Mother's Manifesto

I am a mother, but this is not all I am. I am human. I am whole, with or without my kids or my partner. I am juggling and sacrificing every day with grace and without compensation, societal acknowledgement, or promotion. I am not alone. I am loved! I am grateful for my friendships. I am strong for my kids but won't deny showing them emotion or pain. These things are real, too. I am stronger than I think I am. I may not always have control, but I am never without power.

When I feel alone, I will reach out. When I feel judged, I will extend an olive branch. When I am hurt, I will ask what is going on in another's life to cause hurt. When I am down, I will recognize that I am valuable, indispensable, and have worth.

> I will be kind and non-judgmental to those around me. I will be kind and non-judgmental to myself. I will offer myself forgiveness first. I will be proud to be me.