

Adult

(1)

Title: Like the Stevie Wonder Song
Submitted by: Kairis Cox

When I think about the Mother of the Year, I immediately think about MOM. I think about a time when I was learning to swim. On the final day of class, the instructor had us jumping off the diving board and swimming to the edge. As each student lined up and walked the plank to jump, the velocity at which the butterflies moved nearly tore my stomach in half. I began to think what if I drown? It was as if my mind and body could only manufacture a series of "what if questions". At that moment, I heard it. "Kairis Cox, you're up." With tears streaming down my face, I shuffled to the end of the plank and stood there. I was frozen; only my eyes could move. In my heart I COULD jump, but my mind prevented me from doing so. I simply stood over the pool aimlessly frozen in time. At that moment I saw the commanding words flow from her mouth, "push her in." At the time I thought she was crazy. Surely, she would know how frightened I was of jumping? But now I understand why she made that command. She knew that if I didn't jump, I would forever question my abilities. She wanted me to experience success despite the fear. I had to see that even in the dark bold face of fear; I must trust God and never allow fear to cripple me. In retrospect, the push was not about swimming or about conquering a fear of diving boards. The "push" was about jumping into life, experience, love, success and sometimes hardship. The push was a metaphor to never be afraid to live. Virginia Alexander is the Mother of the Year, as a single parent she taught me this valuable lesson.

(2)

Submitted by: Olga Martirosian

Our Mother was born in Poland 80 years ago. She doesn't have a master's degree in science or art, but holds a degree in motherhood. She's not the CEO of a big company, but is the Queen of Mothers in our home. She's not a super model, but has an inner beauty that surpasses all others. She never finished school because fighting for her life in a prison camp was more important, but she taught her children the value of a good education. She couldn't help us with our homework, but encouraged us to keep trying until we got it right. She taught us to be grateful for what we had and not worry about what we didn't have. She instilled morals to grow with to last a life time, respecting others and their property was also a lesson we learned. We may not have had steak and potatoes every night or wore designer clothes, but we had the love of a mother who provided us with a nutritious meal, clean clothes and a loving home. For the little extra things in life, (school events, music lessons, etc) our mother would collect newspapers, cans and cardboard to help cover the cost. She taught us to do a job and do it well, to be honest and trustworthy. We are now grown with families of our own. But because of her sacrifices and encouragement, she has a loan processor, a shop owner, a nurse and a dental technician, of which she is very proud. Thank you for your sacrifices, your love, your encouragement and for just being our Mother.

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(3)

Submitted by: Guadalupe Castro

Guadalupe Castro deserves to be “mother of the year” because her life is dedicated to helping others, and I think for once she should be recognized for it.

She is very caring, generous, and humble. Besides being an outstanding mother and respected wife, she helps a friend, whose daughter is in a semi-coma, with feeding, therapy and even weekly Sacramento doctor visits. Guadalupe volunteers one day weekly to St. Vincent de Paul organizing and distributing donations to the homeless. She helps a blind family friend, when he needs a ride, or grocery shopping. Once a year, she gathers donations for missionaries in Ecuador to help build village churches. Also annually, she coordinates a “walk for life” team raising money and awareness for cancer. She collects the donations, organizes the walkers, and supplies her team with t-shirts for the event. Online she volunteers her time on a religious website incorporating God into peoples lives troubled with drugs, crime, and family problems. She prays for all of them nightly.

She lost her soul mate to cancer four years ago, and with her family in Portugal, too far away to comfort her, she is driven by the people she helps. Besides her loneliness, she has health concerns of her own. She is disabled from a car accident, she has liver, blood and skin problems that she requires regular doctor visits.

Surpassing her financial, physical, and emotional restrictions, Guadalupe always places other people’s needs before her own. She not only cares for her two sons, but gives so much to those less fortunate, and the community through volunteering, donating, and praying. I nominate Guadalupe for “mother of the year” not just because of how loving of a mother she is, but because of how many other peoples’ hearts she touches along her life.