

Everyday Woman of Sitka - Deanna Moore



Can you please tell me a little about yourself? How long have you lived in Sitka? What types of things are you involved in here?

I identify myself as a heterosexual, cis-gendered, clean and sober, married woman. I am 50 years old, was raised in Tacoma Washington, and have lived in Sitka for 30 years.

I raised 3 sons as a single parent. I consider one remarkable feature of my life is having accessed almost every social service agency that exists to support someone living beneath the poverty line and raising children outside of the conventional 2 parent home. I navigated these complicated systems with great difficulty and a lot of support and over the years I was able to discontinue those services as my circumstances no longer needed them. I highlight this feature of my life because I am grateful for these types of services and advocate strongly for them today. I also point this out because it colors the lenses through which I see the world today and it compels me to care for the complicated and critical need to provide non-judgmental, compassionate service to others.

I have worked in human services for the past 23 years. I spent 13 years working as a chemical dependency counselor and 10 years working as a victims' advocate. I have worked 2-3 jobs at a time for 11 of the past 23 years and, although it has been hard, I have been grateful for the opportunities.

What is your biggest struggle right now?

My biggest struggle right now is adjusting to this new stage of parenting in which my children no longer live with me, or even live in Sitka. I found the responsibilities of parenting young children to be extremely stressful and I am delighted that they have all grown into young men who I truly enjoy and

respect. I miss them every day and that does not mean that I wish anything were different, it is just an adjustment.

I also struggle with attention to the world outside of my little home, be it looking at the community of Sitka, the Nation, or globally. As a young struggling person, I did not have much capacity for looking outside of the survival of each day. Now that I am older, I find the time and space to look beyond and I carry great concern for the human and global conditions. I don't think the conditions are new, but my awareness, and my concern, has increased with each passing year.

What does a normal "Day in the Life" look like for you?

I'm not sure what a normal "Day in the Life" looks like for me but I do like my little morning and bedtime routines. The hours in between are generally filled with work and food and a little outside time whether it is boating, kayaking, camping, or just taking little walks in the park. I have always loved Sitka's community events and if there is a music, theater, or festival event to attend I am usually there.

What makes you proud to be a woman?

I struggle with that word 'proud'. Being a woman is not my accomplishment. I also take no pride in my skin color or my nationality. Those were not my choices. But I am proud when I can stay within my value system. When I am honest and kind and work hard, I am proud.

Do you have something you'd like to say to other women in Sitka?

I don't think that I have a message to the women of Sitka different from what I would like to say to everyone. We all encounter opportunities to support each other many times throughout every day. I am most struck by encounters or words of support or generous offerings of people throughout my life who probably have no idea how impactful their kindness was for me. Kindness can be expressed in many different ways and its impact may not be immediately apparent. But we all have the opportunity to contribute to the wellness of others. Be generous of spirit, look for the greatness in others, if you can't see it...no problem...pull it out of you and make it shine. You never know who your light will land on.