



In Loving Memory

Michelle K. McGuane

1963 ~ 2010



Michelle K. McGuane, 47, our earthly Angel, was called home to rejoin her flock on November 2, 2010 after a second valiant battle against breast cancer.

Michelle was born in Rock Rapids, Iowa on April 6, 1963 to Daryl and Leslie Wilken. When she was eight, the family moved to Delta Junction, Alaska to follow her father's long-held dream. She returned at age nine after her father was tragically killed in a plane crash. She and Leslie shortly moved with her uncle, Steve, first to St. Paul, Minnesota then to Big Sky, Montana where she attended Ophir school.

After moving to Bozeman, Michelle attended Bozeman High School and her mother, Leslie, married Cliff Hysell. Leslie was critically injured in a car accident in Fresno, California where Cliff was coaching football; and at nineteen, Michelle moved her mother back to Bozeman to care for her.

Michelle's amazing spirit and compassion were evident from an early age. While caring for her mother and working at John Bozeman's Bistro she earned her degree in Health and Human Development from Montana State University. It was during this time she met her husband, Thomas, and they were inseparable since that time.

Upon graduating from MSU she began a seven-year tenure as Activity Director of Gallatin County Rest home. She and Thomas McGuane were married on July 23, 1994, and in June of 1998 their beloved son, Thomas was born.

Michelle had a passion for decorating, and her home was always a lovely, welcoming nest for friends young and old to gather. She loved reading and going to movies and dinners and skiing with her little family. She enjoyed flower gardening and telling big Thomas where to move and plant shrubs. She loved caring for her numerous plants and pets, but most of all nurturing her little Thomas—and her big Thomas too! Her trio travelled many places together and always to Boca Grande, Florida in the spring—creating so many memories that we will treasure in our hearts forever. Her mark is on so many things around us. She was marked by tragedy, but never defined by it.

The emptiness in our hearts will never be filled, yet we must make our way together using the light of her precious soul to guide us on. Michelle, we love you with all of our hearts and we will never forget you or the gift you gave us with your love and companionship.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Thomas, son, Thomas V., and mother, Leslie Hysell, all of Bozeman; Uncle Steve (Debbie) Wilken of Three Forks, Uncle Charles "Chip" Johnson, of Missoula, and Great Aunt Nonie Viedt and Bobbie Viedt, both of Winner, South Dakota. She is also survived by cousins, Cory (Pam) Sierra and Connor Vellinga, Dale and Kaylee Kountz, and Dalyce (Michael) Sellers, all of Bozeman, Julie (Eric) Lein, of Billings, and Corey (Monica) Johnson of Pullman, Washington. Michelle is also survived by her in-laws, Tom (Laurie) McGuane, of Big Timber, Becky Fonda, of Paradise Valley, Justin Fonda, Heather Hume, and Annie McGuane, all of Bozeman, and Maggie McGuane of Livingston; Cliff Hysell and Kristin Hysell of Bozeman; Callie Hysell, of Seattle Washington. Auntie Michelle also leaves behind treasured nieces and nephews, Maisie, Charlie, Walker, Beckett, Clay, Quinn, Kendra, and Timmy. She was preceded in death by her father, Daryl Wilken.

Donations, if desired, may be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure,
Attn: Donor Services, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309 .

