

Happy Mother's Day!

By Ingrid Kidd Goldfarb, President,
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We set aside a day this month to honor mothers. My own mother died eighteen years ago but a day rarely goes by I am not reminded of her. My appreciation for lessons taught and examples set have grown through the years. I recently re-read a journal she had written. I was touched by her honesty and vulnerability. I was inspired by her delight in simple pleasures (a bed of pansies in the spring). But what I treasure most is having something she took the time to write in her own hand.

My Mother's Days now are shared with my own daughter and grandchildren. Many people told me how much I would love being a grandmother, and I do consider it one of life's greatest joys. But no one told me how much I would love watching my daughter be a mother. The "gifts" I treasure most from all of them are the handwritten notes and handmade cards I've received over the years.

In this day of email, Instagram, and Facebook, it is a rare treat to get a handwritten note from anyone. Yes, it's nice on my birthday to open Facebook and see a hundred Happy Birthday messages, but it just doesn't match the handwritten note from a friend.

For the past twenty-three years, I have made a card and written a note of appreciation to each Trojan employee on the anniversary of their employment. As I am mostly retired and Trojan has ninety-seven employees, it is impossible for me to know firsthand what each person's strengths are—but this gives me an opportunity to learn from their supervisors what they value most about the person. Research tells us being recognized and appreciated for well-done work ranks even higher than salary on the list of items leading to job satisfaction.

The majority of staff in dental practices are women; most of them are also mothers. They not only do good work for your patients but they juggle schedules and energy to do the important work of parenting. Might this be a good time to make a comment or write a note of appreciation for all they do?

