



Jenna Denise Rhodes

July 31, 2019

Jenna Denise Rhodes, 39, passed away July 31, 2019 with her family at her side. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, she worked as a program manager for UAMS and was of the Presbyterian belief.

She is survived by her mother, Mary Rhodes (Kathy Meyers) of Grandview, Missouri; father, Jim Rhodes (Beth) and Beth's children, Ben and Angelica, of Lee's Summit, Missouri; grandparents, Dick and Wanda Read of Raymore, Missouri; her brother, Joshua Rhodes (Brittian) and nieces, Charlotte Rhodes and Abigail Rhodes, all of Lee's Summit; and other family and friends.

Jenna was raised in Grandview, Missouri. She graduated from Grandview High School where she was a former science teacher and coach. She received her Master's Degree of Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and dual Master's Degrees of Public Service and Public Health from the Clinton School, Class 8. Jenna's Clinton School experience led to her dual careers and passions: community development for North Little Rock (Levy and Park Hill) and leading the farm to school program at UAMS. She had recently accepted an offer to lead the farm to school program for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

Jenna was a tireless champion of bringing people together for change. Her ability to inspire others beyond thoughts and ideas into action was legendary. Jenna could talk you into volunteering for anything and everything. Her impact on community and people was profound.

Jenna was the one you called if you ever needed anything to be planned/organized/completed. She explored the world fearlessly and never met anyone she couldn't find common ground with. Jenna loved people and always found unique ways to make each feel special. Her laugh was huge and infectious, her smile unforgettable. She set far reaching goals and organized all aspects of her life in order to achieve them.

Jenna's greatest desire was to make the world a better place. She certainly accomplished that and will live on in the work she started, the lives she touched, and through the gift of organ donation. Our challenge now is to honor her legacy. We can do this by living intentionally with great passion and joy.

Scholarships have been set up in Jenna's name at three places that were meaningful to her and gave her skills and relationships to pursue her passion — building community. Please consider donating in her honor to enable those with that same passion to carry Jenna's light into the future.

Clinton School of Public Service - Donations can be mailed to:

Jenna Rhodes Memorial Fund

University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service

1200 President Clinton Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Attn: Alex Thomas

To learn more about the Clinton School visit: <https://clintonschool.uasys.edu>

University of Central Arkansas Community Development Institute: Please visit this link to donate in Jenna's honor: uca.edu/go/JennaRhodes and this link to learn more about CDI Central.

Grandview Education Foundation - Jenna graduated from Grandview High School (Missouri) and later taught science there. Checks can be made out to Grandview Education Foundation, specifying the Jenna Rhodes Memorial Scholarship, and mailed to GEF PO Box 546 Grandview, MO 64030. Visit this link to learn more about GEF: <http://grandvieweducationfoundation.org>

Services will be held on Saturday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m at Second Presbyterian Church, officiated by Rev. Steve Hancock and Rev. Lindy Vogado.

There will be a service in Grandview, Missouri on Saturday, August 24 at 11:00 a.m. at the Grandview High School auditorium. A reception will follow.

Arrangements by Little Rock Funeral Home, (501)224-2200. Jenna's online guestbook may be signed at www.littlerockfuneralhome.com.

Comments



“ Jenna was such a positive, determined person. I will miss her so much! We had plans of going on the Fourche Creek together later this summer. Her spirit of giving and public service made a positive impact on our community and her legacy of organ donation will live on. I am so grateful that she chose to donate life to others.

Claudia Carberry - August 12 at 10:22 PM



“ I had such a great time having Jenna in my classroom. She was a natural teacher, and had always great, interesting questions. She got up in class and worked out a Mantel-Haenszel odds ratio estimator, and had the opportunity to tell her how much I appreciated her teaching background. She left me with a memory of her smile.

Victor Cardenas - August 11 at 04:03 AM



“ Jenna was a force of friendship that helped adjust to a new city and new way of life. I owe her a great debt that intend to pay by offering friendship to others- "Jenna Style"! She was compassionate, loyal and determined to let everyone she met know that they were important and loved. Those who knew her are better because of her friendship. Thank you Lord for the gift of Jenna!
Serifatu Walton-Buford

Serifatu Serifatu Walton-Buford - August 10 at 01:34 PM



“ Our daughter Julie Joy went to the Clinton School of Public Service after Jenna and they became good friends. We met Jenna for the first time last winter when Jenna helped Julie drive back to Maine and move all her things back here. She had her first Maine lobster meal at my house and wrote us the most beautiful thank you note.

Right away we were affected by her positive, bubbly, energetic spirit and her capacity for caring for and connecting deeply with people. (She even called me "Mom" and I know so many can relate to how she easily connected with them.)

We spent more time with her up in Little Rock during Julie's graduation weekend this past May including lunch and then ice cream where we learned more about her 3 jobs and how important her church community was to her and saw just a glimpse of her positive impact on this world. At my daughter's graduation party she helped by picking up food and staying late to clean up and chat.

We are glad that Julie was able to fly Little Rock in time to speak to Jenna in the

hospital and then also to be with Jenna's family and other friends. We will miss her and it is hard to believe that my daughter and her other friends and especially family will no longer have this vibrant person in their lives. But I do believe that her positive spirit and the determined plan she had to make this world a better place will come forth through her organ recipients. After all, that was part of Jenna's plan!

To Jenna's family - Our very deepest condolences. Thank you for bringing into this world and raising such a unique beautiful gem of a person - an angel who I believe is continuing to spread her positivity and caring. I know that we have been affected by her and we will never forget her.

Lorraine and Bruce Canterbury, (Julie Anne Joy's mom and stepdad), Portland, ME

Lorraine Canterbury - August 10 at 11:25 AM



“ Jenna was a great person with a remarkable spirit. She was always willing to assist and share information when called upon, Jenna will be missed.

Niki Evansingston

Niki E. - August 09 at 04:32 PM



“ From Tatiana Leakey purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Jenna Denise Rhodes.



From Tatiana Leakey - August 08 at 07:19 PM



“ I didn't know Jenna very long, but during the time I did know her, she was unforgettable. She was like no other person I've met. She was always smiling and positive. She made a huge impact during her short time on this earth, and I'm sure her family is very proud of her. She will be missed dearly.

Sincerely,
Shannon Scroggins

Shannon Scroggins - August 08 at 12:55 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jenna Denise Rhodes.



August 08 at 11:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jenna Denise Rhodes.



August 07 at 10:30 PM



“ Joy
Empathetic
Never missed an opportunity
Nutty
Always saw the good

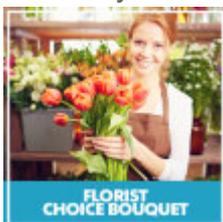
Jenna - I am so honored to have known you. You were a gift, and always friendly to everyone. You embraced all the good in the world and spread it to everyone you encountered. When I look up on a bright day, I will immediately think of your smile and fabulous laugh.

Mary, Jim, and Josh - sending you heaps of hugs, hoping you feel her presence around you every day.

Brooke McNally - August 07 at 10:29 PM



“ Mike and Mary (O'Connor) Holland purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Jenna Denise Rhodes.



Mike and Mary (O'Connor) Holland - August 06 at 11:40 PM



“ I’ve never met a person with more passion for school gardens than Jenna. I hope I honor her memory well by bringing the farm to the cafeteria tables of LRSD! My prayers are with her family and her village of colleagues, friends and co-workers!

Stephanie Hynes - August 06 at 07:44 PM



“ Dear Mom and Dad of Jenna

I am very sorry for your loss. She spoke proudly of you at Clinton School, you inspired her life.

Jenna’s willingness to embrace new challenges always made me had a strong respect for her character. This situation is no different.

Let’s remember her with happiness and intelligence.

Angela Jimenez

Angela - August 06 at 12:08 PM



“ Jenna was a sweetheart. Always a smile and great conversation. Her joyful demeanor and infectious smile will be missed by so many. Prayers of comfort for her family. God Bless.

Tarina Goodwin - August 05 at 04:07 PM



“ She was the best road trip buddy you could ask for. Jim, Mary, and Josh truly my deepest condolences and prayers are with your family. Jenna was always bigger than this world could hold. Big dreams, even bigger plans, and a determination that could stop a truck. There was no telling her she couldn't, she would show you that she absolutely could. I enjoyed every moment I was fortunate enough to spend with her. She was a fierce friend and a protective sister and daughter that will be missed by so many.

Elizabeth Teer-Whittle - August 05 at 03:53 PM



“ My deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers are with each one of you... Jenna was a friendly soul and a force for good in the world. Her light still shines on! ~ Rev. Diana Kennedy

Diana - August 05 at 03:45 PM



“ I had the privilege of getting to know Jenna better when we became office mates a year ago. I am heartbroken about her untimely passing. I immediately knew it would be great to work alongside her when I learned we would share a little corner of the CARE office floor at the ACH campus. Her kindness was on display every day, with an offer to use her dishes to heat up my lunch, asking how my weekend was, and willing to chat and share. I loved how she nested in her space. Everyone she loved dearly was on display in her office and everything that brought joy to her was close by. She made her space fun, welcoming, and joyful just like her. I admired all the ways she was committed and engaged in the community and learned a lot more about my new community through her work. The cornbread festival, the healthy food network, and the Fit to Live work with North Little Rock. She was always up for a chat or coffee. Her laugh and smile were infections and she shared those often too. I will miss you very much amiga, may you rest in peace. There were still so many things to share with you, so many things to learn about you. I pray for comfort and healing for your family.



Irma Cardenas - August 05 at 03:42 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Hilary Trudell - August 05 at 11:39 AM



“ Jenna was a fabulous and caring person. I had the honor to work with her as a Practicum community partner for two years in a row. I knew her as a Clinton School alum and always enjoyed her energy and thoughtfulness and smiles and hugs, but she was also an amazing

community partner who was always on top of everything, held her team accountable but engaged them in the learning process and pushed for amazing results. She was the whole package. Loved her and will miss her. Sending all the warmest condolences to her family and friends. xo

Hilary Trudell - August 05 at 11:43 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Jenna's family. Sorry for your loss.

Christy Johnson

Christy Johnson - August 05 at 11:16 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Jenna's family. She was a blessing to her church family, always volunteering with enthusiasm and energy - I'm glad I was able to work on a few projects with her. Her beautiful smile and her generous nature will be missed. With prayers for peace and comfort,
Pam Luther

Pamela Luther - August 05 at 10:54 AM



“ Jenna, you always were a force of nature and continue to be. All those who love you (and there are so many of us) will honor your legacy through our actions as long as we live.

Bernadette Rhodes - August 05 at 09:43 AM



“ Always a breath of fresh air. Her name is carved into a wall at a Fort Worth hamburger restaurant....with fond memories. Love your smile and your laugh....Love to all from "Aunt Patty" in Texas (my niece is Elizabeth Teer)

Patty Potter - August 05 at 09:03 AM



“ Jim --

I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are foremost in my thoughts and prayers.

Sandie

Sandie Pittman - August 05 at 05:43 AM



“ Jenna, the world is a better place because you were in it. You and your smile will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved you. I knew Jenna from the Top of the Rock Chorus and also from working with her at UAMS. My condolences to your family. Our Jenna.....Awesome All the Time!

Cindy & John Lewis - August 04 at 10:12 PM



“ Oh Dear Jenna, Bob and I were so saddened to hear of your passing. You were a ray of sunshine to the Nine O’Clock service at Second and brought so much joy and happiness to our church family. You will be greatly missed. Peace, love and prayers to your family and friends.
Anne and Bob McCarley



Anne McCarley - August 04 at 11:29 AM



“ My daughters and I knew Jenna only briefly as a member of Top of the Rock Chorus, but her positive energy was infectious and inspiring. We are so saddened by her passing and offer condolences to her family and friends.

Anne Principe - August 04 at 10:30 AM



“ It was such a pleasure to work with Jenna on projects. She was a force of enthusiasm, collaboration and accomplishment. She inspired on many levels. She brought light to every situation. Sending much love and peace to her family...and to her. She will be missed by many.

Beverly Dunaway
Arkansas Farmers Market Association

Beverly Dunaway - August 04 at 09:36 AM



“ When I began teaching at Grandview High School, Jenna was across the hall. I had few friends there, but Jenna immediately made me feel welcome. She invited me to eat lunch in her room every day. Her big smile and enthusiasm was contagious. The world has lost a beautiful person, too soon.

Sharon Wagner - August 04 at 08:38 AM



“ Jenna was always happy, engaged and enthusiastic when sharing ideas or resources with members of our LRSD Wellness Committee. Jenna was making a difference through her passion and advocacy for improving children's health through better nutrition. We will miss her dearly.

Margo Bushmiaer - August 04 at 12:26 AM



“ Jenna has been a part of my life for 37 years. She has this way about her that brought a smile to every one around her. She was family. She was my little sister, she was my shoulder, my constant. I know this world is a better place because of her. I promise to keep her legacy alive. She is an amazing woman. I love you Jenna. Not goodbye, but see you soon.

Sheri Baldwin - August 03 at 09:49 PM



“ My love and prayers for your family as you go through this difficult time. I'm sorry for your loss. I will never be able to think of my childhood and not think of Jenna, as she was my best friend. May God hold your family close.

Dannelle Chugg (Spalding) - August 03 at 07:26 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Jenna through the JumpStart Coalition for several years. She was the first person to refer to me as "Principal How." It was through her efforts that I was able to create new and sustained relationships with the communities our school serves, and she worked tirelessly to improve those communities. The Halloween event on the trail, The St. Patrick's Day run and the future walking track at our school were born out of the meetings she initiated. I will truly miss her, but her impact will live on.
Matthew How, Principal, Ridge Road ES

Matt How - August 03 at 03:37 PM



“ Dear Sweet, Loving, Caring Jenna,

You have been an inspiration to everyone. Your wonderful smile was always part of your welcoming to everyone. You never knew a stranger.

Thank you for sharing all of your values with so many of us.

Second Presbyterian Church has been enriched and blessed through you.

We all love you and will miss you very much.

Blessings, love and prayers until we meet again,

Jo Ann & Bob McQuade

Jo Ann McQuade - August 07 at 01:28 PM