



*Visitors came in at a steady stream, bringing with them flowers, memories, countless “remember whens”, and even some stories parents are never really intended to hear about our children’s youthful exploits. Childhood friends, co-workers and clients embraced Nina the same way she embraced life – without reservation and with a full heart.*

A brain tumor, which was diagnosed in 2012, finally claimed Nina’s life but her spirit is as alive as the day she was born. She lives on in the collective memories of 28 friends and family members who stood vigilant in the waiting room the day of Nina’s surgery. Many said, “*Nina always put everyone else first.*” For the remaining two years of Nina’s life, her friends and family put Nina first.

We helped Nina with her “bucket list” – something most of us never expect to do during our child’s lifetime. Nina’s dream of a trip to Europe became a reality thanks to her co-workers at Merrill Lynch. Nina celebrated being named the Godmother to her new nephew and her friend’s children. Even with the challenges associated with her brain tumor, Nina was able to become an ordained minister so that she could perform the wedding of two of her closest friends! As you can see, Nina’s “bucket list” was long and at the end of her life, that list was filled with check-marks to acknowledge a life well lived. Her time with Hospice of Dayton was relatively short, but the impact made by the loving and compassionate patient care team was extraordinary.

Celebrating life is part of the mission of Hospice of Dayton and it was the mission of Nina’s friends and family. In an atmosphere made possible by the care team at hospice, those who knew and loved Nina found joy, even in sorrow, because we knew she lived life to the fullest and through her we gained a deeper appreciation of our own lives and the times we were privileged to spend together.

Learn from Nina’s example and live your life to the fullest!

As the father of someone who used the services of Hospice of Dayton, I encourage you to support the worthwhile programs and services of this fine organization.

*John Walden*

