

## Forever In Our Hearts

# Christine Jo Anderson

**Born**  
December 22, 1951  
Redwood Falls, MN

**Died**  
April 14, 2021  
Fridley, MN

**Memorial Service**  
Miller Funeral Home  
6210 Highway 65 Northeast  
Fridley, Minnesota  
Saturday, April 24, 2021  
11:30 a.m.



**Officiating**  
Pastor Phil Gotsch

*Those laden lilacs at the lawn's end  
Came stark, spindly, and in staggered file,  
Like walking wounded from the dead of winter.  
We watched them waken in the brusque weather  
To rot and rootbreak, to ripped branches,  
And saw them shiver as the memory swept them  
Of night and numbness and the taste of nothing.  
Out of present pain and from past terror  
Their bullet-shaped buds came quick and bursting.  
As if they aimed to be open with us!  
But the sun suddenly settled about them,  
And green and grateful the lilacs grew,  
Healed in that hush, that hospital quiet.  
These lacquered leaves where the light paddles  
And the big blooms buzzing among them  
Have kept their counsel, conveying nothing  
Of their mortal message, unless one should measure  
The depth and dumbness of death's kingdom  
By the pure power of this perfume.*



Christine Jo Anderson, 69, of Fridley, MN, passed away on April 14, 2021 after a valiant battle with a nasty lung disease.

Christine was born on December 22, 1951 to Dennis and Marion Urke of Vesta, MN. She grew up on a farm, surrounded by family and creatures of all sorts. Her love for animals was fostered by continued rescues of orphaned critters, from Cottontails to kittens.

After attending and graduating from Milroy High School in 1969, she went on to study at Southwest State University in Marshall, MN, where many dear friendships and fond memories were made.

She trained to be a travel agent, and enjoyed its perks, visiting a long-held pen-pal in England, the fjords of Alaska, and the balmy beaches of Hawaii.

In 1982, she met Dave Anderson, and they wed on September 3, 1983, after realizing he was THE ONE because he showed up for a date with a cat-friendly plant rather than a bouquet of flowers. They went on to be the proud parents of more than two dozen cats. Together they enjoyed traveling in Dave's private planes to destinations like New York, South Carolina, or just over the Mississippi River for brunch in St. Paul.

For twenty-seven years, Chris worked as the Student Data Manager at Fridley High School where she was often one of the first faces students, staff, and families would see. With her giant smile and helpful attitude, she made

everyone feel welcome and important. She was often referred to as the glue that held the office together.

After retiring in 2017, Christine spent her time working in her beloved gardens, creating magical fairy and flora worlds.

Christine was predeceased by her parents, Dennis and Marion, and her great-niece, Mary Allen. She is survived by her devoted husband, David Anderson; her feline children: Diego, Diva, Gabby, Gigo, Iko, Marco, Meeko, Mommy, Nelly, Nikka, Wellie, and Zuki; her sister Kathleen and her husband Jim, their children Kelly (Troy), Cora (Stewart), Karl (Angie), Colin (Brianna), Spencer, Kayne, and Simon, her brother David and his wife Brenda, their children Jessica (Tim) and Kirsten (Trea), several great-nieces and nephews, Naomi (Wyatt), Caleb, Miriam, Amos, Anna, Martha, Gideon, Vesta, Archer, Viola, August, Beatrice, Henry, Aili, Charlotte, Bethany, Joseph, Mattison, and great, great-nephew Harvey.

The family would like to thank the incredible team at Mayo Clinic, who compassionately cared for Christine throughout the last several years. Additional thanks to treasured family and friends for their prayers and support throughout her illness.

Christine requested memorials be sent in her name to The Wild Cat Sanctuary. <https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/>



Miller Funeral Home ~ Fridley, Minnesota