



Tamara Ann Mahler

July 28, 2024

Tamara Ann Mahler, of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away on July 28, 2024, surrounded by friends and family.

She was born to Jane Slezak and Harley Mahler in 1974, and grew up alongside siblings Lisa, Greg, and Steve. She was a proud member of the Special Olympics for 32 years, and Dance Express for 30 years. Within her active participation in the Special Olympics, she received many accolades, including the 2003 Gold Medal in Relay, the 2004 Female Athlete of the Year for Colorado Special Olympics, and the 2011 Hal O'Leary Inspiration Award Colorado Rockies Woman of the Year Mosaic, to name a few.

She is survived by her mother Jane Slezak, siblings Lisa, Greg, and Steve Mahler, stepmother Sherry Mahler, aunts Marlis Mahler and Carol Slezak, uncles Ken (Marilyn) Slezak and Tom Slezak, nieces Annika Mahler, Ella Mahler, and Teilor Mahler, cousins Frances, Laura, Anne, and Marissa Slezak, roommate extraordinaire Adalyn Prewett, and her second family, the Prewetts. She is preceded in death by her father Harley Mahler, and grandparents Glen and Alice Mahler and Allen and Alice Slezak.

A special Thank You for Special Olympics, who made her dreams come true to compete in swimming at International's in Ireland. Mary Elizabeth Lenahan, Director of Dance Express for over 30 years of dedication so Tamara could

embrace her passion for dance; Mosaic for supporting Tamara for over 25 years so she could live her life of independence; and for Heather Long and Ashley DeLuca of Altra for being an incredible support in the last few months of Tamara's journey and so many others. It took a village, and we were blessed that Tamara chose us for her family.

A Celebration of Life will be held from on September 1, 2024, from 1:00-3:00 P.M. at the Fort Collins Senior Center – 1200 Raintree Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80526.

In lieu of flowers, Tamara's family is asking for donations to be made to Special Olympics Fort Collins, Pathways Hospice, or Dance Express Fort Collins.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 1. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Fort Collins Senior Center
1200 Raintree Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Dear Jane, My deepest condolences. It's been a long time since I have seen you and Tamara but you were both important to my life. I am sending you lots of love and hopes that we will see each other in the near future. Jean Lehmann

Jean P Lehmann - September 03, 2024 at 11:41 AM

NW

“ Jane & Lisa, I just learned of Tamara's passing and wanted to send my sympathies to you and all the family. I first met Tamara back at PHS and will always remember her big smile and enthusiasm for life. I was always amazed when I'd see her around town & she'd remember me- years later. She made the world a better place. Thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult loss of someone very special in the lives all who knew her. Sincerely, Nancy Wick

Nancy Wick - August 26, 2024 at 06:28 PM

SB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Tamara's passing. I was a student of Jane Slezaks. I remember always hearing stories of Tamara. I will keep all of the family in my prayers and hope you can all have a dance party in her memory! What a blessing Tamara is.

-Susan Burkhardt (Kintzley).

Susan Burkhardt - August 14, 2024 at 05:01 PM

JS

Thank you Susan.

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:37 AM

DB

“ *Tamara commanded the stage when she danced. I will miss her dearly.*

David Brown - August 14, 2024 at 01:11 PM

CP

“ *I didn't know Tamara personally but watched her dance with Dance Express for many years. The joy of the dancers was always contagious! May the sweet memories you have of Tamara bring you comfort as you say goodbye.*

Cindy Peak - August 12, 2024 at 02:45 PM

JS

Thank you Cindy.

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:38 AM

LI

“ *10 files added to the tribute wall*



Lisa - August 10, 2024 at 06:37 PM

AO

“ Tamara was able to convey many things with a word or two. I loved the word she crafted for making good memories with those you care about. She called it "Memoryship." A list of words that described Tamara would include genuine, spunky, confident, creative, fun loving, thoughtful, and so many more. She naturally choreographed her dance moves, swim strokes, softball swings, weightlifting techniques, and performances and added her own flare to all she did. Tamara had many dreams and aspirations and inspired others to join her in reaching her goals. Watching people parachuting onto the field at an Air Force game inspired her to go parasailing the following summer. Her dream of driving turned into a lesson with her Auntie Carol in a golf cart. A movie about a family's RV trip, sparked an epic RV adventure. Thankfully she had a mom who championed her hopes, dreams, health, and happiness. Jane and Lisa, your immense love for Tamara, humor, laughter, and perseverance filled Tamara's life with many magical moments. I am blessed to have been included in the crew and family who loved and supported Tam. Some of my favorite stories will always begin, "Remember the time Tamara..." Tamara, thank you for being a fantastic roommate, adventure buddy, copilot, and friend. Most of all thank you for the memoryship.

A Odom - August 05, 2024 at 11:06 AM

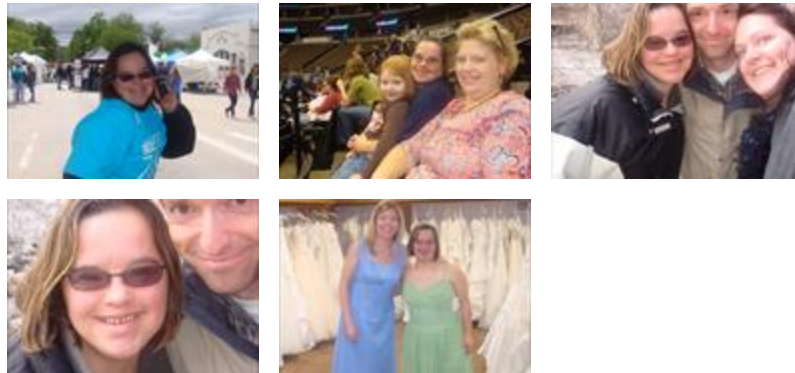
JS

Thank you Adalyn! You were truly a gift to Tamara and to all of us! She had great adventures with you, and loved everyone of them.!

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:41 AM

AO

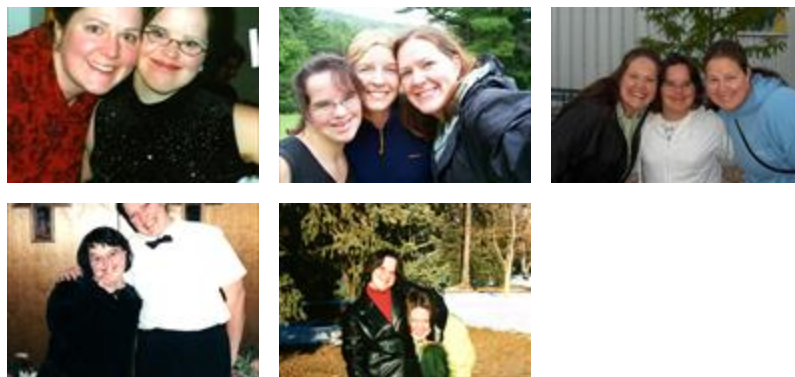
“ 52 files added to the tribute wall



AO - August 04, 2024 at 08:37 PM

AO

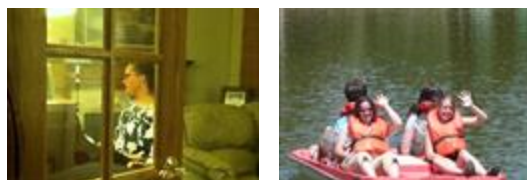
“ 45 files added to the tribute wall



AO - August 04, 2024 at 07:36 PM

LP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



LP - August 03, 2024 at 01:47 PM

AP

“ Jane and family,

Tam was such an amazing lady!! I loved her grit and determination when we played softball together. It was a joy to see her dance as the Christmas Rose for Dance Express, sing in talent shows and play the piano any time she found one! All of the Prewetts

Alex Prewett - August 02, 2024 at 08:43 PM

JS

Thank you, We all have family of choice, and you all were Tamara's family of choice! She picked well!

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:49 AM

LM

“ Tamara loved to dance and sing. You'd find her at the front of a music venue dancing the night away. Or, on the dance floor at one of the monthly dances. She had a way of getting people up and dancing. She was a gift! Keep dancing Tamara- I love you very much and am happy to have had you as my older sister, you loved and cared about me! I'll continue your "Be Kind" legacy and share the stories and adventures that you did. Dance the night away and sing your heart out! - Lisa (your YOUNGER sister)



Lisa Mahler - August 02, 2024 at 08:35 PM

AD

Love this! Tamara often reminded me that she was older than me and therefore the oldest. Love you always, Tamara!

Adalyn - August 03, 2024 at 02:26 PM

JS

So true, right up to the end!

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:50 AM

MP

“ From trips to the Sand Dunes and Great Grandma Haddock's to softball games and impromptu birthday concerts, I am so lucky to have had Tamara in my life and as part of the Prewett family. Tamara, you are very missed <3



Maike Prewett - August 02, 2024 at 06:22 PM

JS

Thank you Maike! She adored all of you!

Jane Slezak - August 19, 2024 at 08:52 AM

LP

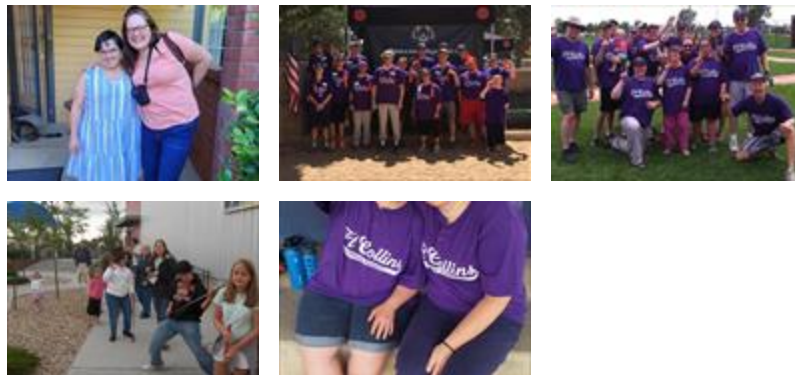
“ 30 files added to the tribute wall



Linda R Prewett - August 02, 2024 at 01:37 AM

AP

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Alex Prewett - August 01, 2024 at 12:09 AM

AP

One thing that always made me smile was Tamara's softball batting preparation! She always looked so awesome getting ready to swing. We will miss you so much, Tam!

Alex Prewett - August 02, 2024 at 08:37 PM