

The Carolyn and Susan Davis Memorial Fund

Being a part of a family of nine children is an adventure in itself, with each day presenting a new surprise. Carolyn and Susan Davis were two sisters of nine children who lived full, exciting lives, embracing their faith and their passion for helping others.

Carolyn Jean Davis was born on February 23, 1957, and her parents, Bill and Alma Jean Davis, remember her as a person who was very energetic and full of life. She loved to play cards, like Euchre and Rummy, as well as board games. She also enjoyed music, and at the age of eight began taking piano lessons from Arlowa Vorm. Her favorite song to play was *"Skater's Waltz."*

"She was a 100% person," Bill and Alma recalled. "Whether she did it right or whether she did it wrong, she did it and stood behind it. She believed in what she was doing."

Carolyn loved her family and spent much of her time at their family-owned home store, The Final Touch, which was located in Knox. She was very creative, and this enabled her to run the craft section of the store, which also involved working with children, another passion of hers.

Carolyn was born and raised in North Judson, where she attended the Catholic school and graduated from the local high school. She believed that an important part of her Catholic faith was service to others. Her parents remember that she was very kind and generous to older people and anyone who needed her.

"She never met a stranger," Bill said. "She knew everybody," Alma Jean added.

In 1982, at the age of twenty-five, Carolyn was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She lived another twelve years, during which she continued helping those around her. Her mother was amazed by the numerous people at Carolyn's funeral whom Alma Jean did not recognize. Upon asking how they had known Carolyn, they all had



Carolyn Davis



Susan Davis

stories of how Carolyn had helped them at some time. She loved to see people smile, and no matter who called her, she would willingly help out.

Carolyn passed away in 1994, and in 1998 her parents started a fund in her honor. She touched so many lives, and a fund at the Starke County Community Foundation was a way to remember and honor her forever. "Her name will always be there," her mother said. "She's not an easy person to forget."

Carolyn's older sister, Susan Elizabeth Davis, was born on September 19, 1954. Throughout her life, she believed that her calling was to teach. She graduated from Indiana State University and went on to earn her Master's degree at Butler University. She was extremely talented at playing the French horn, which enabled her to receive a college music scholarship. Upon graduating from Butler, she went on to teach music for one year at the North Judson-San Pierre Elementary School.

Susan also had an adventurous side. Following her year in North Judson, she spent one year in Kuwait teaching for the American School Corporation, which she thoroughly enjoyed and loved.

Upon returning to the States, she began teaching in Indianapolis. "That was her calling," her parents said in commemoration of her. Her mother said that she was a great teacher and her students loved her. She also gave many of her students private piano lessons.

Susan later became a loving stay-at-home mom to her two children, Samantha and Jeremy. Aside from being a teacher and mother, Susan was very connected to her church in Indianapolis, the Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church. She was a very devoted person and was a member of the CHRP Women's Organization, in which she actively helped others. In turn, the women of this organization took great care of her when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001.

Susan lived for eight years with breast cancer. During that time, she never ceased caring for others, and she continued to let her faith guide her. During the last two weeks of her life, her family stayed with her, and Bill and Alma Jean remember that during this visit, she was focused on them, not herself. "She never complained," her mother said. "She was something else. She never gave up." Her priest told them, "I've never ever, ever met anyone who was so ready and had accepted her place in life."

Susan passed away in 2009, and her family expanded their fund to commemorate both Carolyn and Susan. Bill and Alma Jean remember the two girls as being very special and adventurous in their own ways. For their parents, both girls brought forth a new surprise daily. They belonged to a big family, which held many family get-togethers and had many good times. Though their lives were taken early, both girls were able to live the life they had to the fullest, surrounded by the love of the Davis family who wishes to honor them through this fund and remember them forever as loving, caring women.