

In May of 2003 I wrote an article for my company's monthly reader. I had so many excellent comments given to me from people within my organization as well as family and friends. It was an amazing response. I felt so honored to know that what I had written had impacted so many people.

Now, with our website, I knew that I had to re-release it on [www.pawfitability.com](http://www.pawfitability.com) as a sales article during Mother's Day and the month of May. Who are your mentors in life? How have they impacted you and the way you are today as a person?

In early April, my sister Christy had given Kim and me a gift. It was the eulogy from my mother's funeral that Christy had given. She framed it on beautiful paper. Here is a quote from my sister about my mom from the eulogy she had given. *"Mom is also very close with Jesus. Lots of times, she has told us that Jesus was her best friend. So in the last few weeks, while we all have been heartbroken, I've thought how can I be mad at Jesus, when he just wants his best friend with him."* What a wonderful statement that she had made.

This is not just about Mother's Day. It is about how we go through life hopefully learning to be the best that we can be as children, adults, parents, bosses, students, employees, etc... If you are not doing the best that you can do, it's time to change. Remember, you may be someone's mentor.

Here is the original version of My Mom, My Mentor from May 2003:

My Mom, My Mentor!  
By Mike Popella

A lot of people don't realize until it's too late how important their mother influences their life. I am so lucky that I knew growing up how important she was in setting high standards in my life. Think about it, how much of your life values now represent the one's your family established back when you were growing up. Well, I know that I would not be the person I am today without the influence of my mother. She was my friend, someone I could talk to about my thoughts, and a person I could share my good and bad times with. I'm fortunate that I had the time with my mom that I did. Not enough, but at least I know how incredible those 35+ years were. She was the most positive person I have ever known.

Many people who knew her have asked me, was she sick? We never knew that she had cancer. Well, she beat it for 22 years and did not ever once express to others her illness in a negative way. Oh yes we all knew, but mom kept this personal and showed us how to keep your faith and be positive. Many people look at things in a negative way, but mom took the best of what she had and made it better. And those negative things well, they were just bumps in the road.

I guess if you learn one thing from this, is always look at the bright side. Take the best things in your life and concentrate on how to make them better. You can improve 1 item 100%, but would it not be better to improve 20 items by 5% or 10 items by 10%? Don't try to change the world, make the changes that can be achieved. You must continue to focus on the best things in life. We all have obstacles we have to overcome, some large, and some small. It's how you deal with each situation that helps to express the image you portray to others. In my mother's situation, it was a large problem that most people would have given up years ago but her strength and determination to see her family grow helped her to make it appear small in nature. She looked at it as an inconvenience were other's would have looked at it and given up. She focused on the positive things in life and enjoyed it to it's fullest.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 my mother did pass away but the only thing that died on that day, was cancer. The memories of her will always be there and me carrying on her positive influence on life will always live on. Oh yes, she is sorely missed! The thoughts and dreams occur regularly and I am sure they will be there forever. But I always sit back and smile, saying to myself "I am so glad that I had her in my life to make me what I am today." They say when a child is born, it's the greatest gift parents can have. Well the flip side is two loving parents is the greatest gift a child can have.

Thanks mom for everything and Happy Mother's Day! Love Michael