



Patricia Jean Wagner

June 10, 1950 - April 3, 2010

Patricia Jean Wagner, 59 of Charlotte, passed away April 3, 2010. Mrs. Wagner was born June 10, 1950 in Niles, Michigan, the daughter of Randall and Betty (Runyan) Couchman. On November 29, 1969 she married her lifelong partner, Rev. Lynn Wagner. Patricia was the Executive Director for Michigan CASA for 13 years. She was on the Governors Task Force for Child Abuse Prevention, a member of the Child Abuse Prevention Council for the State of Michigan, and the State Adoption Board. Patricia was the former Board President of Habitat for Humanity of Barry County. She is survived by her husband, Lynn; daughter, Betsy (Darren) Tyria of Kalamazoo; mother, Betty Couchman of Buchanan, MI; siblings, Steven (Shirley) Couchman; J. Robert (Maggie) Couchman, both of Niles, MI; Catherine Ackerman of Ann Arbor, MI; sister in law, Mary Couchman of Galveston, TX. She was preceded in death by her brother Thomas in 2009. Funeral services will be 3:00 pm on April 10, 2010 at Lawrence Avenue Methodist Church in Charlotte. Visitation will be 12:30 until the start of the service. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Michigan CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Tribute Wall

MI

“ Dear Lynn, Betsy & Darren, Our sincere sympathy to all of you. Pat was one of my very favorites over all these years. She always was so sincere and caring. She will be greatly missed but the heavens will shine with her.

Marcia Bennett / Inspire - April 25, 2010 at 06:02 PM

KD

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Pat's family. Pat was a pleasure to work with, and was dedicated to bettering the lives of Michigan's children.

Kristen Donnelly - April 14, 2010 at 12:52 PM

PL

“ Pat's dedication to helping children in need is admirable, inspiring and at a height to look up to and emulate. I did not know her personally, but as a volunteer with the CASA Program in Ingham County, we know her work will live on in the lives of many children and families. May she rest in peace and may her loved ones share that peace through memories of a life lived well helping so many others.

Peggy LaFleur - April 11, 2010 at 12:50 PM

BL

“ Steve and Family We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bill and Susan Leidy - April 10, 2010 at 08:05 PM

BJ

“ Steve We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time

Bob and Sandy Jackson - April 10, 2010 at 09:31 AM

KR

“ Lynn & Betsy, although I won't be able to be with you on Saturday, please know that I will be thinking of you. Pat was a wonderful person that was passionate about CASA. She provided so much love and support for the Ingham County program, for that I am grateful. I am a richer person for having been able to get to know her. She will be missed by many. However, may we all one day join her in heaven.

Karen Ross - April 09, 2010 at 12:00 PM

SN

“ My condolences to the Wagner family, I remember when Pat started at the Barry Co, FIA office with the CASA program. She always had a smile for everyone and was so kind. With both of us being from Middleville she would often stop by for a quick catch up. She is in a better place but we know how much you will miss her, your memories and love will help you through this.

Sarah Wood Nichols - April 07, 2010 at 09:59 AM

MF

“Lynn, Betsy and family, Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. I will carry with me so many fond memories of Pat. I met her some twenty years ago at a gathering of CASA directors shortly after she had put energies into building the first CASA program for Barry County. Through her passion and creativity it seemed like CASA for Barry County became a well established program almost overnight. I remember coming to Hastings when the position for the State Director for CASA opened at Children’s Charter to ask her whether she would bring her talents to us to help build a statewide CASA presence in Michigan. As we all know she agreed. At that time CASA in Michigan was fledging at best “ maybe three reasonably well established programs with a few others struggling to get their feet under them. Through Pat’s leadership, passion and unique set of skills all of that changed. She understood what it took to plan for a sustainable program and she was uncompromising in assuring that communities went through all the steps necessary to build a CASA program that would last. Like our CASA volunteers, Pat never lost sight of the fact that the core purpose of her work was to assure that neglected and abused children have an advocate with their best interests at heart. It is truly her legacy that there are so many strong CASA programs throughout our great state with passionate CASA volunteers that are making meaningful differences for our most vulnerable children. Pat was a friend to me in so many ways and I, like so many others, have been blessed to have known her.

Mike Foley - April 06, 2010 at 09:44 PM

KM

“ Lynn, Jeanne and I offer our condolences on the death of your wife, Pat. While I did not know her well at all, I know of your affection and love for one another, and the support she has always been for you and your ministry. And the record of her care for children and the needy is well known and has provided great ministry for children and the attitude of the State of MI toward children at risk. She has truly been a help-mate in your ministry. May the hope of our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ, now be made real for you and your family as you have preached and lived it through these years. Peace, Ken McCaw

Ken McCaw - April 06, 2010 at 11:34 AM

ST

“ Dear Lynn, I am so sorry for your loss of such a dear and loving wife. Please come back to painting class on Thursday mornings and paint your heart out. There are others in the class who are grieving and it could be very healing for you. We want you back! You and your family are in my prayers. Love, Sue

Sue Trowbridge - April 06, 2010 at 11:23 AM

GW

“ Lynn, Know that you are being lifted in prayer. May the Lord grant you: permission to grieve, friends who know how to listen, assurance of Pat's eternal reward, wonderful memories to sustain you, a purpose to live for that is greater than your grief, a supportive sense of the greater connection that you have blessed through your faithful ministry, and the faith of David, who on one of the most difficult days of his life could write, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted." Glenn Wagner, Holt

Glenn Wagner - April 06, 2010 at 10:33 AM

MT

“ Dear Lynn and Family; I am sorry that I cannot be with you on Saturday. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I appreciated Pat's love for children and the CASA program. She was such a kind person and always a sharing, caring Christian person. You will continue in my prayers. Molly Turner

Molly C Turner - April 05, 2010 at 10:33 PM

RS

“ Dear Lynn, It is with God's Grace that I send this to you today. May you and your family be surrounded by His love as you grieve. May His presense be with you each and every moment is the weeks ahead. I shall always remember Pat's kindness to me as a new pastor and her generosity to love all of God's children. She was truly an angel here with us on earth as she taught us how to love more openly. Your sister in Christ, Mary Soderholm(Schippers)

Rev. Mary Soderholm(Schippers) - April 05, 2010 at 05:53 PM

EM

“ Thank you Pat.....for always being there in my "moment of need" to support me! I will keep plugging along in my dream to "make a difference" one child at a time. There are some things that never ever leave us. A mother's love is one of them. With Deepest Sympathy

Emily Kieft, Grand Rapids, MI - April 05, 2010 at 03:53 PM

VW

“ I wish my memories of Patricia Wagner to be happy ones. She truly was the voice of the Michigan CASA Program. Pat trained me more than 12 years ago as a CASA. She had a soft-spoken way about her and handled difficult matters with grace. Her tireless efforts made the Michigan CASA program one of the best in the country if not THE best. The Michigan CASAs always met and had dinner together at least once during conventions. Pat always made sure that everyone was included in our get-together dinners. When asked for information about a CASA problem, Pat always had the answer for us. We appreciate every last thing she did for us individually and as part of the Michigan CASA program. Pat will be missed. Our memories of her will live on.

Vivian Walczesky - April 05, 2010 at 03:11 PM

DN

“ Dear Brother Lynn, I send you these greetings and prayers since I cannot be with you at the Memorial for Pat. It has been some time since we have seen each other. At least since your retirement I remember in the mid 80s when you and Pat were serving at Nashville, Karen and I at Hastings. Pat and Karen were friends back then. I remember Pat for her caring ways and her wonderful sense of humor. May you feel God's presence as you go through this time of sorrow. Your brother in the covenant of the clergy, Grace, peace and love in Christ, David Nelson

David Nelson - April 05, 2010 at 01:50 PM

GG

“ Pat's heart was one of the biggest, kindest hearts anyone could know. She believed in children and helping as many as she could. Her passion for CASA, and the children that were helped, will continue in all of us volunteers to this day and beyond. I can't think of a better legacy than that, a child in a safe, happy home. Thank you Pat, I know there is a special place in heaven for those who help a child.

Grant Garber - April 05, 2010 at 01:03 PM

CL

“ Dear Lyn and Betsy, please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of your Wife and Mother. I will always be thankful for Pat's friendship and mentorship, she guided me through many tough spots and we laughed alot as well, and for that I am eternally grateful. Pat was a God send and she will be truly missed by me and many others.

CJ Ludwick - April 05, 2010 at 09:36 AM

JW

“ Betty and Family of Pat - I send to you my sincerest sympathy on Pat's passing. This shouldn't happen to such a beautiful person. My heart and soul are so heavy right now. I pray to God that He gives your family strength and peace at this difficult time. I love you - Jan Watson

Jan Watson - April 03, 2010 at 04:03 PM