



## Cheryl Ann McCullagh

April 26, 1945 - December 11, 2015

Cheryl Ann Edwards McCullagh died on December 11, 2015 in the ICU at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN. She was born on April 26, 1945 to Dr. Francis L. Edwards and Agnes Deane Butler Edwards in Pierce City, Missouri. She grew up in Monett, Missouri where she was the valedictorian when she graduated from Monett High School in 1963. She graduated from Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa in 1967. She then volunteered for her church, the Community of Christ, for one year in Wales and England where she made life-long friends. She then entered the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Missouri, Columbia and graduated in May 1970 with an M.S.S.W. She, her husband, and their son moved to Cedar Falls in 1981. For many years Cheryl was employed as a school social worker by the Area Education Agency. She was honored as the Iowa School Social Worker of the Year in 1994 and the Iowa Social Worker of the Year in 1995. She also received the Seasons of the Year Award from the Family & Children's Council in Waterloo. Since 1981 Cheryl was a member of the Community of Christ in Cedar Falls. As a member said:

"She has been a vital part of our congregation and gave loving, compassionate, insightful and timely counsel and assistance over the course of many years of service. Through her music as a pianist and her involvement in choir, she was such an asset and directly involved in years of service in ways that made worship much more meaningful. Her spiritual mentoring was tender and a blessing to all she touched in that manner. Her administrations

were fruitful because she was so able to very quickly, allow God to enter her heart and mind when called upon, to bless those in various need allowing herself to be the channel for the Lord to pour out His blessing on those who had come to her for help. I have been a recipient of that more than once. Her sense of humor and her ability to laugh at herself was most endearing. Her sermons were deep and well founded and insightful. She was amazing when she had a job to do.”

Survived by: her husband, James, son, James John, and her sisters Frances Edwards and Caryl Edwards Gold and their families.

Services:

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Richardson Funeral Service, 615 Main St. in Cedar Falls. The following day, Dec. 16, visitation will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 followed by a memorial services at the Community of Christ Church at 4616 Cedar Heights Drive in Cedar Falls. Cheryl will be buried at St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Greencastle, Northern Ireland.

Memorials: may be directed to Graceland University students majoring in English at Lamoni, Iowa.

Condolences may be left at [www.richardsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com).

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ Just tonight I learned of Cheryl's passing several months ago thru an on-line reading of Graceland's "Horizons" publication. We sat next to each other in a Spanish class at Graceland and I considered her a friend, and am so saddened to hear this news. I don't think I ever saw her again after I left Graceland after my sophomore year ('64-'65), but was much impressed by her friendliness, good nature and general deportment. My condolences to her family and friends, albeit so many months late. I know many people thought a lot of her, and although my association with her was brief and limited I felt privileged to have known her.

Doug Macrae

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Doug Macrae - May 29, 2016 at 02:57 AM

PG

“ It was with great sorrow yesterday that I learned of Cheryl's death. For many years I was a classmate of Cheryl's in Monett, MO, and my mother worked as secretary for Cheryl's father, so I knew Cheryl and her family well. I regret that I hadn't been in contact with Cheryl since a high school reunion many years ago. Cheryl was so bright and so kind, a truly wonderful young woman. Cheryl seemed to bring out the best in those around her, and I feel as if a bright light has been extinguished.

My condolences to James and James John--I know you've lost a remarkable wife and mother. I don't know if Frances and Caryl will remember me, but I do remember them well, and send them my best wishes.

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Paul Garrett - January 30, 2016 at 05:19 PM

PG

“ Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. This is one of the most difficult things we must face in our life. May it comfort you to know that others are deeply touched by your loss. God assures us at Psalms 34:18 that he is near to those broken in heart and those crushed in spirit he saves. Jesus also promises that we will be able to see our loved ones again. May these bible thoughts bring you comfort at this most difficult time

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**Peggy Gienau** - December 16, 2015 at 02:09 PM

JL

“ I only worked with Cheryl for a few years as a special educator but she is one of those people who makes a life-long impression. Cheryl was understanding, practical and kind; three attributes that made her the perfect person to work in the environment she chose. I am truly sorry to hear of her passing.

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**Jeremiah Longnecker** - December 16, 2015 at 01:43 PM

AB

“ Jimmy John, James, Francie and Caryl, I'm still in shock. Thanks to the Brims for letting me know. I will be stopping by tomorrow at Richardson's about 5:30, hope to see you. If not, just know my heart is breaking for you. Cheryl's "grace" and her "curiosity" and her "talent" to see beyond the surface made her exceptional. She once presented a program for me at an anniversary of the Area Piano Teachers (NAMTA) talking about the impact music had made in her life and how she loved that Jimmy John found that, too. She often expressed her gratitude to the dedication of all teachers. She loved her sisters so. And she said that James made her feel safe. She definitely made a difference in our lives!

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**Ann Barry** - December 15, 2015 at 12:59 AM

MB

“ *Dr. McCullagh and family. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that my thoughts are with you during this time.*  
*With condolences,*  
*Mary Jo Beckman*

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**Mary Jo Beckman** - December 14, 2015 at 09:04 AM

CI

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Cheryl's family during this time of bereavement. I worked with Cheryl at the AEA and she was a very kind person. She touched my life during a time I was going through something. I will always remember her and appreciate her.*

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**C. Balark, Waterloo, Iowa** - December 14, 2015 at 08:32 AM

MH

“ I am shocked to hear of "Pebbles" death. We met her in Maine many years ago and she was quite the character, full of life and love and so in tune with nature. We kept in touch over the years and I hadn't heard from her recently. Was she sick or was this sudden? She loved her Jim and her Jamie and she worried about everyone. She was wise and kind and beautiful inside and out.

When we get to Driftwood Inn on Bailey Island this summer, I will toss a flower bouquet of island blooms into the ocean for her. I will always look down on the little red log cabin where she stayed and know her spirit is there. To Francie and Jim, and Jamie, so sorry for the loss of this earth angel. She will never leave you. I give you the last line in an Emily Dickinson poem "Some Keep The Sabbath Going To Church"....."so instead of going to Heaven at last.....I'm going all along."

Mike and Hannah Campbell  
Havertown, PA  
Rhubarb48@aol.com

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Mike & HannahCampbell - December 14, 2015 at 08:19 AM

BB

“ So very sorry to hear of Cheryl's passing, she was such a wonderful and caring person and I was so privileged to call her my friend. Please know my thoughts are with your family.

Barbara Brown

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Barbara Brown - December 13, 2015 at 10:47 PM

SO

“ Cheryl was my roommate at Graceland, we called her Pebble. I can still hear her laugh and see her studying in the corner of our room. I'm not surprised that she was a blessing to so many people. Pebble had so many gifts. She will always be a special part of my life's journey.

Sharon Smith Outhouse

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**Sharon Outhouse** - December 13, 2015 at 09:50 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about Cheryl's passing. Keeping you and your family close in thoughts and prayers. Jenny Becker

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**Jenny Becker** - December 13, 2015 at 05:17 PM

JM

During this difficult time, may shared memories of happy times together help to sustain you now and in the days ahead. My thoughts are with you. Jan Melby

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**Jan Melby** - December 15, 2015 at 09:36 AM

RM

I was so saddened to hear of Cheryl's death. We worked together for years at Holmes Jr. High. I admired her so much, She was the most compassionate person I had ever met and she was a champion for the underdog. We had many wonderful professional and personal conversations but the one that stands out in my mind was her "love" of cookbooks. She loved to buy cookbooks. She was truly a class act!!  
Rona Messmore, School Counselor, Holmes Jr. High

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**Rona Messmore** - December 15, 2015 at 01:10 PM

CT

So sad to hear about Cheryl's passing. I worked with Cheryl at the AEA for a number of years. She was such a kind and caring person that was dedicated to helping the students and families she worked with. She will be truly missed by all who came into contact with her.

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**Carol Toppin** - December 16, 2015 at 01:05 PM