



## Kristi Appenzeller

August 30, 1966 - August 15, 2012

Kristi Custer Appenzeller of Pflugerville, Texas, formerly of Cedar Falls, lost her courageous battle with cancer on August 15, 2012. Kristi's family was the main passion of her life. Kristi fought long and hard to overcome cancer. She was the daughter of Judy Estabrook (Bruce) of Cedar Falls and Keith Custer (Janet), of Dunkerton, Iowa.

Kristi was preceded in death by grandparents, Ray and Helen Custer and George and Dorothy Garth, all of Cedar Falls.

She was born August 30, 1966 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She graduated from Cedar Falls High School in 1985. In 1989 she graduated from Iowa State. She had lived in Chicago where she was a teacher and later an account executive in advertising. Kristi married Todd Appenzeller in 1996. They moved to Pflugerville, Texas in 2004. She was devoted to her family, her sons, and her friends in Texas, Iowa, and so many other places.

Bruce Smith, one of Kristi's dearest friends and neighbor in Pflugerville, wrote the following tribute:

"Maybe God chooses the toughest challenges for the toughest people. The people who can endure and conquer the trials and tribulations us lesser folk would crumble in the face of. The people who are best equipped to be beacons of hope and courage in a most difficult and troubled world. The people He chooses to shine His light and teach us how to be better. He may have never chosen a more stout or inspiring vessel than Kristi Appenzeller, a true champion and indomitable force. Kristi's body eventually succumbed to

the ravages of breast cancer yesterday afternoon, but her spirit and attitude kicked it's butt every second of their epic battle. Optimistic, confident, defiant, humorous, loving and resolute in the face of impossible odds and circumstances and ungodly pain, Kristi showed us all how to live and be Alive. That, while our bodies have to eventually fail us, our spirits do not. Of all that she stood for and taught us, there may be no more generous gift than that... We are most humbled and thankful for the friendship and love of Kristi Appenzeller and who she will always be to us and all those who were most fortunate to know her. Godspeed and Vaya con Dios our sweet and triumphant friend, we will do our best to follow your most beautiful example..." Kristi is survived by her husband, Todd, and two sons, Sam and Luke, of Pflugerville, Texas; her mother and father; brothers, Kreg Custer (Christina) of Raymond, Iowa, and Kevin Custer (Jennifer) of Cedar Falls; Mother in-law Connie Wooldridge (Lloyd), Father in-law Rich Appenzeller, Brother in-law Scott Appenzeller; two nieces and four nephews.

A celebration of Kristi's life was held Sunday, August 19, at the Pflugerville Community Church.

Funeral services for Kristi in Cedar Falls will be on Friday, August 24, at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Richardson Funeral Home, Cedar Falls.

In lieu of floral tributes, the family suggests memorials to [LiveStrong.org](http://LiveStrong.org).

# Tribute Wall

RJ

“ *Kristi Appenzeller*

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**Ron & Doris Juhl** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

SP

“ *Our sincere sympathy on your tragic loss. Michele and I will keep all of your family in our thoughts and prayers, especially during the difficult time. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.*

*Steve & Michele Phillips*

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**Steve & Michele Phillips** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

AB

“ *I am sure everyone has such wonderful and happy stories of Kristi. Who could not! What a great person, blessed with humor, kindness and compassion. No one needs to tell you how much she will be missed as you already know. Very inspiring to us all.*

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**Amy (Lynch) Bishop** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

EJ

“ *Custer and Appenzeller Family,*

*We are so sorry to hear about your loss but we know how hard Kristi and all of you have fought the past couple of years to try to beat this disease. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Mary and I had hoped to drive down tomorrow but I am not able to get out of work. We hope to see you all soon.*

*Love,  
Erick and Mary Jensen  
Bob and Monica Jensen*

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**Erick & Mary Jensen** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

DF

“ *Todd and Family:*

*We are so saddened to hear about your loss as Kristi moves on be with the Lord. Kristi was a breath of fresh air to whoever was around her and made an impact on so many lives. I pray the Lord Jesus will comfort your family and carry you through these awful times. God bless you brother. Dean and Lori Field*

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**Dean Field** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

MJ

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Kristi's death. You are all in my heart.*

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**Maria Jaramillo** - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

MS

“ *My sincerest condolences to Appy and Kristi's entire family. She was such a lovely person whose spirit will live on...*

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**Madonna Sullivan** - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *Dear Judy and Keith & families,*

*So sorry to hear the loss of your daughter.*

*I don't believe I ever met her, but do remember hearing of her battle with breast cancer at a class reunion meeting years ago.*

*Remembering happier days, Rita Copeland Justis*

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**Rita Copeland Justis** - August 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM