



Family



Chloë!

So my baby is a quarter of a century plus 1! I am beyond overwhelmed by this. I mean you look at your kid and you are sort of frozen in time. For me it is somewhere between 3 and 10- the sweet spot, you know the age where they are walking, talking, potty-trained and when they understand NO! But that is just it. My beautiful, dynamic, daughter never cared or understood the word NO! And as the saying goes, "...well behaved women RARELY make history." by *Laurel Thatcher Ulrich*. I love her obviously because I made her but I love her as a woman because she owns her uniqueness. Our younger daughter on the spectrum, Emersen benefits from seeing her sister's authenticity and candor. On your 26th year around the Sun - know I see you and am grateful to witness your journey.



Happy Birthday Chloë

Fly the Friendly Skies



My daughter is a frequent flyer. AND - while that is not rare in our modern world-it is rare for many persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Regardless of who you are - flying may elicit stress. Compound that with an individual with a disability and you have, well a challenging day. When our daughter was very young we “rehearsed” her going to the airport

and every step along the way. Who knew we were ahead of best practices.

A new program, Wings for Autism, Wings for All | The Arc helps families prep for flights by simulating the experience. Sometimes I lament about programs I wished I created or had the opportunity to take advantage of when Emersen was young. The friendly skies were not so friendly when Emersen was young and the experience was exhausting. The beauty of time is that you quickly realize living by example and sharing what you know is the best gift you can give in this life.

Thank you to the many angels who support families like ours. Programs like these transform lives.



TPA partners with nonprofit group to host “practice flight” for kids with autism.

[Read Article](#)

Work work work work WORK!



Every day WE- as a society work. We spend much of our lives with absolute strangers with a common goal - giving back to society, feeding ourselves and our families, finding worth and saving for our futures. However persons with disabilities do not always share this common experience.

A very BASIC search revealed the stats are just not good. I will save you the read. Persons on the spectrum.

- Have challenges getting jobs
- Have problems with support while working
- Have challenges keeping jobs
- Have issues applying for services when they lose their jobs
- Have stress trying to keep services if they are fortunate enough to obtain services and

- Often are left to inappropriate government, social and legal services.



This is not my opinion, facts ARE facts.

Floridajobs - FloridaJobs.org



The Able Trust works with Florida employers, community groups, and partnered career developers helping people with disabilities enter the workforce.

[Learn More](#)



A Florida Scorecard Research Project

Statistics about persons with a disability in Florida and their future role in the state's workforce.

[Watch Video](#)



Important Florida estimated unemployment rate, employment-population ratio, and labor force participation for persons with a disability.

[Read Statistics](#)

But oh what a blessing we received from Felicia Pizana who led the Workforce Solutions of Tampa Bay, Inc., VR Career Force Camp. Through this program our daughter learned the value of contributing to the workforce. For 4 weeks, Felicia poured into the small group-leading them through critical analysis and discussing necessary skill sets for employment.



Our daughter eagerly went to every meeting and was excited to learn and share her new knowledge. Our family is SO grateful for this incredible gift. Thank you to the many guest lecturers who gave their time and talent AND made a difference.

New Normal. Kindness Counts



I have an auntie that is a prayer warrior. She knows when I am in peril and always calls me to let me know when things do not seem - well right.

I have another auntie who is the matriarch of our family. While I know she is watching and listening we do not reach out as often as we should.

This month I had the opportunity to see them both and my heart was full. It was full because I saw in both of them.

- Bravery
- Character
- Integrity
- Faith and
- Strength



This week I saw that in my child as well. My mother was insistent that Emersen join the choir. Well she did and in true Eme fashion took over the stage. One of her angels, **René Flowers** witnessed Eme's joy and shared it broadly. As the phone calls came in I thought about legacy, community and support. Our daughter and our family is blessed because we have a community that invested in her and still values her.



There is one other angel that I will not mention who answered my call right when I needed her without hesitation or explanation. THANK YOU!

[READ MORE ABOUT RENÉ FLOWERS](#)

As we hit our new normal I am reminded that kindness counts!

In case you missed it! [June Newsletter](#)

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