A Friend Indeed

June 10, 2014 By Nicole Lemelle

"Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone" - Maya Angelou

Lately, I have been feeling down. Unfortunately this is nothing new. Two to three times a year I go into a "funk". Not sure what it is but I really hate when it happens.

I mentioned this to my MS support group and after hearing about my troubles, a fellow MS group member, invited me to hangout with her for the weekend.

Sue, who has become a good friend and confidant, recommended we attend the New Orleans Oyster Festival. I agreed and we set a time and chose Sunday as the date.

Once the big day came, I was so excited. As soon as I woke up I began getting ready. As I was putting on my clothes, I could hear the patter of rain on my bedroom window. I looked outside and sure enough it was raining. I felt like crying. Then the phone rang. It was Sue. I just knew she was going to cancel. I answered the phone with a melancholy hello. She ecstatically answered back, "You ready?"

I said, "Sue, it's raining."

She replied, "If MS can't stop us, how we gonna let a little rain stop us? Girl, put on a hat and let's go!"

So we met on the Riverwalk in the rain. We were able to find some shelter and settled in to eat our charbroiled oysters and shrimp po'boys. The sun even peaked out and gave us a thirty-minute reprise so we could see the bands play music and watch an oyster-eating contest.

On the way home, I just felt so happy. Yes, my issues were still present but for a little while I was able to escape the worry and tension that always accompany my problems.

It's funny how friends and family can come through just when you think no one cares. Yes, a friend in need, is a friend indeed.

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