To Melissa,

I am so happy I can write this for you. Emotion after your accident was panic, because you were so close to death. When you came out of your coma and had so many complications, the panic was still with all of us. It soon became sorrow, after Dad and I were given a book from the hospital explaining brain injury. It explained that we should mourn the person you were and await the new person you would become. We did not know how to do that or what to expect. We were told you would never speak or walk. You have worked so very hard and are still working to become the best you can. With your tenacious attitude and strong work effort you have succeeded beyond all that we have prayed for.

Our relationship has changed from mother to an average 15 year old, to a toddler but quickly back to a teenage who needed my help. But slowly as I could see you achieving most of your goals, I stepped back ever so slowly and knew you would stand on your own. I don’t think our relationship would be very different if you hadn’t had a brain injury and stroke. What ever you would have been doing if it never happened, I still could not be any prouder or love you any more than I do now. Your life…PRICELESS!!!

Love, Mom