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## A Special Mother's Day Message from Brittany Skinner

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Human Resources



*Brittany Skinner's family (husband Alex, children Sophie, Ellie, and Milo, and grandma Mary Lou),  
on Mary Lou's 99th birthday*

As I reflect on Mother's Day, I am reminded of the simple yet profound ways love is expressed and received.

When I think of my own family, I can't help but think about the matriarch of our family: my grandma, Mary Lou. A mother of eight and grandmother of 16, my grandma used to host Friday Night Dinners every week. No formal RSVP needed. Her door was always open, and she was prepared for anyone to stop by—her grandchildren and our friends, a new couple from church, the cashier from the store, or a neighbor on her street. For her, cooking dinner and inviting someone to her table was an easy act of love. There was no difference between making food for eight, or 48, yet the real impact was making everyone feel like family in her home.

As we celebrated her 99th birthday in March, I looked around at all of the people brought together by her life and presence. Her children and grandchildren along with their spouses, and

now her 17 great-grandchildren, many of whom had traveled across the country. The threads of a tapestry my grandma began, gathered now to share a meal in her honor. To return the love she has shown to all of us.

Her example brings to mind John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

So today, whether love is witnessed through our children or modeled by a grandmother, or expressed in the countless ways you pour into our students and colleagues, may we embrace the love that God has given us and share it abundantly. May the love we have for each other be a witness of God’s deep love for us.

**Brittany Skinner**

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