



Carrie Ann Essink

November 1, 1976 - October 23, 2021

Carrie Essink Memorial Donation Fund

On October 23, 2021, our family had to do the hardest thing we've ever done. Our beautiful bride, high school sweetheart, and the mother of three amazing children passed away unexpectedly.

Carrie fought cancer for more than a decade and met that bleak diagnosis with positivity. She remained loving, optimistic, and endlessly funny, and gave our family the strength to support her in the battle against cancer. For more than 11 years, we knew this day would come, but it's still a shock.

If you knew Carrie, you knew how involved she was in the Bennington community and groups our children have been part of. Lieu of sending flowers or gifts, we are asking for donations that we will give in Carrie's name (#TeamCarrie) to three groups via www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/ or <https://gofund.me/407a741f>. The groups, which have supported activities for our children and community, are:

- Bennington High School Booster Club
- Arizona State Chapter Alpha Omicron Pi Foundation
- Wayne State College Baseball

We appreciate your thoughts and stories about Carrie — through them we are celebrating a life that improved countless others. Thank you for carrying forward Carrie's spirit and supporting the people and events she loved.

We love you, Carrie!

CARRIE ESSINK, 44

Carrie Essink, age 44, of Bennington passed away peacefully Saturday, October 23, 2021, in Empoli, Italy, with her husband at her side.

A public memorial service and Celebration of Life will be held Monday, November 1, in her honor with a private, family burial to follow at a date in the future.

Carrie was born in West Point, NE, on November 1, 1976 to David and Suzann (Furstenau) Reicks.

She attended and graduated from West Point High School and then completed her education at Midland Lutheran College with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She practiced as a registered nurse in Lincoln, Omaha, Creighton (NE), and then back in Omaha.

She met her husband, Brandon, when they were both in high school while Brandon was in town for district legion baseball in 1992. They were married in Columbus, NE, in 1999. Three amazing children were brought into the world: Kyler in 2001, Sena in 2003 and Jack in 2007. Everyone who met Carrie knows that her children were the center of her life. She was passionate in every activity in which they were involved and rarely missed an event. She was their rock.

Carrie fought a rare form of cancer (familial paraganglioma) for more than a decade and met every obstacle with grace and positivity. Never wavering, she remained loving, positive, and spread happiness and optimism to everyone she met around the world. Her strong work ethic was emulated and her feelings that everyone should love everyone was meant to be copied. After her diagnosis her zest for life and adventure was insatiable, even traveling to Tanzania and Italy in the last weeks of her life as her strength and health were

reaching their final limits.

She is survived by her husband, Brandon, of Bennington, NE, children Kyler of Wayne, NE, Sena of Phoenix, AZ, and Jack of Bennington, NE, father David Reicks of West Point, NE, and sister Cindy Reicks of Omaha, NE. She was preceded in death by her mother Suzann Reicks.

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Cemetery Details

Mount Hope Cemetery

West Point, NE 68788

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Relevant Community Church
21220 Elkhorn Dr.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Carrie Ann Essink*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - October 26, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ *Carrie Ann Essink*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Dr. Essink & Family - We were so sorry to read in the World Herald of Carrie's passing. You don't know us, but our daughter and son-in-law, Heather & Greg Brockhaus, bought your home and they have always spoken so highly of Carrie, you and your family. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Don & Betty Dammast - October 31, 2021 at 01:34 PM

CY

“ Dear Essink family,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I was privileged to have both Sena and Jack as students. I could certainly tell that your family is one filled with love. My thoughts and prayers are with you for strength and comfort.

Connie Yoder (Former English/Speech and Drama teacher - Bennington Public Schools)

Connie Yoder - October 30, 2021 at 02:37 PM

KM

“ *Carrie and her sister Cindy babysat my oldest daughter when they lived in West Point. Carrie was a vibrant young woman who enjoyed life and had an impact on many.*

kathy mahannah - October 29, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carrie Ann Essink.*



October 28, 2021 at 11:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carrie Ann Essink.*



October 28, 2021 at 11:25 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carrie Ann Essink.*



October 28, 2021 at 10:48 AM



“ *I got to know Carrie during brief car rides on Meridian trips. Brandon would be driving us to our destination and while I was a passenger in the backseat I enjoyed lively conversations with Carrie. I felt like we shared simimilar views and values, and were on the same page about many things. I also loved watching Carrie's dance moves. She had a way about her that distinguished her from us mere mortals flopping about on the dance floor. I know she is dancing in heaven now.*

Lorita - October 27, 2021 at 10:55 PM



“ *Carrie and I met when we were 7, becoming good friends in junior high. We lost track after high school for a short time but reconnected while she was finishing her final year at Midland. That's what our friendship will always be...Time passing and picking up where we left off like it was yesterday. Though my heart is broken, I find joy in remembering all the fun we had and remembering your beautiful smile.*

Brooke Saenz - October 27, 2021 at 07:20 PM

LH

“ Carrie and I started the 1st CHS dance team and at one point we had 40 dancers. We had lots of fun and she worked on the routines while her own kids were in the bathtub!! I taught all of her children and she became a friend! Her smile and hug always brightened my day!

LaDonna Hazen - October 27, 2021 at 06:28 PM

JP

“ Carrie was such a big part of my college years and young adult life. She became an instant best friend who was always so giving. We shared several major life milestones together including graduation from college, our wedding day, and our firstborn's birth and she's a true friend that won't ever be replaced. My heart is broken but I know Carrie would want us to remember the fun times we had. We love you Carrie, can't wait to see you again ❤️



Jodi Patrick - October 27, 2021 at 05:47 PM