

Leukemia claims life of Desireé Dontje

Desireé Dontje, 18, whose battle with leukemia prompted several local organizations to hold fund-raisers in her behalf, died of the disease Tuesday, Sept. 14, at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Grinnell Christian Church, with the Rev. Arvid Dixen, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, officiating. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday. A memorial fund in her name has been established and may be sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 18, 1974, in Minneapolis, Minn. The family moved to Grinnell in 1976 and she attended

Grinnell schools.

While in high school she competed in volleyball, basketball and track. She also was a member of the Grinnell High School Band and the Grinnell High School Choir. She was a member of the International Club and the National Honor Society and was elected to the Central College Honor Band.

She was the color guard captain in the high school marching band, competed at the state level in vocals and was a participant in the Dorian Music Festival at Luther College. She also took part in an Iowa Peace Institute tour of Russia and was elected to Girls' State.

She received the Fine Arts Award from the Department of Education at GTE and was a recipient of the P.E.O. Scholarship. She had worked part time at Village Decorating and as a lifeguard at the Grinnell Municipal Pool where she taught swimming and Red Cross.

Surviving are her mother, Monica Hudson of Grinnell; her father, Allan Dontje of Denver, Colo.; her stepfather, Mark Hudson of Grinnell; a sister, Angela Dontje of Grinnell; three brothers, Kirk, John and Eric Dontje, all of Denver; her paternal grandparents, Henry and Lucille Dontje of Camdenton, Mo.; and her paternal step-grandfather, John Whitehead of Des Moines.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, William and Menerva Evans.



Desireé Dontje

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Funeral services were conducted Saturday for Desireé Dontje, 18, who died of leukemia Sept. 14.

The services were conducted at the Grinnell Christian Church, with the Rev. Arvid Dixen, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Grinnell, officiating. Organist was Susan Todd, and vocalist was Roger Henderson.

Pallbearers were Kirk Dontje, Brad Gerrish, Lori Jones, Chris Johnson, Ryan Hill, Dave Morris, Judy Schroeder and Rhonda Scull. Honorary bearers were members of the Grinnell High School girls' basketball and volleyball teams.

Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Desireé Dontje Memorial Fund and sent in care of the Smith Funeral, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell 50112.

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September 16, 1993

September 20, 1993
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