



I often read letters from the editor in other magazines to get inspiration for what to write here. (What can I tell you? After 21 years, I need a little jump start on occasion.) This month the themes seem to be about “going green” and “less is more” Both are really important issues, but for me right now (and I am sure many of you) family finances are probably the top issue on my mind. I have written in this column several times over the past year about how really difficult finances are for MOST right now, and how we are having trouble staying afloat. We could still use all of the help we can get, but I also want to know about you? How are YOU doing? I truly do worry about you. Across the US, I am seeing so many multiple birth families struggling - truly, truly struggling. At times, to handle just the day-to-day demands of parenting 3, 4, or more children is tough, but with the current financial crisis, it is so much harder for many, so I really want to know. HOW ARE YOU DOING? I would like to go around the country giving all of our moms a great big hug and assuring them that better days are ahead, but unfortunately I am not Eleanor Roosevelt, not even on a good day. (I am a pretty good hugger though or at least that is what MY mom tells me, and I do enjoy traveling.)

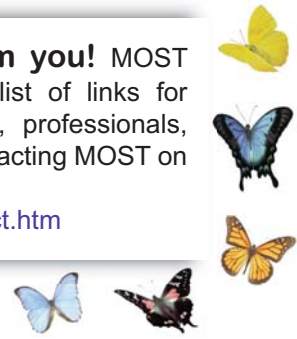
I recently read the following: *“To live a joyful and satisfying life, LET GO of how you believed your life was “supposed” to be, ACCEPT what your true reality is today, and then with an open mind and open heart to learn, make mistakes, get knocked down and get right back up again, COMMIT to DOING all you need to do to create the life you want for your tomorrows.”* ~ Roslyn Franken

I like this, especially the last line: “creating the life you want for your tomorrows.” Although your situation is not necessarily the life that you planned, you can still envision, with all you know of your life as it is at this moment, a joyful life tomorrow. Just before Christmas, my husband was laid off from his job. We had 3 in college and tons of bills. Thankfully he is now back at work, but the whole idea of being joyful during that time was without question a challenge to try wrap my mind and heart around. We honestly tried. On many days, I think, we actually succeeded. Finding joy in spite of uncertainties was surprisingly quite liberating. Having faith, I mean truly believing that we would be alright no matter what the future might hold, helps when trying to fall asleep at night.

I am not being Pollyanna, and I am not any stronger than any other average MOST parent. Believe me, I am not a rock. I have, like many of you, known my fair share of heartache and uncertainty. When I was a teen I was told that I might not be able to carry a baby to term because of injuries after being hit by a drunk driver. I have known a decade of chronic pain, so I appreciate the years I have had since without it. I have known joy beyond words when our first baby was born a full 10 days past her due date and the devastation when our second pregnancy ended much too early (Emma Claire). During our triplet pregnancy we were told only the worst case scenarios and praying unceasingly that no matter what (many of you know all the various definitions of the word “what” that I imagined), I would accept, with an open heart, the new life that would be ours after delivery. We lived through all of the terrible losses, the lingering pain and uncertainties from 9/11. We have raised truly wonderful, productive, independent and loving children. (If you want to be completely bored just ask me how my children are, and I will shamelessly boast, at length, about them.) We have also had to learn what it means to parent children who have had special needs and how to

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www.MOSTonline.org/contact.htm



advocate for them so that they become productive and independent. (Sometimes I wish they weren't so independent and would call home more often!) Looking back at all we have been through, the loss of a job does not even come close to the hardest time we have endured. Each of you has your own story. I just wonder if you have given yourself the credit you so richly deserve for committing and doing all that was needed to create your life that is brimming with new possibilities and hope for tomorrow?

We ... you, me and MOST ... we will be okay. So we have been through tough times, but who hasn't? We will be here tomorrow and the day after that. I'm not sure yet how we are going to make that happen (with your help I hope), but again, it will come down to committing and doing what is needed to make that happen. For starters, we are embracing new technologies and the social networking trend that developed while we were raising our children. MOST and I, are now on *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *LinkedIn*. We are learning how to be *Delicious* while trying to feel the *Netvibes* and sharing on *Stumble Upon* and *Digg*. (Does this sound Flemish to you? Yeah, me too.) I have to admit many times I feel as if I am stumbling along. We are finding that these tools help us support more families and allow us to introduce MOST to those who may not know what a fantastic network of volunteers, professionals and families we have. MOST has an unbelievable amount of resources to offer through our website and hundreds of volunteers who share their story and insights to help others. Their experience is passed along not only through *SUPERTWINS* magazine, but also through the MOST Family Support forums.

We are also committed to developing new ideas for providing support and information to families. We are researching opportunities like webinars and podcasts to expand the ways we offer support, and we want to build on our MOST blog by spotlighting your blogs as well as our own. In addition, we are hoping to add more videos and slideshows to our website this year. (Have you seen the terrific videos we have on the MOST website or You Tube: www.MOSTonline.org/album.htm)

As you read this issue of *SUPERTWINS*, I hope the commitment to family our writers have embraced shines through. MOST is grateful to work with so many parents who have that “can-do” attitude and who walk the walk we all know so well. Every day they are giving back by sharing their stories, expertise, emotional support, and financial commitment to the MOST mission. I wish we had a magic wand that would make all our financial troubles disappear (I am sure you wish I could too), but the reality is we don't. With your help, however, we can commit to MOST being here to support, educate and advocate for families every day! I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your tomorrows!

Maureen ♡



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