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My Hoosier Hero

When I was a child, the word hero referred to someone who risked their own life to save another. In fantasy stories, they held a sword and fought off mythical creatures. In the real world, I always thought they were either a firefighter or a police man. However, as I grew up, my views of the word hero altered. I realized that a hero doesn't have to be a man. A woman is equally as capable of being heroic. Also, heroes don't have to save someone from death to be considered a hero. My newly formed definition of a hero entails someone who strives to be a better person by giving back to others or the community. The individual applies the knowledge he or she gained over his or her lifetime to everyday actions. A hero exhibits strength, integrity, and perseverance. In my life, my hero is my mother, Holly Moore. Throughout her life, she has contributed an infinite amount of time and effort to the medical field as a registered nurse; meanwhile, establishing a strong foundation for her own family.

My mom's career path began in January 1986. She had graduated from IU in Kokomo, IN, and was seeking new experiences. She packed all of her things and headed down to Clearwater, Florida where she began working as an RN in cardiac care at Mease Hospital. When working in the hospital, she met my dad who also worked there. He worked on the psychiatric floor. Unfortunately, my mom's Florida life was cut short when she received news that she was needed back home in Indy. Her father was dying

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from prostate cancer and she needed to be there. She moved back home in September 1987. Despite all the hopes and prayers, he passed away October 1987.

My dad and she decided to remain in Indiana because they thought it would be a more suitable place to raise a family. My mom started a full-time job at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis as a RN on the cardiac care unit in November 1987. My dad and mom were married the following year. After a couple years, they decided they wanted to have kids. Once my sister Sydney and I were born, my mom continued her full-time job, which consisted of 12 hour days, three days a week. My dad worked part-time, so one of them was always home with my sister and me. Both my mother and my father demonstrated patience and flexibility with their schedules so that they could give their children a loving home.

My mom eventually wanted new challenges after working at St. Vincent's for 16 years. In 2003, she switched from full-time to part-time, and started working in the cardiac care unit at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, IN, at the request of a cardiac surgeon. She worked there once a week in order to support their new open heart surgery program. At the same time, she started her own home business, Moore Medical Legal Services. She became a legal nurse consultant, an advocate for patients in hospitals. She thought this business would be a great experience for her, and it sparked her interest. Working as a researcher for attorneys, she would evaluate a patient's hospital care to see if standards were followed. She would report any situations where substandard care was given.

She worked as a legal consultant for almost two years before she was offered a new full-time job at Cardiac Data Solutions in November 2005. One appealing aspect to this job was that she could work from her home. This job included working with hospitals across the country in order to improve patient care. She traveled to states like Idaho and Arizona to present her research to hospital boards. Unfortunately, after accepting this job, she had to give up Moore Medical Legal Services because it was a conflict of interest.

While working for Cardiac Data Solutions, my mom continues to work at St. Vincent's once a month on the weekends. She has succeeded in numerous ways within her nursing career, and has gained an abundant amount of knowledge, making her a well-respected woman. Besides contributing her time and effort helping the health of people and the efficiency of hospitals, she has given so much care and love towards her family. Not only is she a successful nurse, she is a successful mother.

With soccer, volleyball, track, school, church, and my other extracurricular activities throughout my life, my mom was always a bustling bee driving me around to where I needed to be. Her support for what I participated in outside the house was apparent in her lack of complaints at being the chauffeur and her active appearance at important events. It didn't really come to my mind then how much I should have appreciated what she did for me, but now I realize that putting aside that extra time outside her numerous jobs and her own free time was the greatest sacrifice. My mother displayed, and continues to display, hard work in every aspect of her life. Working to bring income into the home, along with my dad's income, established a comfortable

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foundation for my life and allowed me to be able to participate in all those activities throughout my youth. Her support taught me to appreciate what is given to you and to persevere because you won't get anywhere giving up when obstacles come your way.

I always counted on her to be there for me. When I was trying to find out who I was, she was, and still is, always there for me, offering advice and comfort. Whenever I had problems with friends or school, I could come home and sit on her lap. She'd tell me what she thought, but gave me the opportunity to fix it myself. Without her guidance, I would not be the communicative, realistic, problem-solving person that I am. Even though I was defensive from time to time, I appreciated her words of wisdom.

She is my hero because she is everything I want to be when I start my independence. She sought change when she was ready for new challenges. She kept a positive attitude when she came across obstacles. She gave her love, time, care, and capabilities to a countless number of people. Now, with college soon approaching, I realize how grateful I am for my mother's hard work, and how much I respect everything she has already accomplished. Watching her through her career path has taught me the idea of perseverance, and her faith in life has led me to achieve academically. Her story has given me motivation to begin my own medical studies as a nurse practitioner at Indiana University.