



Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short

September 10, 2015

Karen Preiss Short, 48, possessed an amazing capacity for love and care, selflessly putting the needs of friends and family above her own. She loved to cook and entertain – guests to her home could count on an ample and delightful spread of both traditional and at times inventive treats. Her infectious smile and gregarious personality made Karen the life of many gatherings. She is preceded in death by her mother, Maureen Balzer. She is survived by her sister Kelly Wilhelm, brothers Chris Preiss (Julia) and Joshua Preiss (Kirsti), father William Preiss, nieces Jessica Carleton, Brittany Wilhelm, Nicole Preiss, and Karolyn Preiss, and nephews Tucker Wilhelm and Oliver Preiss.

Brian Scott Short, 45, devoted much of his life to the care of others, and to helping nurses care for their patients more effectively. Trained as a nurse, Brian founded AllNurses.com, and developed it into one of the most important nursing websites in the world. Brian had a passion for diving and travel, and met the arrival of the latest gadgets and technology with youthful anticipation and joy. Brian is preceded in death by his father Glenn Short and brother David Short. He is survived by sisters Diana Van Kleek (Mark) and Lori Williams (Leo), brothers Robert Short and Daniel Short (Cindy), mother Sondra Short, nieces Heather Short, Kimberly Opala, Haley Short, and Brandi Short, and nephews Haiden Short, Landon Short, John Opala Jr., David Short, Leo Williams III, Luke Williams, and Levi Williams.

Cole Scott Short, 17, a senior at Minnetonka High School, loved fishing and

gaming. A young entrepreneur, as a small child he met the gift of a wagon as an opportunity to start his first business, selling candy out of the wagon to the other kids in the neighborhood. Cole was wise and worldly beyond his years, perceiving thoughtfully the needs and concerns of friends and family.

Madison Mariah Short, 15, a sophomore at Minnetonka High School, possessed a true and loving heart. She was a voracious reader, devouring whatever books she could get her hands on, and always asking friends and family for recommendations. She enjoyed theater and performing, and like her mom, was the life of many gatherings. Her life goal was to do whatever she could to make the world a better place.

Brooklyn Rose Short, 14, a freshman at Minnetonka High School, was a young shining star. An honor's student and a member of National Honor Society, Brooklyn's drive and determination extended to soccer and gymnastics. Always curious and unfailingly sweet, Brooklyn's zest for living was infectious, brightening the lives of all who knew her.

Funeral service Sunday, September 20, 4PM at Grace Church, 9301 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie. Visitation on Sunday from 2-4PM

There has been a Memorial Fund set up for the Short Family @ Provincial Bank, PO Box 459, Lakeville, MN 55044.

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I grew up in lakeville being neighbors with the shorts. Brooklyn was my best friend. For some reason she has been on my heart a lot recently. Maybe because this year is 10 years since she has been gone. I miss you a lot brookie. i hope you know how much i loved you.

Kaitlyn - April 15, 2025 at 09:30 AM

AO

“ I was Madison's Best Friend and I miss her soooooooooooooo much and I would just ask for anything for her back in my life. I miss the rest of her family, they were so sweet and so kind to me when I came over like 50 times lol! They made me feel like I was their family :) I miss you Maddie and I will see you up in Heaven

Ally O'Brion - January 09, 2016 at 09:44 PM

KE

Hugs to you Ally.....what a wonderful friend you are. I am so sorry!

Kelly - January 17, 2016 at 05:44 PM

JC

“ My heart goes out to the family. Saying prayers and I am so sad that their lives were cut short. I am friends of Leo and Lori Williams and have met this wonderful family and can't imagine what the family is going through. Prayers to you.

Julie Coleson - September 20, 2015 at 08:48 PM

NI

“ Nicole sent a virtual gift in memory of
Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short



Nicole - September 19, 2015 at 03:45 AM

NI

My heart breaks.....May you all rest in peace.

Nicole - September 19, 2015 at 03:50 AM

Y.

*I do not believe Brian Short was capable of this. I really.... truly hope
Hennepin county is looking into murders set up to look like a murder
suicide. The South Lake police dept. Is A JOKE!!!! MICKEY MOUSE!!!!
Lord let Hennepin County delve into this investigation! !!!! R.I.P.....😭😭*

Y.Y. - September 20, 2015 at 05:22 PM

SM

*Not really the place for this comment y.y please don't judge at such a
horrible time food all*

smurfyfriend@gmail.com - September 20, 2015 at 08:19 PM

Y.

*Judging?!!!! PLEASE!!!! I am sticking up for this man that was so
wonderful asking.... PRAYING.... that a complete investigation is
done!!!! And that no stone is left unturned to MAKE DAM SURE..... that
it was not a set up!!!!*

Y.Y. - September 20, 2015 at 08:40 PM

Y.

I apologize profusely if this was not the correct place to put that message..... everyone is horrified, distraught, terribly saddened and filled with empathy for this family..... we are members of the community and things are not always said at the right time and in the appropriate place when people are shocked and grief stricken.... my sincerest and heartfelt sympathy to all family and friends of the Shorts..... they were a wonderful family...😭😭😭

Y.Y. - September 21, 2015 at 11:44 AM

JU

“ My heart breaks for this family and all those that are left behind.

Jules - September 18, 2015 at 12:52 PM



Jessica
Anderson

“ The world is a volatile place, every day you go through the daily motions of life without knowing if those will be your last. We do not know for certain what happens when our time here ends. So we must live each day to it's fullest. It seems to me that is what these beautiful people did. Each of them were unique and complex and left their mark on this world. They touched the lives of many both in life and in death, I will remember their beautiful smiles and because of them I will appreciate each of life's moments and treat them as a gift. For we do not know how much time we have here. My wish for this family is that they find peace and love wherever they may be and that their energy turn into something wonderful and bright and renewed. RIP Short family. May their energies burn bright and never fade.

Jessica Anderson - September 17, 2015 at 10:18 PM

DW

“ I worked with Brian when he was attending nursing school and developing his ideas for his website. He was a kind and intelligent young man. This tragedy breaks my heart. RIP Short Family.

Dennis Walker - September 17, 2015 at 05:33 PM

YF

“ *Gone Too Soon*

*I know your in heaven dancing and free
but there's so much more you should be here to see.*

*So many things I never got to say
because I never thought that you would go away.*

*I never told you cause I thought that you knew
but would that have changed what you planned to do?*

*I am glad that you are free from the fears you held inside
but I wish you had come to me and put aside your pride.*

*The world is a lonelier place without you
I guess that you thought this was all you could do.*

*When I see you again I'll tell you that you were wrong
and how much I've missed you everyday you've been gone.*

Your friend - September 17, 2015 at 03:00 PM

CG

“ *Class of '82 Girlfriends purchased the Blooming
Garden Basket for the family of Brian, Karen, Cole
Madison, Brooklyn Short.*



Class of '82 Girlfriends - September 17, 2015 at 02:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short.



September 17, 2015 at 01:31 PM



“ Hi Lori.

Both Peter and I sorry for the loss of this family. I would like to get back in touch with your mother, Sondra Short.. If we can , we'll attend .

Barbara Uljanec - September 17, 2015 at 09:23 AM



“ Brooklyn--I'm so fortunate to have had your beautiful and calm soul enter my life during your 8th grade year. The world missed out on knowing a confident young girl. I hope you are in peace. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Gina - September 16, 2015 at 11:06 PM



“ My heart goes out to whoever wrote that beautiful tribute. I cannot imagine having to sit down and write about 5 members of your family. You did them justice and then some.



C.J. - September 16, 2015 at 02:35 PM

MA

C.J I was thinking the same thing. How terribly hard.

Marie - September 16, 2015 at 04:23 PM



“ *Loving Thoughts and Heartfelt Condolences during this time of sorrow to family and friends of Brian, Karen, Cole, Madison, and Brooklyn Rose.*



Kevin America - September 16, 2015 at 01:23 PM

JU

“ *Just thinking of the many friends and family who personally knew the family - my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. ~Julie*



Julie - September 16, 2015 at 12:50 PM

JH

“ *The Horner family wishes to extend our deepest condolences, love and support to the family and friends of Brian, Karen, Madison, Cole and Brooklyn. We did not know them but we live close by and our 3 boys attend Minnetonka High. Best wishes for peace and comfort for you all. Julie, Allen, Curtis, Ezra and Brandon*

Julie C Horner - September 16, 2015 at 12:28 PM

GI

“ Cole worked at the pet supply store where we often went for crickets for our pet gecko. He was so sweet to my two young children and often let them hold the animals for sale. You could tell he loved animals and enjoyed his job there. He will be missed and our thoughts are with the family in this terrible tragedy.

Gillian - September 16, 2015 at 12:26 PM

BB

“ Wishing Gods love and peace to the extended family of the Shorts. Blessed be their memory.

Barb Bentzen - September 16, 2015 at 12:06 PM

MC

“ I want to let everyone know that I have set up memorials for the Short family they each have their own Memorial. The memorials are in www.FindaGrave.com You will see the links on each of the memorials.



Milissa Casey - September 16, 2015 at 10:19 AM

KG

“ Brian I have the privilege of knowing you, laughing with you and enjoying your company. I never met your beautiful family but have enjoyed them too from conversations and FB photos. I miss your quick humor my friend. Today I pray your families Both Preiss and Short will find some peace soon. The outpouring of love for you and your family has been unreal-I wonder if you ever knew how much you were loved and respected. My heart is heavier now, and the world has lost 5 stars



Kay G - September 16, 2015 at 05:24 AM

PB

My heart goes out to the families that are left behind. What a great family they were and we may never make sense of it all. Memories will keep them alive, Karolyn you and your family have my deepest sympathy and may you all find peace. Patricia Behrendt

Patricia Behrendt - September 19, 2015 at 07:12 AM

 Janna
Jero

“ *The shadow of sadness is with in all the heart's of those whom loved (love) Brian, Karen, Cole, Madison and Brooklyn , this shadow of sadness has also spread into the heart's of those whom didn't know them personally . During this time of great saddness I raise up in prayer all that are feeling this great saddness of loss with in the very core of their souls into the Good Lord's loving light and love and I ask him to heal each and everyone that this family has touched. Some of us have experienced heaven but it was not our time so the Good Lord sent us back and I truly believe one reason is to tell those who feel the saddness of losing a loved one that when our human bodies die our souls never die ...meaning even though the human body is gone our souls are more alive then ever before . please know that the beauty and love on the other side is flawless . it's the ones that are still living in the human body that are suffering this lossBrian, Karen, Cole, Madison and Brooklyn are finally home and surrounded with beauty and love like no other .*

Janna Jero - September 15, 2015 at 09:57 PM

 CL

“ *Brooklyn - Holly, Koda and I love you so very much. You took such good care of us this last summer as I healed from my broken ankle. Just want to let you know what a difference you made in our lives. We will miss you and never forget you. Sending you and your family love.*
Cindy Lehman - Greenwood, MN

Cindy Lehman - September 15, 2015 at 08:29 PM

HS

“ *May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds, and your souls, and bring you peace.*



Heartbroken Stranger - September 15, 2015 at 06:38 PM

RS

“ *Our prayers and condolences go out to the extended family and friends of the Short family during this very difficult time of loss. Karen was a beautiful woman inside and out with a radiant smile and heart of gold. Brian a loving man who always loved and protected his family. Their children were a direct reflection of the wonderful parents they both were. This is how I chose to remember them. May God wrap his loving arms around each of you and their precious memories be etched in your hearts forever. Peace, blessings, and love, Ro Schmidt and family*

Rolanda and Roger Schmidt - September 15, 2015 at 06:05 PM

MA

“ *In time the good memories will overtake your grief and sadness and I hope that sad journey will eventually bring you all peace*



mary4278 - September 15, 2015 at 04:19 PM

AH

“ *Anita Hansraj lit a candle in memory of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short*



Anita Hansraj - September 15, 2015 at 02:51 PM

AD

“ *Praying for peace and comfort during your time of grief.*



Ann Davis - September 15, 2015 at 02:18 PM

-F

“ *- The Tesla Family purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short.*



- The Tesla Family - September 15, 2015 at 02:02 PM


NW

“ *Nancee Wright lit a candle in memory of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short*



Nancee Wright - September 15, 2015 at 12:56 PM

NW

RIParadise...

Nancee Wright - September 15, 2015 at 12:57 PM

MH

“ M Hempel lit a candle in memory of
Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short



M Hempel - September 15, 2015 at 12:35 PM

MH

My very deepest condolences to all family and friends.


M Hempel - September 15, 2015 at 12:35 PM

JU

“ Julie lit a candle in memory of
Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short



julie - September 15, 2015 at 11:46 AM

 Susan
Hooper

“ Susan Hooper lit a candle in memory of
Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short



Susan Hooper - September 15, 2015 at 11:03 AM



“ *Truth will be found. RIP*

Dan Hennen - September 15, 2015 at 10:41 AM

LE

“ *Brookie I am still in shock and think if I call you your going to answer. I will never forget you!*



Lexi - September 15, 2015 at 10:10 AM

Jl

“ *As a MHS faculty member, I was able to work with Cole five hours a day, 175 days last year. He was a sweet and tender spirit with a dry sense of humor and a warm smile. We often talked about our dogs, his salt water fish tanks and his love of cooking. We often discussed our techniques in the kitchen and I envisioned him becoming a chef some day. I am grateful for having had his presence in my life and I hope that there is some small consolation in knowing that we all are grieving this tragedy along side you. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jill - September 15, 2015 at 09:40 AM

NK

“ *Brian, you have been a life long friend. We grew up together as our families spent a lot of time in our childhood playing together. As we grew older we were able to share our dreams, laughs, and good times. I'm going to miss you. May God grant your family comfort during this time as you leave such a large void in all our lives.*

Nicole Rasmussen Kaminski - September 14, 2015 at 11:02 PM

CA

“ *Madison magpie the whole world seems darker and duller without you!*



Callie - September 14, 2015 at 08:56 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short.*



September 14, 2015 at 07:34 PM

CM

“ *God Bless The Preiss-Short Families*



Catherine Murrin - September 14, 2015 at 02:08 PM

EM

“ *My heart breaks as yours is whole. The lights are dimmer with your smiles. #Tonkastrong.*



emilyAnn - September 14, 2015 at 01:57 PM

KY

“ All I can do is cry. So sorry, gonna miss you so much!!

kyla - September 14, 2015 at 01:47 PM

MA

“ Cole, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU BUT I AM SO SORRY YOU ARE GONE TOO. FLY FREE WITH THOSE BEAUTIFUL WINGS.



Maddie - September 14, 2015 at 01:36 PM

MA

“ Miss my Brookie too, and all those giggles.



Maddie - September 14, 2015 at 01:34 PM

MA

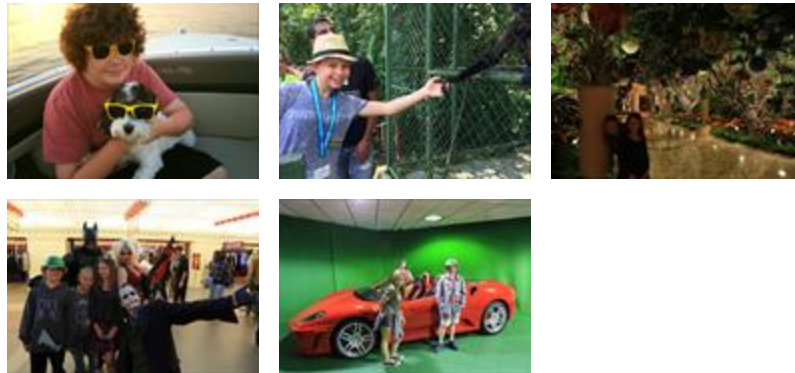
“ Miss you my Maddie pie face



Maddie - September 14, 2015 at 01:32 PM

MA

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Maddie - September 14, 2015 at 01:30 PM

CM

“ Brian, you were one of my favorite people. While I have only known you for a couple years, I really connected with you and enjoyed knowing you and our limited time together. I can't imagine what you were dealing with that lead to this, but I pray that you and your family are in a better place now. You are greatly missed and have left a deep void in this world.

Chad Menne - September 14, 2015 at 12:44 PM

 Kate Hanson

“ Brian was a treasured member of our Tesla Family. You will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with your extended family and friends.



Kate Hanson - September 14, 2015 at 07:40 AM

BT

Sending our love and condolences.

brittany thomas - September 14, 2015 at 08:58 AM

JH

“ There are no words to ease your unspeakable pain and grief. But please know our family and the entire community have you all in our prayers. Trust God for your strength.....He does care! Peace be with you all.



Jerry and Beryl Van Heukelom - September 13, 2015 at 03:10 PM

JH

“ There are no words to ease your unspeakable pain and grief. But please know our family and the entire community have you all in our prayers. Trust God for your strength.....He does care! Peace be with you all.



Jerry and Beryl Van Heukelom - September 13, 2015 at 03:10 PM

HM

“ Holly McGeorge lit a candle in memory of Brian, Karen, Cole Madison, Brooklyn Short



Holly McGeorge - September 13, 2015 at 01:34 PM

HM

“ Although I don't know your family I have not been able to shake this devastation all the way in Canada. These are the times we realize how important every memory we have is! Hear is hoping as time goes on you will be able to hang onto each memory you have and hold them dear to your heart. As a fellow funeral services worker I know how difficult a situation like this is even for the funeral staff involved may The Lord give everyone involved the strength and comfort needed to celebrate the lives lost in this unspeakable situation. By all that I have seen there is no doubt this was a family who loved one another immensely. Hold each other close and remember this is in Gods hands now. My condolences from Ontario Canada. Holly McGeorge

Holly McGeorge - September 13, 2015 at 01:33 PM