



Dawn Marie Olexa

July 31, 1956 - June 19, 2021

Dawn's family will receive friends for a memorial gathering on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., with a scripture and sharing of memories service beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica.

Dawn's memorial gathering will continue on Thursday, June 24, from 11:00 a.m. until the time of her Celebration of Life service at 12:00 p.m. Memorials are appreciated to Compassion International, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 or at <https://www.compassion.com/donate.htm>. Please share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JUN **23**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Scripture/Sharing of Memories Service

JUN **23**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Memorial Gathering

JUN **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
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Celebration of Life Service

JUN **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
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Tribute Wall

DB

“ *When I first move to the US, She was my first teacher, she laughter made my day everyday, and she was really nice to me, and work with me personally. She was the best teacher I ever had.*



Duarte Bobone - July 31, 2021 at 08:09 PM

RC

“ *Dawn was a true light of joy to our school community. Her laughter would echo through the halls. She was never afraid to speak her mind. Dawn was an amazing teacher and touched so many lives with not just her students but her fellow teachers. She was a mentor, a beloved friend, and will be missed by so many. Much love to your family. She will be remembered.*

Rachel C Clark - June 25, 2021 at 10:25 PM

GO

“ Colin and Evan,

I just was notified of your mothers passing.

It was Wednesday afternoon this week , when out of the blue a very vivid memory of your mother popped into my head. The year was around 1976 and your mom and dad were recently married. We were at a family reunion in the Detroit area and your mom was keeping us 5 kids out of trouble by singing to my brother and sisters who were all very young (around age 9,8 ,7 5 and 3 years old).

The song was called Playground in my Mind by Clint Holmes. The lyrics mentioned “... my name is Michael, I got a nickel, I got a nickel all shiny and new”.

To this day , each of my siblings remember your mom singing that song to us over and over again. We loved it!

My parents adored your Mother and Father.

I am know this is a difficult time for you with your father passing recently. I am thankful for their trust in Jesus and the assurance that they are rejoicing in heaven now.

Please know that if there is anything that our family can do to assist you two please let us know.

With fond memories of your parents,

Greg Olexa

Birmingham, Alabama

Greg Olexa - June 25, 2021 at 04:34 PM

KA

“ When I learned of Dawn’s passing my thoughts were flooded with fond memories of our friendship, which began at Pierce in 1998 when I joined the third grade team. As others have said, she was a caring and wonderful teacher, a supportive team member, and a loving and proud wife, mother and grandmother. Her laugh was definitely infectious and brought humor to many situations...where humor made all things better. I will miss her kind soul very much, but know that she is now at peace. My heart goes out to her family during this extremely difficult time.
Love, Kathy Alexander

kathy - June 23, 2021 at 12:58 PM

KA

“ When I learned of Dawn’s passing my thoughts were flooded with fond memories of our friendship, which began at Pierce in 1998 when I joined the third grade team. As others have said, she was a caring and wonderful teacher, a supportive team member, and a loving and proud wife, mother and grandmother. Her laugh was definitely infectious and brought humor to many situations...where humor made all things better. I will miss her kind soul very much, but know that she is now at peace. My heart goes out to her family during this extremely difficult time.
Love, Kathy Alexander

kathy - June 23, 2021 at 12:55 PM

PW

“ Dawn was an excellent teacher and an inspiration to those of us who were fortunate to work with her. She found great joy in her family as well. We often spoke of our sons when they were at LO High together. Following retirement, I was delighted when Dawn brought her happy presence to the water aerobics class at LO. She was very excited to experience being a grandmother and we often shared stories about our grandbabies. Hoping you can carry her warm spirit with you and be comforted, knowing how much she loved all of you.

Pat Wojciechowski

Patricia Wojciechowski - June 22, 2021 at 07:42 PM

SB

“ I miss you dawn olexa you were a great teacher of mind you will be in my prayers always dawn olexa

Steven branstrom - June 22, 2021 at 01:27 PM

BM

“ Dawn hired me to work with her and Carry out her love for the mentally challenged. She and I work together for several years and carried the love of the kids for many years after. Lunches with the kids breakfast with the kids lunches and summer parties at my house. Her love was without end in reaching these young children. She always had games. She always had telephone calls. I learned so much about life from her I thank God that our paths crossed and she will forever be in my heart.

Betty Markey - June 22, 2021 at 01:12 PM

DI

“ Dear Olexa family

As I think of Dawn, I can hear her infectious laugh and feel her loving hand touching my shoulder telling us all that she will be with us to comfort and care for us as we travel through life. Dawn has always been such a support for her family, friends and students. We could always depend on Dawn to remember our birthdays with a card, help us write or edit our written work, find something to laugh about, find that lost piece of paper in the bottom of a stack, multi-task without a bit of worry and mostly the ability to drop everything to lend a helping hand.

Dawn cared deeply for her students. She started out in Special Education and kept the philosophy of treating every child with respect and an eye for their positive talents. She could find the hidden talents in her students. Dawn liked keeping track of how her students were adapting as they moved on in school as well as life. She often shared how one of her former Berkshire students still used her as a positive support as a young adult. Out at recess, we could see her lovingly watching her former 2nd or 3rd graders become more independent. What a point of pride knowing she was a part of their early growth.

Dawn knew how to blend taking care of her family and her students. She made changes in her teaching positions so she could care for her family. Taking a decade off teaching so she could devote herself to her young boys made coming back to a 3rd grade classroom a challenge. I was lucky to be part of a fabulous Third Grade team for her re-entry into full time work. She never regretted the work it took to jump back into the technology changes as well as the high speed and amount of work expected. We were able to link arms and drag each other along when one of us needed a positive push. That push might have been due to new curriculum to implement, late night report card prep, piles of papers which didn't care to be checked or a new technology platform.

Dawn was so good at setting her teaching path with a need for strong family commitment, it allowed her to jump from Berkshire Middle School Special Education

9-10 years home

Pierce 3rd grade

Derby Middle School-2 years

Pierce 2nd grade

Retirement to help her father and to enjoy grand children.

Any time an extra hand was needed to support a teacher having health or family challenges, Dawn was lining up to help. She wrote lesson plans, sent cards,packed science kits, sent inspirational sticky notes and of course, shared her infectious laugh when that was the most healing medicine.

We are all better people because Dawn has been part of our lives.

WE know she is in God's loving arms.

Love Diana McComas

Diana - June 22, 2021 at 11:29 AM

LT

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Colin, Evan and all the family of Dawn Olexa. Prayers for peace, comfort and provision for all during this most difficult time. Dawn was a beautiful woman in so many ways. She will be greatly missed but she leaves a great legacy of love and representation of the person of Jesus Christ. May all find peace and comfort knowing that she's at peace in the hands of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. ❤️ from the Thero Family*

Linda and Jim Thero - June 22, 2021 at 01:18 AM

CB

“ Dawn was a wonderful teacher and a good friend to me over the years. I enjoyed many conversations with your mom. She was always a great listener, compassionate and had a great sense of humor. I especially loved being on the third grade team with Dawn when I started at Pierce many years ago. We had so much fun together sharing best teaching practices and seeing the humorous side of the duties of our job. I will always remember her infectious laugh that would echo down the halls at Pierce. I am so glad she came into my life and I had the honor to be her friend. My deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.

Chris Blakemore - June 21, 2021 at 07:21 PM

GC

“ Your mom was an outstanding teacher for my sons. She became a friend in later years, when I started working at Pierce. She gave me a lot of strength through her faith when my son was ill. She was a special person and she will be missed. Condolences on the loss of your mom.

Gretchen Caccamo - June 21, 2021 at 04:20 PM

SC

“ Dawn was some one I was just getting to know in the last few years. She was a sweet sister in the Lord. As I and many others walked with her through these last few years we threw closer to her. She will be greatly missed.

Sharon Crull - June 21, 2021 at 02:24 PM

EL

“ So sorry for your loss of Dawn. She was like my big sister growing up and beyond. So sweet and giving of herself. She will be missed.

Elaine - June 21, 2021 at 06:28 AM

EG

“ *My condolences on your mother’s passing. She was a fixture at the Fisherman’s Net, and like your father, she will be missed.*

Eugene Groesbeck - June 21, 2021 at 12:02 AM

MW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you on the passing of your dear mother. Dawn was such a sweet person and she will be dearly missed. The only consolation is knowing she is now reunited with her equally sweet husband, Russ. They are rejoicing together now in the presence of the Lord.*

Margaretha Wunschl - June 20, 2021 at 08:03 PM