://www.ahealthyworld.com)), enjoy watching her children grow and do the things that she had dreamed of doing, such as starting a most amazing club for stay-home moms, the MOMS Club of Middle Village! At the same time, Lucy began doing freelance web design ([www.theaccardos.com](http://www.theaccardos.com)) and earning a great living from home running her schedules around her kids. Family first, business second is the way it has been since.

Lucy began the MOMS Club of Middle Village, NY chapter in March 2003 with a vision. Her vision was to form a group where as mothers and members of this community, they would give back to the community and teach their children the values of giving. She also had a vision of a place where the stay-at-home-mom would easily develop friendships, share in motherhood experiences, participate in service projects, enjoy a monthly MOMS Night Out healthy, get inspired, get excited and enjoy the journey of motherhood along with other moms on the same journey.

It started off small, where the only members of the Middle Village chapter were Lucy's 3 children. At her first few meetings, 2 moms joined. Two years later, the club grew to have 85+ and sistered a new chapter in Forest Hills. Lucy kept the club going for 5 years, until 2008 when the majority of her 4 children were in school full time. Since then, Lucy's time has been spent focusing on being an advocate for their school and education and running a successful business from home. In 2006, Lucy received the Pacesetter Award from City Hall, where she was recognized with the "Women In Leadership" award!

Lucy is currently a consultant to moms and others who wish to supplement their income by working from home. She trains and develops a game plan for them, whether it be earning an additional \$300 per month or \$3,000 per month, her mission is to help each person reach their goal. She has a dynamic team that works together on this mission.

On April 6, 2009, when the region of Abruzzo was hit with the earthquake, Lucy's world was shaken. Having grown up going to Abruzzo almost every summer, having friends and family there hit home and she immediately started to make phone calls along with her parents, to see if everyone was okay. Finding out that their home towns, being about 40 miles away from the center of the earthquake, were affected by the earthquake with structural damage and the loss of one dear daughter of a friend, Enza. Enza was studying at L'Universita in Aquila and had arrived on Sunday evening to prepare for her exam on Monday morning. She usually drove in on Monday mornings. That weekend, she decided to get a good night's sleep before the exam and was among the students who were asleep when the earthquake took place at 3am. Lucy searched for the best way to help the region of Abruzzo. Thanks to facebook, Lucy heard from a friend that this local Italian American Organization (L'Associazione Culturale Italiana Di New York) was holding a fundraiser for the Abruzzo Earthquake. She quickly offered how she could help with the fundraiser, jumped on board and eventually became the webmaster for ACINY. She is proud to be part of an organization that does so much to give back to so many important causes and at the same time, keeps the Italian culture alive in New York.