

Karen Ceilley Carlson



Karen passed away after an 8 year battle with breast cancer on December 11, 2007. She was born to Bernie and Nancy Ceilley in Cedar Falls, IA on Oct.20,1956. She received her Diploma in Nursing at St. Lukes in Cedar Rapids, IA and her BS degree from the Univ. of Minnesota where she met and married her husband, Jim on Dec.18, 1982. Her teaching career began in 1983 at Northeast Louisiana University School of Nursing and she quickly realized that this was her passion. Karen received her Masters Degree from the Univ. of Washington in 1985. She was a Critical Care nurse and educator at Ballard Community Hospital and Group Health Cooperative for several years. Karen started Carlson Consulting Group in 1995 providing health care consultation and education.

Karen was a friend, mentor, and role model. Karen had a gift – she made everyone feel special and important with a quick smile and a gentle word. She was honest, caring and brilliant. She was a Critical Care Nurse Specialist who shared her knowledge daily whether mentoring other clinical nurse specialists or teaching courses through The Carlson Consulting Group.

She dedicated a great deal of time over the years to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) activities and education. At the local level she was instrumental in the development of the Seattle Critical Care Consortium over 20 years ago. In addition, she was a leader in the planning of the annual symposium for the Puget Sound Chapter of AACN for many years. At the national level, Karen served on boards of directors of the AACN from 1991-1994 and the Certification Corporation from 1992-1994. She was a regular speaker at the Critical Care Nurses national convention. Karen was internationally known as an educator who influenced countless critical care nurses to provide outstanding quality care.

Karen was also a prolific author and editor of standard-setting education and reference materials for critical care nurses. She edited two editions of Critical Care Orientation Manuals and co-edited Symptom Management and Procedure Manuals for Critical Care. These have become a primary resource now used in hundreds of hospitals to promote consistent, high quality care and nursing practice. Even from her hospital bed she was completing final edits on a new textbook; Advanced and Acute Critical Care Nursing, which will now be dedicated to her memory when published early next year. She continued to dedicate her time, even when she felt poorly, in many ways that advanced nursing knowledge and practice.

The Carlson Consulting Group was formed by Karen in 1995 to provide continuing education for the healthcare community. It also became a Training Center for the American Heart Association in 1999. As a training center, Karen's group has received numerous awards for training thousands of health care personnel in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support each year. She consulted with numerous hospitals in the Puget Sound region and around the country to prepare nurses in critical care and also was a consultant in medical-legal cases.

For all of the energy she dedicated to advancing the profession of nursing, it pales in comparison to her dedication to her family and her faith. She was very active in her church, serving as AWANA Commander, Treasurer and Sunday school teacher. She lived the life she preached. She volunteered many hours at Katie's school; Eastside Christian, where she assisted in the classroom and served as Treasurer of the Parent-Teacher Fellowship. In addition, she was very supportive of Camp Gilead, filling in as the camp nurse from time to time. She was a dedicated and loving wife and mother. In her spare time, she loved to quilt and loved to teach others just as she taught in all aspects of her life. She managed to schedule a trip to meet with the publisher of her many books in Philadelphia conveniently around some quilting weekends in rural Pennsylvania. Her commitment to excellence shined in all aspects of her life.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, son Daniel, daughter, Katie as well as her parents; Bernie & Linda Ceilley, Nancy Ceilley-Vogel, brothers Mark Ceilley, Craig Ceilley (wife Brenda), Jay Kramer (wife Alla), Craig Vogel (wife Jane) and sisters Lori Carlson (husband Bob), June Swangel, Rita Goodling (husband Brian), & Donna Feyen.

Memorials may be sent to:
Camp Gilead Capital Campaign
30919 NE Carnation Farm Rd
Carnation, WA 98014