In 1992, the Southwest Orlando Bulletin — then just a little more than 6 years old — introduced what has become a Southwest Orlando institution — the annual Best Mom in Southwest contest. Now in its 21st year, the contest has grown from just 300 entries in that first year to almost 1,000 submissions in 2012. What started as a contest for school-age children is now a way for child and adult residents alike to express to their moms how important they truly are. It seems that mothers are perpetually protecting their children from the ills of the world, tirelessly cooking and cleaning, and preparing their children for adult life, all while managing to somehow be the kindest and gentlest women, despite occasionally having to dole out discipline. Congratulations to this year's winners: Ian Manubens, overall winner; Morgan McCain, 13-and-older winner; Isabella Hernandez, 9-12 winner; and Sabrina Violtat, 8-younger winner, and all of our honorable mentions. They join a long list of past participants who believe that their mothers truly are the best.

Overall winner
Ian Manubens, 14
Keene's Pointe
Best Mom: Nancy Manubens

Loving, caring, trustworthy — all perfect adjectives to describe my mother. My mother has been a s

Handling seven kids isn't easy, but she does it like a pro. My mother is so special. She could be sitting o

In addition to everything she's done in the U.S., my mother cares about others in foreign countries, as w
Being a momma's boy, my mother's love is very near and dear to me. Her love is like the ocean, and it r

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13-and-older winner
Morgan McCain, 13
Cypress Point
Best Mom: Jennifer McCain

Morgan McCain of Cypress Point, winner in the 13-and-older age group, is pictured with best mom Jenn

Dear Mom,
Words cannot describe how great you are. You are hardworking, compassionate, and you overcome all

You never give up, and you overcome every challenge.

We've been trying to figure out what's going on with David, and you aren't giving up until you have the a

Thank you for everything. I love you so much. Happy Mother's Day!
Love,
Morgan

9-12 winner
Isabella Hernandez, 12
Winter Garden
Best Mom: Awilda Hernandez

Isabella Hernandez of Winter Garden, winner in the 9-12 age group, is pictured with best mom Awilda H

What does “mother” mean to you? To me, “mother” means so many special things. M is for mom. O is
My mom inspires me to help others. She is a nurse, and every day she goes to work and takes care of p

Not being selfish is one of my mom’s other characteristics. I have a special bond with my mother. We wo

My mom and I are BFFL. As I get older, I hope our relationship continues to grow. I do not know what I w

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8-and-younger
winner
Sabrina Violtat, 8
Dr. Phillips
Best Mom: Luciana Violtat

Sabrina Violtat of Dr. Phillips, winner in the 8-and-younger age group, is pictured with best mom Luciana

My mom, Luciana, came from Salvador, Brazil, to the U.S. to help her sister and learn English. She was
As soon as we arrived, my mom had already done her research about the best schools, sports, places t

When I was 6, my mom started taking English as a second language so she could help me with my hom

I am so proud of my mom. She encourages me and tells me to do my best. She taught me to enjoy read

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Honorable Mentions

My mother, Lori Ann Bontell, is a kind, compassionate and generous mother. She leads by example and

My mother encourages me and many others to use our God-given talents and abilities to our full potenti

Another attribute I love about my mother is the drive and passion she places into everything she does. S

My mother is a great teacher. By explaining lessons really well, she makes them easy to complete. If I n

My mother is a remarkable woman who continues to push me and others to be better people. Through h

Matthew Bontell, 13
Westminster Landing

More Best Mom