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SOC115

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My Identity as Seen Thru the Eyes of Others

MOM saw me as a life born with hope and potential, not a textbook case with only one ending.

DAD saw me thru tear filled eyes clouded with denial and “what did I do wrong”

SISTER saw a sister, a friend, a family, her life changing not sure if for the positive but loving me just the same.

I SAW ME, the ME inside of ME and I continued to DREAM of who that ME could BE

SCHOOL saw a bright young girl who worked so hard and accomplished so much UNTIL...

My identity caused them to ask what category I fell into, ARE YOU ONE OF US OR NOT?

Then they saw me as a minority, inferior, not on the fast track, the right track but one to be self-contained , put into a category, separate.

I SAW ME, the ME inside of ME and I continued to DREAM of who that ME could BE

Children saw me when I was young their equal, fought who would push me in my wheelchair, invite me to their parties, sit beside me at lunch UNTIL...

They saw what society saw an identity in a category that even though they didn't know what that category was, they knew they didn't want to belong there.

The System saw a person who wouldn't go to college, wouldn't have a job, a family to support.

They saw a person sitting in a category and opened up their textbooks to see where I fit.

I SCREAMED for them to SEE ME, my hopes and dreams of who, the ME inside of ME , my potential, my love of education, my desire to go to College, to become a teacher BUT the door to the category was slammed shut UNTIL...

I pushed the door open, climbed out of the category and was determined to NEVER let anyone put me there again.

I SAW ME, the ME inside of ME, and I realized the DREAM of who that ME had become.