



Mrs. Melinda Marie Shamp

January 30, 1957 - December 14, 2021

"Death is our greatest challenge as well as our greatest spiritual opportunity. By cultivating mindfulness, we can prepare ourselves for this final passage by allowing nature, rather than ego, to guide us." ~Ram Dass

Melinda Marie Shamp, New Brighton, MN passed away unexpectedly, Dec. 14, 2021, She was born January 30th, 1957, in Hibbing, MN to Albertis and Ruby Shamp.

When Melinda was a baby, the family moved to Pine River, MN where Melinda attended elementary school. She had fond memories of those early years on the farm. The family returned to Hibbing in 1968 where Melinda attended Jefferson Elementary, Lincoln Jr. High and Hibbing High School. She enjoyed singing, was in choir, acted in the school plays, and was on the speech team; skills that carried her through her life, she was always on the honor roll. She worked long hours to put herself through college, graduating from the University of MN with a BSW in social work, then pushed forward to get a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Melinda was a Licensed Social Worker, a Certified Mental Health Professional, a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Professional, a Certified Peer Support specialist, a WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator,

a Mental Health First Aid facilitator, and a non-violent crisis prevention and intervention instructor. She was highly regarded in the rehabilitation field in Minnesota and beyond. Her work changed the lives of hundreds of individuals. Her extensive work history included Andrew, Inc., KCQ, Inc., Rise, Inc., and the State of MN Department of Human Services. She became a sought-after Mental Health Program Consultant, and it became her destiny to expand her wings and start her own consulting business. Melinda was extremely committed to her work with Wellness in the Woods, making her mark in greater Minnesota, advocating for individuals with disabilities and those who served them. Melinda dedicated her life to serving others, was deeply spiritual, and committed to building a better world through her actions. She volunteered a great deal of time to organizations that supported clean water to countries in Africa. Melinda also worked with the East African Healing Center, as well as Capital Health.

Above all, she was completely devoted to her family and friends. She had a rare gift of making people feel as if they were the only person in the room; fully present. Her eyes would sparkle when she smiled, her laugh was infectious, she would light up every room she entered, and her heart was as warm as the sun. She was adventurous and daring and loved to travel. Her ability to recognize people's strengths truly made her an exceptional human being. Melinda loved bicycling, walking in nature, reading, gardening, creating crafts, attending plays and musical performances, and bringing people together. She thoroughly enjoyed every moment with her beloved family and had a special bond with her nephews and nieces. By example, she taught compassion and the importance of leading with empathy. We are blessed to have learned many valuable lessons from Melinda during her short time on earth, among them: never fret over yesterday, today offers us nothing but possibilities, and tomorrow will take care of itself.

Melinda was preceded in death by her parents, Albertis and Ruby Shamp and

her twin brothers, Frank and John Shamp.

She is survived by her sister, Brenda (Robert) Johnson, brother, Tim (Marilyn) Shamp, nephews: Jeremy (Nicky), Cody, and Kacey Johnson, nieces: Emily, Abbey, Molly, Kari and Naomi Shamp, great nephews: Gabriel, Hunter, and Oliver and great niece Blake, along with many wonderful uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Melinda understood that life is all about being in the moment, and she became a master at living life to its absolute fullest. She was truly the very best of humanity. Her compassion for others knew no bounds and her contributions made all the difference.

A celebration of Melinda's amazing life will be scheduled for a later date.