



## Gina Sue Cyza

July 4, 1974 - May 22, 2015

Gina Sue (Opsahl) Cyza was born July 4, 1974 in Rochester, Minnesota to Lindsay and Mary (Percuoco) Opsahl. She grew up in Ankeny, Iowa, where she attended Northwest Grade School before graduating from Ankeny High School in 1992. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA in 1996, achieved her 2nd Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in Omaha in May 2003, and had recently completed work on her Master's degree in Education in 2015. As a young girl, Gina enjoyed singing and was active in choir.

Gina married Christopher Cyza on July 6, 2002 at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska, and to the couple, two children were born; Claire on April 15, 2004, and Quinn on March 28, 2011. The family has made their home in Omaha. Gina worked as a kindergarten teacher at Westridge Elementary School for the Elkhorn Public School District since August 2003.

Reading and running were Gina's two favorite hobbies. She participated in book clubs, and ran numerous races, earning several medals. She loved all kinds of music, the color pink, UNI, Iowa and Nebraska sports, and a night out for Sushi and a margarita or beers. Gina was proud of her marriage, and the family she shared with Chris, her friends, her career, and her alma mater, UNI. She will be remembered as a brave, loving, selfless woman, who was a bit of a comedian, and had a knack for storytelling. She never complained that she

had cancer, and she was NOT a quitter. Most of all, please remember how genuinely she cared for her family, her friends, and her students.

Gina died on May 22, 2015 at the Hospice House in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 40 years, 10 months, and 18 days. She was preceded in death by her grandparents; Neva (2/13) & Clinton (5/06) Opsahl, Felix (4/81) & Betty (8/12) Percuoco, and stepgrandfather Arnold Onstad. Gina is survived by her husband Chris, children; Claire (11) and Quinn (4), and parents Lindsay and Mary Opsahl all of Omaha.

Gina S. Cyza, age 40, of Omaha, died 5-22-15. Preceded in death by grandparents; Neva & Clinton Opsahl, Felix & Betty Percuoco, and stepgrandfather Arnold Onstad. Survived by husband Chris, children; Claire (11) and Quinn (4), and parents Lindsay and Mary Opsahl of all of Omaha. Funeral Mass 10:30 AM Tuesday, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Elkhorn. Interment at a later date. Visitation with the family from 3-5 PM Monday at the church with a Wake service at 5 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Project Purple or the Hospice House

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gina Sue Cyza*

---

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Dear Chris,  
I am deeply sorry to hear about your loss of your beautiful wife  
Gina.  
My prayers and sympathy go out to you and your entire family at  
this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,  
Rachael Gabel*

---

**Rachael Gabel** - June 01, 2015 at 01:02 PM

DB

“ To Lindsay Opsahl

*Hi Lindsay*

*So very sorry to hear of your daughter's passing. Your daughter's obituary was noticed in many circles around Iowa Methodist. You are remembered fondly to be sure and our hearts and prayers go out to you and everyone in your family.*

*I never got to meet your daughter - that I can remember - but have enjoyed reading about her life and the exceptional person she was and how God blessed her life and all the lives of those who knew her.*

*I see that she blessed you with Grandkids - I too have a daughter (31 y.o.) and a great son in law with 3 grandkids now - they live 2 blocks away from Lori and I and we treasure them all everyday. I know that you will see Gina in your grandkids - when they are with you - she is with you too.*

*Hope to see you again someday, until then know that my prayers are with you all.*

---

**Dave Blake** - May 29, 2015 at 09:33 AM

JB

“ Lindsay and Mary,

*My family shared Gina's obituary with me. I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Gina as a child and she was such a special girl. I can only imagine the wonderful woman, wife and mother that she became. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*  
*Julie*

---

**Julie (Wheeler) Bell** - May 28, 2015 at 12:47 PM

KY

“ One day, I noticed a number of carefully-lettered road signs in the area inviting people to attend a fundraiser for Gina. I am a two time cancer survivor myself, and so have a special place in my heart for those dealing with cancer. But more than that, I felt somehow called to see what this gathering was all about.

I hurried home and collected a number of pieces of artwork that I had created over several months, hoping that they could be used as auction items. When I reached Elkhorn South, I was truly amazed at the number of people who were there from all walks of life, all of whom had been similarly moved to attend in support of this amazing woman and her family. One after the other, and unsolicited by me, strangers eagerly shared their stories, recounting just how loved Gina was, and what a great deal she meant to each of them. So although I never even met Gina, I knew that she must be a very special soul indeed, to have inspired all of this love and heartfelt support.

As I drove home that day, I realized that Gina's life must fit the truest definition of A LIFE WELL-LIVED. She has during her lifetime achieved an ideal that we all strive for. I am confident that her legacy of friendship and caring will continue through her family and friends, creating a ripple effect in the community. God bless you, Gina.

---

**Kirsten Yates** - May 26, 2015 at 01:50 PM

MC

“ To Chris, Claire & Quinn,  
So sorry to hear about your loss. I can't imagine having gone through what you & your family has and then have it to end this way. May God bless you with peace & perseverance to get through these next days, weeks and months ahead. You and your family will be in our prayers!

Love,

Matthew & Sherron, Luke, Henry, Helene, Dominic & Simon

---

**Matthew & Sherron Chard** - May 25, 2015 at 01:21 PM

CU

“ My thoughts and prayers to each and ever one of you! Special prayers to Gina's Mom. We lost our Daughter to side effects of cervical cancer in Dec. She also left 2 girls, ages 15 and 5. If you ever want to talk, please do not hesitate to call me!  
God Bless each of you!  
1-402-310-2125.

---

**Cindy Urban** - May 25, 2015 at 12:33 AM

GG

“ To Mary and family, my heart was heavy today as I learned of this sad news at LA Fitness. I pray for the family that you find peace and strength through your faith in God. God bless you all.

*Gloria Guillard*

---

**Gloria Guillard** - May 23, 2015 at 10:29 PM

PJ

“ My heart goes out to Chris and the girls and all of Gina and Chris's family. Many of us have followed Gina's steps since October - always praying for a miracle. But God had plans for Gina. When you lose someone very precious, no one else can really know all that you feel...but, please know that many caring thoughts are with you during this time of sorrow. This from myself, Chris, and many of your friends at Phillips.

---

**Patricia Johnston** - May 23, 2015 at 08:06 PM

CB

“ *My daughter attends westridge and said mrs cyza and mrs peterchuck were her favorite teachers. She was a strong woman who never let her students down despite her own battles. prayers and blessings to her family, students, and friends. she will truly be missed!*

---

**carol bailey** - May 22, 2015 at 11:56 PM