



M.W. Story 23

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*Bonnie and Barb
pictured above. This
story was written for
Barb about their
unique friendship
formed through
sharing a daughter.*

A Mother's Selfless Love

Yesterday was a mother's birthday, a very special mother to me. She is the mother of our daughter and God's response to all my prayers for this beautiful baby I carried in my womb. My prayers were answered in this amazing woman named Barb. She is nurturing, loving, generous, kind, patient, sweet, faith filled and understanding....and so much more. I prayed and prayed during the time I was discerning the thought of adoption. After meeting and getting to know Barb and her husband John, I know God heard me and responded with this loving couple.

When I met Barb almost 18 years ago, I discovered she had encouraged our daughter, Colleen, to find me. She embraced including me in their lives. After Colleen and I were reunited, Barb and I shared our first mother's day with Colleen together. I was amazed by her ability to share her daughter with me and also share "Mother's Day". Colleen was in her early twenties then, and I will never forget that day. The grandmas also joined us, and I could tell by the tears in my mother's eyes how much being included meant to her too.

Flashbacks...I have so many flashbacks reminding me of Barb's loving, generous spirit. Early on in our relationship, we all went camping in the boundary waters. I had never camped much growing up so I was so thankful they were experienced campers. It was such a unique experience, and it was my first real glimpse of how Barb



had nurtured Colleen in so many ways growing up. Colleen loves the outdoors, and Barb and John encouraged this love while camping, whitewater rafting, swimming, canoeing, golfing and hiking and more with their family.

One of my favorite flashback memories is of a whitewater trip we all took together. We decided we all wanted to sleep under the stars one night. I had only camped in a tent so at first I was a little apprehensive. I think I was fearful an animal would attack me during the night! Then the stars came out, and I was like a child again, in awe of the night sky. As amazing as the night sky was surrounding me with the brightly shining stars, my most special memory that night was the conversation between all of us sleeping in a row. Laughter and joy flowed. It was a scene to behold. I lay there feeling so blessed that I could be part of this beautiful family. In my wildest imagination, I would have never dreamed it possible. To be included on these special trips still brings tears to my eyes.

Time has passed but these memories haven't faded. They nurture my soul and have taught me so much. The sadness and pain of giving Colleen up for adoption started healing through the years of being included in Colleen's loving family. More special memories are added, blessing me so. Colleen now is the mother of two adorable children and I see her mothering and loving her children as Barb has done through the years. I love being included now too with these adorable grandchildren. Just thinking of them warms my heart and makes me smile.

Blessings to you, Barb. You are a special gift from God, an amazing answer to my prayers, and one for whom I am so thankful. Thank you for sharing Colleen and now two dear grandchildren with me. You are the definition of a mother's selfless love.