



Brenda Anne Ackley

July 8, 1960 - November 1, 2022

Brenda Anne Ackley, 62, of Charlotte, died Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Brenda was born July 8, 1960 in Loda, Illinois, the daughter of James Richard and Kathryn Louise (Beard) Painter. She graduated from high school in 1979 from Rantoul Township High School in Rantoul, IL. Brenda worked as a factory worker, and later in adult foster care. She volunteered two years at the Eaton County Medical Care Facility. She later earned an Associate's Degree from KCC in 2002.

Brenda's pride and joy was her daughter, Natalie Rachel Ackley. She devoted her life to the love and care of Natalie, volunteering countless hours with the Special Olympics from 2005 to 2018, as well as Adult Handicap programs. She was especially proud when Natalie graduated high school. In her spare time, Brenda loved to crochet, work with plastic crafts, make hats and to plant flowers in her garden. She loved her Betty Boop doll collection and decorations, as well as bowling, camping, and family reunions. Many will remember Brenda as a very kind, giving person, always willing to help others.

Brenda is survived by her daughter, Natalie; her siblings, Larry Rollins, Harry Rollins, Chris Painter, Estella White, and Mary Eaton; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her baby brother, James R. Painter, Jr.

Friends are encouraged to support Brenda's family by sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 26, 2002 at Celebration Church in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Eaton County Medical Care Center Activity Fund. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Celebration Church (formerly Five Corners)
4012 Marshall Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

“ My condolences and deepest sympathy to Natalie and Brenda’s family.

The day after Jamie C. Informed me of Brenda’s passing I was shopping.

A lady reached over in front of me wearing a well decorated hat. I couldn’t help but cry thinking about Brenda. When we went out she would get a lot of compliments for her hats and it made everyone happy.

I think of Brenda as a quiet advocate. Many folks facing challenges are not always treated with the respect they deserve. Brenda’s answer to that was service in Christ, Faith, love and forgiveness. She helped more than one person get settled into their new community. She helped them find furnishings, church and more. She was impressive. When I was researching resources for our program Brenda already knew all the connections. She was smart, funny, loving and so generous.

Bill Gates has nothing on Brenda Ackley. Many who ran out of their paycheck often had Brenda to fall back on. She was often buying friends a pop, snack or meal. She frequently held community dinners at her place (especially for the holidays). When I picked her up she always had something to bring a friend that couldn’t cook. When she shopped, Natalie and Brenda’s Mom were always at the top of her list. Peanut brittle or dried blueberries always found a way into her bag.

At the Adult Handicap Program she was more than a member. She was a fixture. Before it got difficult for her to get around, she sometimes helped out in the kitchen or helped us set up for dances. A trip to any fair or festival would never be complete without buying a cold drink from Brenda at the Church booth.

Brenda was proud to be a special Olympic athlete. She was great at bowling.

There was nothing Brenda could not do. Brenda is an example of what real victory looks like.

Thank you Natalie & family for sharing Brenda with us. She will be missed.

Deborah Carmichael - November 26, 2022 at 03:55 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Deborah Carmichael - November 26, 2022 at 01:14 PM

DC

Brenda is at Char-Lanes here. She just got back from Special Olympics and is wearing all her medals. She was awesome at bocce ball! Brenda was great at everything she did. She was so good at bowling. As it got more difficult to bowl, she found ways around her challenges and managed to excel. She earned a certificate this year for bowling.

Deborah Carmichael - November 26, 2022 at 01:27 PM