



## I see you

Photos by Dawn DeAno

The location was Sisters of the Road Cafe and it was brightly lit by windows. The day was Valentine's Day. I had my camera in hand as well as a small portable printer plugged in. I was ready to take Shots For Love – portraits of the patrons and staff of the café that wanted to be seen! It was powerful. This simple act made people smile. The individuals I got to meet were excited to send their photo to a son, a daughter, a mother or give it to their boyfriend for Valentine's Day. I could not think of a better way to spend my day sharing what I love to do with others.

To have a picture taken of you: To have someone focus on you and pay attention to you is very powerful and empowering. It is showing up and being seen in the presence of someone else. It is validating.

It is my desire to show the importance of being seen by providing more free portraits to individuals that cannot afford it. Here are just a few of the portraits taken that day.

— Dawn DeAno

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