

The one person in my life that empowers me the most is my mom. She was born in West Wiesbaden, Germany into an air forces family. When she was 7 days old she moved to San Vito, Italy and lived there for 16 months. My mother's father was in the Air Force, her family was stationed in many places. Some of the places she has lived is Washington D.C., Maryland, and Colorado Springs. Throughout her childhood she traveled to all of the states in the U.S.A. and lived in a far amount of them. Except, she hasn't lived or been to Maine but that's a whole other story. She is a very social person, and no matter what life has thrown at her she has persevered.

She moved to Anchorage, Alaska with her family in her ninth grade year and graduated from there. She want to collage in Iowa, and she decided that collage just wasn't for her after her sophomore year. She needed structure so she joined the Air National Guard of Alaska and went to basic training in Lackland, Texas. From there she advanced to Boloxi, Mississippi for Technical school. After that she did a temporary duty in South Korea and lived at two different Air Force Bases while she served in the Alaska National Guard for six years. When she returned home she gave birth to me at 23 years old and then a year later met my adoptive father and fell in love.

After that my father brought my mother to our current home in Chignik Lagoon to meet his family and they were married on September 1, 2003. From then on she became the mother of two more girls and she is an elementary and special education aid. She has been working at our the school for 11 years and counting. All through that it she has grown and learned new things. She has taught me many things but there are three that I have found to be most important in life. One is to stand tall when the odds are greatly stacked against you. Two is to be brave even when you are terrified. Three is to be humble and take criticism in stride. She taught

me all of these things because she had to learn them all on her own. She guided me to becoming the person I am today, and for that I am forever grateful.

Although, the absolute most important thing she taught me was to always have hope. She unintentionally taught me this lesson when I was ten years old and my mother had a colloid cyst in her brain. At the time my greatest fear was losing my mother. Being the oldest of three had I had to stay strong and just hope that everything would be okay, and I would have had to be brave everyday when she was gone. She had to have two brain surgeries, one to remove the cyst, which was the size of a grape in her brain. The second surgery was to clear out an infection before it got to her brain. I remember walking into the clean sterile smelling hospital room to see my mom after surgery, and seeing tubes and wires running out of her small body; it terrified me. All I wanted to do was make my mom better. Although, through both surgeries my mom continued on, no matter the obstacles. My mother is now eight years cleared, she has not had another cyst form since.

This has in turn empowered me to become the person I am today. With the skills she has taught me I have learned to empower others by simply being myself. I believe that I empower others by being outgoing, kind, and humble. I try to bring out the best in others, but also try to be there for people I care about in their time of need. In the future I wish to continue empowering others by learning, growing, and bettering myself as well as keeping true to who I am.