Abbey and Marie's Friendship Story

In 2007, Abbey had just moved back to Washington with two toddlers and a husband who was on deployment. One of the first things she did was join the Y to take advantage of the two hours a day and signed up her 3 year old for rookie soccer.

Calling it "soccer" was generous. The kids were much more interested in running wild across the field, scoring in the wrong goal and asking when it was time for snack every time they came near the sidelines. While the kids experienced their first team, the parents on the sidelines also made connections. Abbey made a connection that still endures today.

Abbey and Marie had toddlers the same age, so we had plenty in common. They enjoyed the sideline camaraderie and a friendly face.

Their paths kept crossing over the next few years. They ended up attending the same church and in the same moms group, and even occasionally worked out together at the Y. Abbey and Marie developed a real friendship, showing up for each other in the everyday, ordinary stuff, and that's what made it last.

Now those 3-year-olds are 22, and they've each added several more kids to the mix. Six years ago Marie moved out of state. The distance changed how often they see each other, but it didn't change the friendship. She's still one of Abbey's dearest friends.

When Abbey thinks back to their first interaction, she's grateful for a field full of toddlers and families on the sidelines looking for connection. Neither of them could have known a conversation and smile would grow into a friendship that's lasted almost 20 years.