

Dearest friends,

Those of you we are connected with on social media (all of you?) likely know good things that have happened to us over the past year. We have been truly lucky, and have enjoyed sharing that good fortune with you digitally. But a constant stream of vacation photos, sunset cocktails on the back deck, and the kids looking adorable doesn't begin to portray the spectrum of emotions that we dialed in to over the past year. It would be an injustice to hide the things that have made our family grow stronger, simply because they were difficult to experience.

The year began with difficulty when Grandpa Hutchinson passed away unexpectedly. It was a challenge for everyone, but Eduardo took it especially hard since Grandpa had been planning to take him fishing for the first time over the summer. This led our summer road trip to the lake cabin up north, where we scattered grandpa's ashes so that he could still try and help Eduardo catch a big one.

Martin was again passed up for a long deserved promotion. We had hoped this might be the year that his hard work would be recognized, but the company owners decided on hiring more family friends instead of promoting dedicated employees with a track record for success. It's disappointing, but we're keeping our ears open for new opportunities.

Karen finished her first year of high school, and even though her first boyfriend broke up with her, she learned a good deal about herself from the whole experience. Yes, heartbreak is tough, but also, teenage boys can't be trusted, and they never seem to be quite as invested in your academic success as you are.



Last but not least, Bruno was hit by an ice cream truck in October. Despite the loss of his hind legs, he's actually loved the doggy wheelchair we've cobbled together for him. It's crazy to think that a month and a half ago we didn't think he would make it!

With everything that's happened in the past year, we're especially grateful for each other. We have our health, we have our goofy family traditions, and we have an unabashed love for Costco's \$4.99 rotisserie chicken on days when sports practice, play dates, and a late night in the office all happen to coincide.

Merry Christmas,  
The Hutchinsons