

AB September 13, 1974

AB is shared that it is hard to talk about herself without talking about her children. Her identity as a mother has changed dramatically and she misses the way she used to be a mother. She has always been a “hands on mom” – playing with the children, baking the best chocolate chip cookies. She could and would do anything. Making costumes that could not be found in stores for Halloween was a challenge she relished. She finds herself worrying what relationship she will have with her children if they cannot make the memories as they have before.

AB also describes herself as a friend, wife and mother. Her friend group is close knit and described as a friend family. With her family being physically and emotionally distant, her friend group provides the support and love as blood relatives would. Their ability to be present in medical settings and emotionally support her, her husband and children needs to be honored and treated with the same importance as blood family. She worries that they will be treated as lesser.

AB and her husband are very shy people and met after AB’s friend strongly encouraged her to approach him. They balance each other out. She shared that she protects her husband from some of the information to shield him from worry because he historically has not coped well with health issues.

AB is the only daughter in her family of origin. Her father is a “worrier” and has a similar demeanor as AB’s husband. She doesn’t share much with her father so as not to worry him. Her mother is similar to AB, that she can handle most anything and the harder conversations. She has 3 brothers who are emotionally and physically distant.

What is most important to AB is time – with her children, spouse and friends. She worries about her changing role and loss of abilities and its impact on her relationships.