



Janet M Madzey-Akale

November 24, 1959 - January 21, 2021

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Janet Madzey-Akale in her home in Minneapolis, after a long and courageous battle with liver disease, surrounded by her beloved friends and family on January 21, 2021 at the age of 61.

Janet was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 24, 1959, to Alice and William Madzey. She grew up in South Minneapolis attending Morris Park Elementary, Nokomis Jr High and Roosevelt High School. Janet attended college at Minneapolis Community College, Prescott College, and graduated from Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She earned her masters degree in Youth Development Leadership from the University of Minnesota in 1997. Janet worked for the Girl Scouts of America where she started a Hmong Girlscout troop in North Minneapolis. She then worked at the YMCA where she helped create a Y in Jamaica. Janet in the 90s met Ralph. They were married on April 23, 1993 and they had their two beautiful boys. Janet entered and completed the YDL program and ultimately started Full Circle Consulting Company focusing on youth development and organizational planning. Her work leading organizational planning and evaluation of programming at the Science Museum of Minnesota led her to a role as the interim Director of the museum's Youth Science Center. Beyond her own professional life, Janet was intimately involved in RASOF and all things soccer as she supporter her sons and many other young people in

purusing their interestes in this sport. Janet was passionate about her family and was called auntie by many in our community.

She devoted her life to working with youth and teaching them to learn by experience. She lived her life to the fullest, had a ready laugh and was always ready for adventure, yet she was passionate about social justice, open and honest about her views on issues affecting our society and actively created programs to address racisim and support leadership and equity in our community. Janet was a wonderful mother, wife, sister, aunt, daughter, friend and community member.

She is survived by her husband Ralph of 26 years, sons Mukwelle and Masango, brothers James Madzey (Kathy), Brian Madzey (Patsy), sisters Carol Kerkhoff (Charles), Susan Belew, and in laws Rita Akale, Christian Akale, Samuel Akale and Rouhieh Shahidi in addition to many nieces, nephews and friends. We already miss her terribly. Memorials preferred to the family.

Previous Events

Chapel Service

FEB 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Nokomis Park Chapel
1838 E. Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 721-1651
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ I will really miss connecting with Janet at RASOF and talking about youth work with her. It was always a meaningful conversation that made me think and understand the places I was in in a new way. She was a smart and caring woman with deep commitments in place. I'm happy to have met her and will miss her. Thinking of you all and wishing you peace.

Molly Collins - February 08, 2021 at 04:19 PM

CB

“ I came late to knowing Janet, becoming friends over the past two years. Walking the track at the YMCA with dinner after, walking Powderhorn Park, walking the neighborhoods. And then our car trips—time-lost days wandering, stopping to explore and lingering lazily in the sun, picnicking on blankets at the forest's edge. My last phone conversation with her in the hospital, I didn't want to let her go. The doctor had given her a teary hug and suggested she focus on family. So I'm treasuring the bottle she gave me at Christmas, full of her homemade Baileys then and full of flowers now. All my love, Janet to you and your family. I treasured your friendship and will miss you.

Chris Burda

Chris Burda - February 06, 2021 at 05:07 PM

CK

“ *The first time I met Janet she told me i needed to update my contact information immediately because I was not just Mom as was listed on team contacts. I had a name and should use it!. Janet was great about saying what she felt and I loved her honesty, spirit and willingness to challenge me and others. She loved her family so much and she helped me be a better Mom. She became a great friend and an example to my children of someone who was loyal and good to all those around her. I will miss her greatly in this world but am thankful for all the memories. Not sure what I will do without our standing RASOF dates. Masango and Mukwelle I feel i know you better than I probably do because i loved sharing your lives and witnessing your Mom’s incredible love for you I knew if any of my kids needing anything ever i could call on your Mom, even recently she was asking what she could do for me. I don’t know what i can do for your family but know I I keep you in daily prayer and I am here anything you need ever. Ralph thank you for sharing your beautiful wife with us. I would be honored to offer my help with anything in days to come. Love to all.*

Cris Knoblauch - February 06, 2021 at 12:21 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Janet M Madzey-Akale.*



February 04, 2021 at 03:21 PM

DE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Deb - February 04, 2021 at 09:38 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary - February 04, 2021 at 09:32 AM

MD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary & Deb - February 04, 2021 at 09:28 AM

CK

“ *The Chapel Service will be for immediate family only. Others may participate via zoom.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/95491870646>

We hope you participate in the zoom meeting and share with us your memories of Janet.

Please contact Carol Kerkhoff at carolkerkhoff@gmail.com for further information.

Carol Kerkhoff - January 30, 2021 at 08:43 AM