



Never Lose Hope



Her Impact Lives On

This week marked five years since my beloved Aunt died. It was strange you know because I just cannot believe time passed that quickly. My aunt Dr. Patricia Ann Harvey was an icon. She cared so much about the future of our youth. From a young child, I was able to witness her constant concern for children. You always have that teacher in your life that you remember for the right reasons-my aunt was one of those special teachers-she was she REAL deal!. She is remembered for the right reasons. Her impact lives on! I think about the times that we are in now with so many people commenting on education. And I wonder if people understand what the word impact truly means.



When our daughter was first diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, my aunt sat me



down and was brutally honest about what our future could hold versus what our future should hold.

She explained that families often implode under the magnitude of distress that occurs

She talked about the need for self-care when that was not really a thing we talked about

Even though she had exceptional experience in the education field, her industry was not prepared to take care of Special Needs children in the way they should.

She gave me a blueprint on how to succeed and always encouraged me to keep a stiff spine as I went through the process.

I think about her often because my children are thriving. There were no words to express what it felt like to be close to someone who cared so much about people she would never meet or never see them reach their end goal. As she took her last breath, she was still praying for our family and the seeds of her seeds.

Auntie - your immediate impact on our children is a continual gift.

Just When You Get Used to Becoming a Parent They Become an Adult

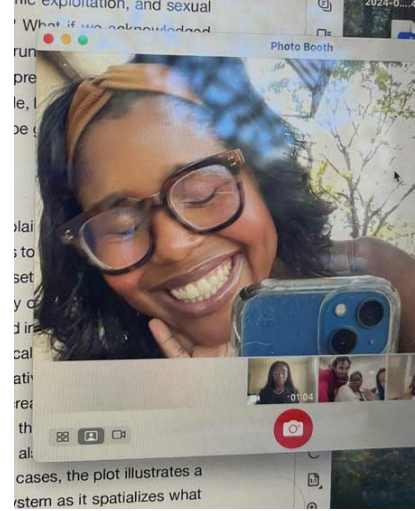


So most of you by now know that I have two children who are now adults or adulting! I must say it is pretty strange. You give all of your time and energy to your children - or at least my husband and I did - and then all of a sudden you have a bunch of time on your hands. Slowly, you understand that when they call, they are not necessarily asking your permission for anything rather they are testing the waters and challenging the philosophies you taught them. I think it is incredible.

With our first daughter, we had the beautiful challenge of raising a strong, spirited, highly intelligent and opinionated personality. That has not changed. From the moment she could talk she told us who she was and why she was here. Now that she is nearing the end of her third year in her PhD program I can honestly say she was right. It is a lesson that you have to listen to your children. We could not be more proud of her, especially in light of the challenges of being in a family, where an abundant attention goes to the child with the disability.

I recently spoke to an older woman who is a

sibling of a person with ASD and trying to manage taking care of her sibling now that her parents have passed away. She talked about the difficulty of her childhood and also her continual quest to be an individual in that situation. She also emphasized her very unique perspective of being with her sibling in many ways more than her parents were. I share that because it resonated with me now, but not during my years of raising our daughters



Now that our older daughter is firmly an adult and enjoying the benefits and obstacles that come along with it. It is just lovely to hear her voice. Some of the simple joys of witnessing her development are not lost on me. Most importantly, the joy of seeing her strength makes my heart sing.

Now real talk - Parents with children adulting on the spectrum have to plan. This does not mean that the plans will come to fruition but it is important to engage in healthy conversations about everyone's agency and future. Best advice I ever received is do not avoid the conversation.

Jordan Chloë Jackson

Dearly Beloved Newsletter Audience,

Life rocks. Getting a PhD is terribly difficult; but, I have tons of friends and a lovely girlfriend and a rich community that enrich me daily and encourage me to endure. I am elated to report I haven't dropped out yet! I also work at Colectivo coffee now. Chicago is freezing. I'm quite bitter about it. I'm doing great otherwise! Wishing you all the very best!

Xoxo,
Chloë



**Insightful thoughts
from a sibling**

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Use Your Resources

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The Definition

Dictionary

Definition

community noun

com·mu·nity

I took a bit of a mental break when our younger daughter went off to college last fall. Believe me - I am still overly committed to helping families like ours but it has been nice to take more moments to simply BE! A parent reached out to me to ask what would I do first in the times we face now to support our daughter on the spectrum and without hesitation I said, use your community resources.

Everything I learned I learned from dedicated professionals and supporters who opened their world to our family. Because we were transparent with our issues we received the help we needed at every stage. So many people wanted to support us.

Community is defined in various ways but the definition that resonates with me the most is - joint ownership or participation.

It is important for our family to pass on knowledge and support. Resources matter. After five years of sharing them I am starting to hear how much these resources helped families.



Find Additional
Resources

Autism Support - Speak out

Autism is finally a key
priority for the
Legislature.

About The
Law



The bill supported by Sen. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart will change lives! One of the biggest obstacles in the early years of supporting a child on the spectrum is trying to identify the exact diagnosis and the support systems that are available to you.

So many moms I know would have welcomed an easier path to diagnosis. But that's not it, there is so much more!

The proposals address:

Safety
Law Enforcement

Water Responsibility
Funding and



Woman speaks to Fl. State politicians about her adult autistic son

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2025 Florida Legislation regarding individuals with autism

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Thank you for finally SEEING us! Please speak out and let our legislators know this issue matters.

Senate President Ben Albritton House Speaker Danny Perez

Sen. Gayle Harrell
Rep. Randy Maggard
Sen. Bryan Avila
Rep. David Borrero
Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez
Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman

Sen. Jay Collins
Rep. Michelle Salzman
Sen. Don Gaetz
Rep. Kim Kendall
Sen. Collen Burton
Rep. Allison Tant

Shout Out to North Suburban Atlanta Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc.



If you do not know who the mothers of Jack and Jill, Inc. are – look us up! We are a mafia of women who care about our kids and our dedicated to their excellence. I was an active member of this organization for about 23 years and just graduated out. Interestingly my children are third generation members. My husband's grandmother Dr. Susie Jackson was instrumental in the Orlando chapter. My father-in-law Dr. Joseph Jackson, was a member of that chapter and my husband and children benefited from St. Petersburg now known as the Suncoast Chapter.

When my daughter on the spectrum graduated last year little did she know that she would be asked to continue her service. So when my sister-sister-sister (Spelman, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and Jack and Jill, Inc.), Kristina Joy Lyle

reached out to our daughter, her Godmother (CaMia Jackson) and I were excited about the opportunity for her to give back. I will say this, it is not easy to get our daughter to move - but somehow our Mom village made it happen.

All my love~



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