



Shirel Ann Marie Paulick

March 15, 1956 - August 23, 2025

In Loving Memory of Shirel Ann Marie (Aker) Paulick
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The world lost someone truly special when Shirel Ann Marie (Aker) Paulick, 69, of Otsego, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly on August 23, 2025, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Born on March 15, 1956, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Donald Aker and Alice (Freer) Aker, Shirel made her home in Otsego, Minnesota, for the past 26 years, where she built a life defined by compassion, generosity, and devotion to her family and others.

Her life's purpose was helping others, whether through her career or simply by making everyone around her feel welcome and valued. For more than 20 years, Shirel dedicated herself to supporting people with disabilities at Opportunity Partners in Plymouth, Minnesota - a calling that reflected her gentle spirit and her remarkable ability to connect with everyone she met. She found deep joy in her work and built lasting friendships with her coworkers, often saying how fortunate she felt to be part of such a meaningful organization. Shirel's kindness, humor, and light touched all who knew her, and she often reminded others to take life one day at a time and to always look for the bright side of things.

Shirel had a natural warmth that drew people in instantly. She loved sharing laughter, helping others, and creating memories with her family. She especially cherished this past summer, caring for her grandchildren and joining in their almost daily lemonade stands-simple moments that perfectly captured her joy and selflessness. She also loved spending time at the family cabin in northern Minnesota and the many adventures she shared exploring new destinations with her sister Dawn and niece Felicia.

She is survived by her son Brandon Paulick, her sister Dawn Backer, her niece Felicia Greenly, and her cherished grandchildren Mason, Skylar, and Silas Paulick. She was preceded in death by her parents Donald Aker and Alice (Freer) Aker.

A celebration of Shirel's life will be held at a later date, with details to be announced. All who knew her are welcome to attend and share their memories.

Shirel wished for her family and friends not to feel sadness after her passing, but instead to celebrate the life she lived and the love she shared. Her sudden loss reminds all who loved her of what truly matters: don't wait until tomorrow to tell someone how you feel today.

Tribute Wall



“ Please join us for a Celebration of Life in honor of my mother. We will gather on Saturday, March 14th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Broadway Pizza, 14040 Rogers Drive, Rogers, MN 55374. Let us share memories and honor her beautiful life. All are welcome to come and remember her with love. Light food and refreshments will be provided, pizza will be served, and there will also be drinks available. Please feel free to bring a favorite photo or memory to share. We look forward to celebrating her life together.

Brandon Paulick - March 02 at 11:05 AM



I want to sincerely thank everyone who came today to celebrate my mom's life. Your presence, kind words, and support meant more to me and my family than you will probably ever know.

It meant a lot to see so many people come together to honor her and share memories. It was also really nice to see so many people I haven't seen in a long time.

Felicia and Chris did an incredible job with the decorations and helping everything come together. Many others also helped in different ways through conversations, messages, and simply being there.

My mom always said she wanted it to be a celebration rather than a sad gathering, and today truly reflected that.

Thank you all for helping make it such a beautiful celebration of her life. It will always mean a lot to me and my family.

Brandon Paulick - March 14 at 08:41 PM

CH

“ I really miss my “city mom”. I have SO many memories with her, mostly mischievous. She was always there for me whenever I needed her. From sitting with me at the bus stop watching both my kids getting on the bus for their first day of kindergarten and reassuring me that they will be okay or joining aqua Zumba class with me and making it so much fun because we’d laugh uncontrollably at our wild moves. I could write a novel of all the wonderful memories I have of Shirel. She will never be forgotten. I love you, Shirel. Sending condolences and healing to her family and friends.



Courtney Hueller - December 20, 2025 at 04:44 PM

DA

Thank you Courtney so much for sharing your memories of my sister. She always enjoyed the times with you, she shared the fun you both had, being silly and having a lot of laughter. I will always miss my sister’s silliness and helping everyone to remember you can find something positive in every situation. 💖

dawn - December 27, 2025 at 08:52 PM

JB

“ I also wanted to add one of my favorite photos of Shirel, Courtney, and I.



Jennifer B - October 28, 2025 at 04:53 PM

JB

“ I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Shirel for 21 years! I loved her dearly and miss her so much. I just don't have the words to express how much she meant to me! She was so kind to the people she worked with. A true caregiver! I loved that she was such a prankster. Shirel had a gift for making people laugh. I hope that someday, I will cry less and instead laugh at all the crazy things she did. I know that she would want that!

Jennifer B - October 28, 2025 at 04:50 PM

DB

Thank you Jennifer for sharing your memories of my sister. She was so blessed to have you as one of her best friends, she always had a wonderful day when she able to spend time with you. I'm so blessed that you were able to give her so much happiness. ❤️

dawn backer - November 02, 2025 at 03:19 PM

KA

“ I will remember her from being one of my drivers from opportunity partners in coon rapids

Katie Alexander - October 27, 2025 at 10:09 AM

NA

“ I have known Shirel (Sam) all of my life. Our families did everything together for many many years. She was like my sister. Nobody could make me laugh like she could. She loved animals and kids and had a special place in her heart for special needs people. I will truly miss her sparkling smile.



Nancy Atkinson - October 20, 2025 at 05:41 PM

DB

Thank you Nancy for celebrating my sister's life. 💕

Dawn Backer - October 20, 2025 at 08:52 PM