



Susan Elizabeth Plume Fischer

February 8, 2022

Susan was born to James Davis Jr. and Jeanette (Jo) Davis. She passed away peacefully at her Fort Collins home in the early morning hours of February 8, 2022, just shy of her 53rd birthday, following a year-long battle with cancer. Susan is survived by her husband, Ken Fischer; her children, Allison Gillgannon and Avery Fischer; her father, James Davis Jr.; her brother, James Davis III and sister-in-law Michelle Davis; her nephews Griffin and Wyatt Davis; her step-children Shannon McFadden (Andrew) and Connor Fischer; her step-grandchildren Max, Mizumi, James and Sean; and many extended family members and dear friends. She is preceded in death by her mother, Jo Davis; all four of her grandparents; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Susan grew up in southeastern Wyoming, living in Laramie, Huntley and Yoder as a child, and spending many summers at her grandparent's farm in Hawk Springs. The daughter of a kindergarten teacher and a school principal, Susan excelled in school from a young age. She did a bit of everything, including student council, advanced classes, volleyball, basketball, track and field and cheerleading for South East High School. Upon graduation in 1986 she was honored as her class salutatorian. She participated in 4H where she was a talented seamstress, earning many awards for her dressmaking skills.

Susan attended the University of Wyoming, where she continued to excel

academically earning her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology. Shortly after finishing school, Susan joined STRIDE Learning Center in Cheyenne launching her career in pediatric speech therapy. During her years at STRIDE Learning Center, she found her passion for working with children. It soon became clear how naturally gifted Susan was in her ability to connect with children and families. As her career progressed her focus shifted to working with children with hearing loss. Her gift continued to grow, and she became not only a teacher but a mentor for professionals, an advocate for families and a leader in her field. Susan innately understood children and dedicated her career to improving the standard of care for infants and children with hearing loss in the state of Wyoming. Through her work in preschool classrooms, in families' homes, at the Department of Education's Deaf & Heard of Hearing Outreach, at The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EDHI) Program, and at Wyoming Family for Hands & Voices / READ Plus Program, she directly impacted the lives of thousands of children and families throughout Wyoming and Colorado. Susan formed lifelong friendships with many of her colleagues and families over the course of her 27 years in the field. Her work was her calling, it was her passion, it was what she was born to do, and this translated into a genuine and authentic desire to see children and their parents thrive. Those who have worked with Susan closely describe the "Susan Effect," which illustrates the incredible impact she made on families' lives time and time again. She just had a way a making people feel cared for and respected while simultaneously guiding them and empowering them! She embodied 1 Corinthians 16:14 "let all that you do be done in love".

Susan leaves behind the culmination of her life's work, the READ Plus Program, which provides free books, education, and video meetings to empower parents with strategies to support their child's speech and language development through Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices. Susan's READ plus program will live on through the Wyoming Early Intervention Initiative (WEII). Her colleagues' goal is to continue Susan's incredible practices by

permanently implementing them state-wide and ensuring that high-quality early intervention services are provided to children. Please see the bottom of the page for donation information.

In 1996, Susan married Dan Gillgannon of Cheyenne and they welcomed Allison Gillgannon in October 1997. Later, Susan and Dan divorced amicably and maintained a strong co-parenting relationship. Susan met Ken Fischer of Fort Collins, CO and the pair were married in 2003. Susan embraced Ken's children Connor and Shannon as the two families came together as one. After moving to Fort Collins, Colorado, Ken and Susan welcomed their son, Avery Fischer in 2005. Susan spent her professional life loving and helping other people's children but found no greater joy in life than her own kids. Susan loved being a mom and felt that her children were the pride of her life. Allison and Avery describe Susan as a patient, kind, fun-loving, understanding, forgiving, encouraging, empathetic, and nurturing mom. She supported every niche hobby that her children took interest in, including everything dancing, singing, volleyball, dirt biking, cross country running, and guitar. Ken and Susan enjoyed a beautiful and happy marriage, a shared passion for working with children, a mutual love for their own family, a shared love of Ken's cooking, and the enjoyment of each other's company.

Susan was an incredible wife, mother, sister, daughter, aunt, step-grandmother, cousin, friend, colleague, neighbor, and person. Her memory will live on forever through the many lives that she touched. Next time you see a bright blue jeep, hear a Bee Gee's song, or read an exceptional children's book, think of Susan and feel her presence in your heart. Remember her beautiful smile, her contagious laughter, and her unending kindness!

In lieu of flowers, Susan's family asks that donations be sent to Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices in her memory. Wyoming Families for Hands &

Voices is a non-profit organization that supports families who have children with hearing loss and was very dear to Susan. Susan touched the lives of so many Wyoming families, and her work on the READ Plus Program will continue on through this organization. Donations can be mailed to Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices, PO Box 1033, Mountain View, Wyoming 82939 or through Venmo @Wyoming-HV-06.

A life, so beautiful, deserves a special celebration. You are invited to help us honor the life of Susan Fischer. A life lived with love and laughter! Please come to Windsong Estate Event Center (2901 Saddler Boulevard Fort Collins, CO 80524) on Saturday March 5th at 1:00pm as we celebrate the life she lived. Refreshments will be served.

Prior to her passing Susan expressed concern about her many loved ones gathering in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. We therefore request that guests who are feeling ill please consider not attending the event. If you are unvaccinated please consider wearing a mask.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 5. 1:00 PM (MT)

Windsong Estate Event Center
2901 Saddler Blvd.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall



“ *Susan Elizabeth Plume Fischer*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Susan was a friend and mentor to me in my service to children who are deaf and hard of hearing. I did not hear of her passing until today and am deeply saddened. She was a beautiful, selfless person and losing her is a terrible loss to this world.*

Sarah Dike - April 25, 2022 at 05:57 PM

TH

“ Susan's impact on me as a fellow colleague with Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices will forever be imbedded on my heart. To me, She is the G.O.A.T when it came to working with families and fellow professionals in her field and with Hands & Voices.

I really appreciated the sentiments shared in her obituary that states "She just had a way of making people feel cared for and respected while simultaneously guiding them and empowering them!" She did this for me. Every email that was exchanged between us always ended in her thanking me for my help and telling me how wonderful I was. I echo the same words about her. Even in her toughest struggle of her life, she always made it a point to uplift and inspire others. Her example in this regard will continue to inspire me to pay it forward.

About three weeks before her passing, she emailed the WEll task force a letter explaining how the READ plus program would move forward and then told us what we could do to help her. In her own words: "Recently I've had so many people ask "What can I do to help?". I have an answer to that question for each of you. Please keep moving forward, working hard to do what is needed to help WY children who are deaf/hard of hearing reach their full potential. Please don't stop this wonderful work we've started." Even in the end she was thinking of others! It won't stop Susan!! Thank you for everything. You are truly going to be missed!! We will keep looking ahead and moving forward!

PS: Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices in lieu of flowers. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity. We will continue to honor Susan in helping families with these funds. Thank you again:



Tiff Hamblin - March 02, 2022 at 08:52 PM

KE

“ Susan was such a beautiful light in this world. You are missed by so many in so many different ways. My first memory of her is when I was the OT in one of her classes at STRIDE on my first week! I loved how you interacted with the kids, but my favorite was your music and movement! I decided then that this was a job I could love! Thanks so much for all you taught me as a co worker! I also cherished our long friendship and the acceptance you gave Robin and I. Another great memory is Susan, Ken, and Avery sharing in our Holy Union! There are lots of memories but those are my favorites, and it is still unimaginable to have a world without this beautiful soul.



Karla Emmerich - February 28, 2022 at 10:06 PM

NP

“ Oh my. I miss this woman. What a bundle of beautiful, inside and outside. Such a friend, co-worker and supporter of good ideas and people. I am so fortunate to have had her along side of me on our journey for 20 years. Good work, good laughs, such a good person, wife, mom and human. I love her bunches.

Nancy Pajak

Nancy Pajak - February 25, 2022 at 12:46 PM

BO

“ Susan was my daughters Speech Therapist through Early Intervention. She was infectious with her warming and loving presence over our Zoom meetings. She was a BEAUTIFUL woman, inside and out. She impacted my life forever. Her smile is something I’ll never forget. The way she got so excited to see my family is something I’ll never forget. I had the true honor of caring for her through her cancer journey as her nurse. Susan will forever be missed. She was a ray of sunshine who will always shine down on us.

Brittany Ogle - February 21, 2022 at 09:13 AM

KS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



ksfish - February 20, 2022 at 08:32 PM

KS

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ksfish - February 20, 2022 at 08:13 PM

DD

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. She was a very kind and generous person. She me back in 2001 when I found out my first born was hard of hearing. She worked with him at Stride. She was more than a teacher to our child. She was a mentor, a great friend and had a generous heart. She took my family in as a friend and I got to meet her family. She will greatly be missed.

Deanna and Austin Davidson - February 20, 2022 at 11:48 AM

AI

“ So heartbroken to see the loss of such a sweet lady. Both of my daughters were late speakers, so she spent a few years coming to our house, working with them and loving on them. She was so sweet to them and we were blessed to get to work with her. Our deepest condolences and may God's peace comfort and guide you in these days ahead.

Andrea Irish - February 20, 2022 at 12:30 AM

EG

“ My daughter, Kymber, and I grew to love our weekly visits with Susan as she taught both of us sign language. We looked forward to sharing books and smiles for two years. I appreciated that she kept in touch with us after Kymber finished her time with the READ Plus program. We even got to FaceTime about a year ago so that Kymber could read Susan a book, a swap in their roles from a couple of years earlier. We were so blessed by her talent and love! May peace inChrist be with your family at this time.

Evee Greer - February 18, 2022 at 02:19 PM

AJ

“ Ken and family,
We are so sorry for your unimaginable loss. Our grandson was blessed to have "Miss Susan" as his SLP through Early Interventions in Fort Collins. She was, in a word, amazing. She tirelessly worked with and for him, while being a tremendous support to our daughter as we all learned the ins and outs of testing, Early Interventions and IEPs. She scheduled an appointment with him the day before he turned three, using every single date available, before we started with district services, and we would frequently text or e-mail if we had questions or concerns about his therapy. She had a gift for making everyone feel like they were the only important client she had that day. We mourn her loss and continue to hold all of you in prayer.
Anne and Greg Jordan

Anne Jordan - February 14, 2022 at 12:50 PM

MA

“ Susan was my son's SLP through Early Intervention. When I told others familiar with the program, they told me our family "struck gold with Susan" as our therapist...boy, were they right. Susan was one of Lorenzo's biggest fans and fiercest advocates. She had a gentle and loving touch and pushed Lorenzo to work hard - she knew what he was capable of. Her sessions and guidance were creative and helpful. She bonded not only with Lorenzo, but his brother, his grandparents (on both sides!) and myself. We hated losing her as an SLP when Lorenzo no longer qualified for EI. What an amazing gift Susan was to our family. We are forever thankful for her and the impact she had on our lives. We miss her so much! My condolences to the family - you will be in our family's prayers.

Michelle Alvarez - February 14, 2022 at 12:05 PM

EM

“ Dear Ken and family, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Susan was a talented therapist. We shared visits with a little guy in the mountains. She will be missed by many families and her colleagues. I know that your hearts are broken. I will keep you in my prayers.
Eileen Mogan

Eileen Mogan - February 13, 2022 at 01:55 AM

AN

“ Susan was an amazing person who was such a blessing to our family. Caleb benefitted from her every single time he worked with her and she was a tremendous support to everyone. Her calm, kind, loving strength brought us comfort in the hard times and joy in the better times. She was very beloved! We are sending all our love to your entire family in this tremendously hard time. With all our love,
Brent, Andrea, Caleb, Breanne, and Hayley Johnson

Andrea - February 12, 2022 at 07:56 PM

JT

“ Susan - you were one of the smartest, kindest, most creative, and positive people I have ever known. You could do anything you set your mind to. I was always amazed at how you could create such awesome books and materials and lesson plans. I always loved your various “Bus” books. I always wanted to be just like you. Thank you for everything you have ever taught me.... ❤️ Rest In Peace, friend. Prayers for you all, Ken and Allie and Avery and family.



Jennifer Trujillo - February 11, 2022 at 11:40 PM

BS

“ Susan, you will missed here on this earth, but we'll be reunited in our heavenly Father's house. I remember a Church Ladies party where Susan was sharing her skin care routine. My daughter, fresh out of aesthetician school was having hilarious reactions to some of the choices and we were all in tears laughing. We'll laugh again in heaven. Love to you Ken, Allie and Avery. Betsy and Dennis Smith
💜🙏

Betsy Smith - February 11, 2022 at 02:28 PM