

## FFM Contestant 1's Story

She has spent the majority of her life taking care of others. She has been a nurse for almost 30 years. When I was small, she worked in a nursing home. On the weekends she would take me up there to meet her patients just for fun. Watching her walk around smiling, laughing, hugging and dancing with her patients was mesmerizing. She taught me, almost accidentally, that a smile accompanied with a positive attitude could change people. But it doesn't stop there. She has 5 children... yes FIVE. No matter how many ball games were scheduled in one day, no matter who spilled their drink in the car, no matter how empty the bank account was, she carried on with a smile on her face. Once, I wrecked her car... she SMILED and said, "I think it adds character!" There have been times in her life when her back was against the wall. There have been people who tried to steal her joy. There have been moments she has endured more than she deserved. Through it all, she has never given up on the idea that life can be magical. She has instilled, in all who are a part of her life, a sense of wonderment. She makes people smile. Whether is the elderly across the street who she started a dance party with in the middle of the day by opening all of the doors on her car and blaring the radio ... or her friends when she cracks a joke on herself because she knows they have had a bad day. She is brilliant, kind, energetic, spontaneous, soulful, tenacious, loving, empathetic... she's a nurse, a mother, a daughter, a friend, a sister, a grandmother, a caretaker, a leader, a trendsetter, an energy giver... but most of all ... she's MY mother. Time has passed and her smile isn't as bright as it once was. She needs a little help making it new again so that she can freely share it with the world. She deserves this. Please help me change her life the way that she has done for so many others!