

Janet Lynn Keenan



Janet Lynn Keenan, 49, passed away on February 21, 2012, at Taylor House Hospice, with family by her side.

Janet was born on November 10, 1962, the daughter of Kenneth and Marilyn Keenan. Janet lived with her family on their dairy farm outside of Grinnell for 25 years. She moved to a group home in Grinnell in 1987, then later a Mosaic group home in Des Moines in 2010.

As a person with Down syndrome, Janet faced challenges. Yet, she showed those who knew her how to count blessings and smile for the simple things that life brings every day. Her happiest times were those spent with her family. She loved being with her parents, siblings, grandparents, and her many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins — always eager for each occasion to be together.

From the time she was five until graduation day from Pleasant Hill School in Marshalltown, she loved getting on the bus and attending school with her friends. Over the years on the farm, Janet acquired pets that she loved and cared for. Her favorite pastimes were riding her three-wheel bike, jumping on the trampoline, listening to music, and watching favorite television shows. After her graduation, she enjoyed the jobs she was assigned when she was employed at the Career Development Center (CDC) in Grinnell. A favorite activity through all of her life was Special Olympics and proudly sharing with others the medals and ribbons she earned. While every day was one in which she found happiness, her favorite day of the year was her birthday, to which she counted the days and reminded all of us when the next one would arrive.

Janet's gift to us lives on through her happy spirit and the love she gave. Those who are left to remember and cherish this wonderful spirit include her mother, Marilyn (Bob) Rozendaal of Sully; siblings: Pam (Dennis) Vogel (Des Moines); Shirley Keenan (Perry); Gary Keenan (Des Moines); Marcia McKelvey (Decorah); and Glen (Missy) Keenan (Fairfield); her nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles; and the many friends she came to know. She was preceded in death by her father, Kenneth Keenan; maternal grandparents, Ithel and Ruth Gillespie; and paternal grandparents, Patrick and Gertrude Keenan.

Visitation services will be held 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, February 26, at the Social Center for St. Francis Manor/Seeland Park, 2021 Fourth Avenue in Grinnell. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, February 27, at Grinnell United Methodist Church, with a luncheon following at the church. The service will be conducted by Janet's cousin, Reverend Harlan Gillespie. All friends and family are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a contribution be made in Janet's name to the Mosaic Foundation (Des Moines and Omaha), Taylor House Hospice (Des Moines), or Iowa Special Olympics.

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