

# INEVITABLE CHANGES

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Becoming an adult can be a very strange thing. One day you're a kid, aspiring to do something, to be something, and one day you are actually chasing those thoughts and dreams. But sometimes, something happens, and it either sets you back, or you decide to go a different route. This is what happened to my dad, about two years ago, and it changed his life.

Every person in my dad's family has had very intense heart problems, so it was inevitable that he had a heart attack, but it wasn't when he expected to have one, but one could say it was perfect timing.

When my dad had a heart attack, he had already gotten every degree needed and all the training needed to work in the cardiovascular unit. People would ask him, "Why haven't you switched floors yet?" or "Why'd you go back to school if you're just going to stay in the ICU?" But the answer was simple. He simply felt like he wasn't ready and had many doubts about it.

My dad could have sadly passed, if not for him already being in the hospital on a shift. When he finally went back to work, he said, "I don't feel like I want to work in the ICU anymore, I think I need to transfer to the CVU." So he did, and he did it because he felt like life was giving him another chance, and he knew he would be setting a good example for his kids, my brother and I.

When my dad decided to move to the cardiovascular unit, it was more than just changing jobs; it was like he was getting a full second chance at life. After his heart attack, he started approaching each day with more positivity, eager to help patients who were going through what he had faced. He would tell my brother and me stories about his new job, sharing how he tried to bring hope to people who really needed it.

Watching him, I learned that it's never too late to follow your dreams. His experience taught me that setbacks can actually lead to new beginnings. Becoming an adult isn't just about growing up; it's about

handling life's surprises with courage. Now, whenever I think about what I want to do as a career, and what my dreams are, I remember what my dad showed me. No matter what challenges come my way, I know that I can face them just like he did. And for that, I'm extremely thankful.

That is why my dad is my Michigan hero.

