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IN *My* OPINION

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What good can we learn from a school shooting?

Here's my take – I've been reading with mixed emotions all the social media on yesterday's school shooting in Denver. It makes me heartsick. It makes me shake my head in sadness and it makes me angry that we can't find a way, answer to solve this continuing problem.

Schools, of all the places. There is evil in this world and it comes in many forms. Is there more now? I don't think so. I think we have access to "see" it more.

Do I believe evil is taking over? Without hesitation, No. I can't stand by and believe that all the good is gone from this country, world. I can't stand by and let our youth believe they should live in fear. I can't stand by and believe that more can't be done to address bullying, mental health, abuse and neglect. There are deeper roots to these things than simple access to a gun. It is hatred born of other beasts that we seem to turn a blind eye. Will gun laws change this? I don't know. Will more social programs curb these anxieties? I don't know. I know that I do my part as best I can. I help others. I open my home to those whose families have shut them out. I am a CASA volunteer to be a role model and resource for those less fortunate than my family.

I'm not sure what I can do that truly will make a difference on a grand scale, but I do know that I can be kind. I can listen. I can be aware. I can spread goodness. I can laugh fully. And with that I hope that there will be some glimmer somewhere for someone, a pivotal time, that they can see things a different way, without hate, prejudice or judgment. Does all that matter? I hope so in some small way. Inspiration comes in many ways.

Now, I'm going to choose to focus on the good that was exposed through all this shooting mess. A principal that made personal calls to worried parents in the midst of chaos. Police officers that put their lives above anyone else to stop further tragedy. Students who comforted and helped each other to safety. That is the kind of world I live in.

