85 Broads: Professional network for women. Many members are entrepreneurs.

Goal: to share the stories of 85 women in our network who have gone nights, weeks, or even months without sleep, have emptied their bank accounts, have wondered out loud if they were crazy, have laughed when a potential angel didn't like their pitch but wanted their phone number, have temporarily given up any hope of a social life, and have given new meaning to "I'm pivoting as fast as I can!"

Guidelines:
- Stories must be written in the first person.
- 1200 word maximum.
- Your story should capture the highs and lows of being an entrepreneur: please include one or two "lessons learned" along the way.
- Many have argued that women lack the necessary confidence to launch their own businesses: how have you managed to survive and thrive?

Deadline: December 15, 2012

Initial thoughts:
- The Goal above – the very same words in the goal could describe motherhood.
- Similarities b/w being a mom and being an entrepreneur
- How motherhood was transformative for me personally, how it made me an entrepreneur, how it made kangu (which is all about motherhood and connecting) come about
- Lessons learned: pick a couple that are both business and life/motherhood lessons. Explain how I learned them through my kids and how I apply them to Kangu

Summary: Motherhood was transformative for me. I really feel like I had to be a mom first. That did something to me to give me 1) the conviction and 2) the ways of being (these will be the lessons learned) that enable me to do Kangu. And as a reflection of that journey, Kangu is about women and connection.

Outline
1) Through motherhood, felt a connection to all women
   a. Story: Short version: I was in Ghana, looking through a woman's stall where she was selling wooden scultpures. I burned her hand with my cigarette - she said it's ok, we're women. I didn't understand - she said, you know, from cooking by the fire. I didn't have that shared experience. When I was in labor, had a moment where I felt connected to all women who had ever given birth. Like out of body type connection. They were me, I was them. It no longer became tenable to me that they wouldn't have access to care during this time. This story can be just as powerful without the burning/before part, just the connection moment.
2) How it changed my ways of being (that has enabled me to launch kangu)
Two lessons learned – seems like these should be both relevant to being a motherhood and business, maybe how I learned it from being mom and how I then applied it to business (but could go other way)

3) Bringing it together: Kangu the platform – about women, motherhood, connection

Lessons learned (from notes that I’ve taken throughout Kangu process)

• Keep moving pieces ahead. Not about finishing things, but just forward momentum
• Doesn’t need to be 100%, can still push forward (Mir’s insight re: kids and a 70% being a yes, applied to starting Kangu). If you ask a question and don’t know the answer, or aren’t 100%, still a yes – or at least not a reason to not push forward
• I’m as smart as all the idiots out there doing things
• It’s not about my ego or about me, it’s about creating the best model / organization that I can. Times that I feel scared, nervous, overwhelmed, I say to myself, OK, that’s fine, that’s how I feel. Now let’s move on because this isn’t about me. When it’s not about you, easier to prioritize, and just DO [like being a mom]
• All life’s experiences, good and bad, people you meet, things you learn, is relevant. This idea of writing the most beautiful sentence – it may only take you 5 seconds to write it, but a lifetime of living to be able to write it. Same thing about starting Kangu – took years to gain the different experiences that make this possible.
• Get on the phone
• Just say yes – all things don’t have to be ironed out / totally thought through / perfect
• I am who I am – my process is my process
• People are moved by your conviction. Mir’s thing about when I feel like I’m being cheesy I’m probably dead on.
• Go for good enough, not perfect.
• My job is to move various pieces ahead.
• Act from a place of positivity and gratitude rather than fear
• The “I have to get this done” anxiety is just anxiety. If anything needs to get done, it will.
• When I sit down to do work, led by the priorities I define rather than my inbox. Productivity tip.
• Do your best, learn, iterate. Fail fast. These are software building techniques. Great applied to life and building business.

Lessons learned (from being a mom)

• I haven’t distilled these yet, but see attached Writings document.

Thoughts on lessons learned that could be applicable to motherhood and business. Get these down to two.

• just do - not about you
• prioritization - relief to know what you're focusing on and what you can just let go because it's less important
• not about being perfect - about being you
• don't need to know all the answers - just be present and push forward
• everything you are and have done come together as this resource pool for being a mom, for doing a business