

April 20, 2020

Dear Friend,

As a three-foot-tall preschooler, the world is a vast and sometimes scary place. And that's just on a normal day. Now throw in suitcases, metal detectors, rushing travelers, and airplanes. An airport is not the best place to decide, as miniature human, that you no longer wish to follow your parent down a set of ever-moving stairs. But that's exactly what I did when I was five years old.



One of my earliest memories of my mom, Gloria, is the moment I pulled my hand out of hers at the top of an airport escalator. The second she felt my little hand leave hers, my mom turned around to run up the escalator. The combination of gravity and mechanics was not in her favor. **She slipped, gouging her knee on the cold metal step.** Blood gushing, she rushed back up the downward-cycling stairs to her daughter. She carried me to safety down the nearby stairs, which remained firmly in place.

Remembering the incident as a kid, I always wondered why she didn't just ride the escalator down and run back up the stairs to get me. But **THAT'S NOT WHAT MOTHERS DO.** They are protectors. They are selfless. And they will do whatever it takes to keep their children safe and happy.

The list of sacrifices my mom has made for me is infinite. Despite her less privileged upbringing, she worked her way to high school valedictorian. **From there she continued building on the foundations she had laid in order to achieve her lofty goals, from becoming the first person in her family to attend graduate school, to co-owning her own law practice, and now to being one of only two female judges to sit on the bench in La Crosse County.** Although she epitomizes what diligence and perseverance can get you, she was determined that her daughters would face less of a struggle. From sweaty summer horse shows and frigid winter farm chores, to endless dance classes and cross country races, my mom has gone above and beyond to give my sister and me the childhood of which she had only dreamed.

To say my mom is my role model is an understatement. I have followed in her footsteps in joining the legal profession, but I can only hope to one day show the grace, humility, and wisdom that she does on a daily basis. I am forever grateful for her unwavering support and will continue to work hard every day to make her proud.

**There are so many women in our community who selflessly devote themselves to others. The Women's Fund works tirelessly to support those women and to find new opportunities to positively impact the lives of women and girls.**



So, in honor of the women like Gloria – whether she be your mother, grandmother, teacher, mentor, or friend – **please join me in supporting the Women's Fund.** Your gift will help strong women to realize and achieve their amazing potential.

Sincerely,



Katelyn Doyle, Attorney  
Johns, Flaherty & Collins, S.C.  
Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse, Inc. Committee Member

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