

AND ALL OF THEM MY FRIENDS

I see my world through many lens and all of them my friends. My Dad was born in Mesa Arizona. My Mom was born in Dublin, Ireland. I have loved animals since I was a small child and have always had pets. My passion is riding and nothing beats seeing my world from the back of my horse. I like to travel and see new places. I have been to Ireland many times to visit my family and have even flown there by myself. We went to Rome to celebrate my Mom's 40th birthday and all her sisters from Ireland met us there. My parents have had two sabbaticals from work and both times we got to travel to many different states in the US. I was a student host for the Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities and I am still friends with my "sister." I have had wonderful experiences of different people, places, culture, history, language, music, art, and food. It has helped me expand and explore ways to view my world.

I have had to deal with loss in my life. In 2012 my brother died and in 2015 my friend died. Coping with their sudden loss was very hard but it has made me a stronger person and I try to live each day with some fun and kindness in it. When I see people, my peers or adults, being mean or negative it bothers me. I try to make it positive through my interaction with them. Maybe this is heightened by me knowing that time can be shorter than you know with a person or in a place.

My experiences with travel and loss have given me a different perspective than if I hadn't been there at all. I believe expanding your connections to many people and places in this wonderful world is critically important for now and in the future. I gladly use social media tools but I know firsthand that nothing is as real as being there. Once you are there you will work on common problems and goals because you care and when you leave you have a link that will remain with you forever. There are so many ways you can change your world. You can host a "sister," you can volunteer, you can spend your money to travel, you can use technology to learn more and you can bring yourself to people and places everywhere. Be brave and kind as you go and you will spread a sense of peace that might just catch on with those people and places you get to experience. I see my world through many lens and all of them my friends.

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