

# Jennifer's Memory Book



Jennifer Susanne Roderick  
November 10, 1973 - May 30, 2004

*Welcome to Jennifer's Memory Book. This document was created to preserve the memories shared by Jen's friends and relatives following her passing. In the eleven months the site was active, 87 entries were made. Some were from friends, some from family, and some were anonymous. These tributes have been preserved from the web site and are presented over the following pages. The entries are listed in the order received.*

## **May 31, 2004**

What I will always remember about Jennifer is how she lived life. I have never known anyone with such a zest for living as she had. Because of her CF, she couldn't take any day for granted. She lived each day with a joyous spirit that was infectious to those around her. When I thought of Jennifer's situation, my own problems and struggles just didn't seem important anymore. She made me realize just how big a gift we have with every new day.

**Steve Carr**

## **May 31, 2004**

Jennifer- your smile tells it all. I will always remember you and the memories will be the best. Thank you for being in my life, now and forever

**Dede Carr**

# *Jennifer's Memory Book*

**May 31, 2004**

I really adored and admired you for being such a special friend. You always said exactly what was on your mind. You really enjoyed telling me what to do, who to date and what to wear. You were my personal lifestyle coach! I have so much respect for you my sweet little friend and not a day will go by that I won't think of you. You were the little sister I always wanted--a little person with a huge heart. I love you Jennifer

**Teri Sharman (Dewey)**

**May 31, 2004**

From that day so many years ago when Fred and I first met John & Judy and their little girl Jenny, we knew she was special and that she would fight this disease with dignity and grace. We were blessed to have known her. Heaven is just a little brighter today with that fabulous smile, and hopefully Fred was there to extend a helping hand. My thoughts and prayers are with Jenny and her family.

**Marsha Marchese**

**May 31, 2004**

We met Jennifer in the fall of 1998, when she came to Sun Ridge to help with our Open House Brunch, Right off she struck us as a little package of dynamite and energy, with the most wonderful smile we had ever seen. She worked her little heart out helping us make our event a huge success. I recall we ran out of eggs, not once but several time and Jennifer volunteered to be our egg runner. Along towards the 3rd or 4th trip, she had pretty well had it with running for eggs. She said if she had to make one more trip, she was going to look for a flock of chickens and put them outside the kitchen door. Jennifer helped us on many occasions and always had the same go get 'em and positive attitude. While we haven't been in close contact with Jennifer in the past few years, she will always be in our hearts and memory. Great gifts come in small packages; Jennifer was a great gift to all who met her, and an inspiration to those that didn't get the chance. Her memory will continue to inspire many forever.

**Chris and Roberta Bodewig**

**May 31, 2004**

Jennifer, There will never be another person like you. You listened to me when other people wouldn't even ask my side of the story. A lot of people loved and admired you and I hope that they will learn from you and your selfless ways. With so much hate and ugliness in the world today, it is nice to know that there are people like you, who touch people in such a way, if only for a brief moment in time, to make the world a better place. You married a wonderful and caring man and have two beautiful children that I know will take off when you left off. I admired your positive attitude and energy, and I will miss you greatly.

**Anonymous**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**May 31, 2004**

Jen, I really wish I could have been there to say goodbye to you Sunday morning. But I have said goodbye to you in my heart, and I know you have heard me. You were such a fighter and I admire that about you. I wanted to tell you this before you went to heaven but I never got the chance: I will watch out for Josh for you; and Isabelle, too - if she will let me. You are a hero in my life and I will never forget you or the things you taught me. I am so honored that you wanted me to sing at your memorial service, but to be honest I was hoping to have at least 30 more years to practice. I am sorry you never got to meet Oliver, but don't worry - he takes good care of me and I know you would have liked him. I will introduce you to each other when we get to heaven, I promise. You will always be in my heart, I love you.

**Libby Lou**

**May 31, 2004**

Jennifer, We had a lot of fun together over the last ten years - even though we had our ups and downs in the end we both knew how special our friendship was - I am so glad that I got to spend time with you and your mom last week - I will miss you very much - you always told me I was your guardian angel, and now you can watch over all of us.

**Tami Meis**

**May 31, 2004**

Jennifer... A true beauty, what wit and charm in such a cute package. Your strength and positive attitude are a good lesson to us all. Thanks for the fun times, laughs and great food. You are an angel and I am sure your funeral will be SRO.

**Anonymous**

**May 31, 2004**

Jen, you fought c.f. bravely on a daily basis. You were an amazing Mommy, devoted loving wife, and beautiful daughter. To me Jen, you were a best friend, and I'm so sorry to have to say goodbye. You gave abundantly. You were my daily smile, morning coffee date, shopping pal, style consultant, social director, confidante. You taught me the true meaning of friendship and trust. You supported me when I needed you; and Giff and I will be here to support your dear family as they need us. In life we meet so few people that we can call a true friend, and Jennifer you were that for me - a true friend. I am so tearful to have to say goodbye, but I'm thankful for the time we spent together. Jen we'd smile when people mistakenly called us sisters (you'd joke that you were the better looking, younger sister), I think we may have been soul sisters. You are my daily inspiration!

**Melanie Himmelright**

# *Jennifer's Memory Book*

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer, the day I first met you it felt as if we had known each other for years. I was excited that Greg had found such a beautiful and outgoing person to marry. Over the years, your family grew into one of the happiest (and well organized) I have ever seen. You were always at the center! You can be certain that Joshua and Isabelle will know how deeply you loved them. Thank you for the kindness you showed both me and my family. You are an inspiration, reminding us all of what is truly important.

**Cindy White**

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer, we only know you through conversations with your Mom and Dad, however, we are so very sorry to see you go. We have been praying for you ever night since we learned of your illness years ago. We know that you will be safe in God's care to watch over all of us and pray for all of us as we try to make sense out of your leaving this world. May God Bless you and your family!

**Danielle Prescott and Melissa Ogden**

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer, I still can't believe I'm saying goodbye. We've been very good friends for over 15 years, since high school and we've had a lot of great times together. We were in each others wedding and I will always have a lifetime of memories of her. I will love and remember her forever. Jennifer had a great life, tons of friends, a loving husband and a family that's always been there for her. Jennifer and her family will be in my thoughts and prayers always.

**Debbie (Burrows) Halloran**

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer, although we never actually met, you have been in our thoughts and prayers. We know how deeply you were loved, and our hearts go out to your family as they say goodbye. May God bless you all.

**Kathy and Jim Westerman**

**June 1, 2004**

I called a friend the night I heard you were not doing very well, I was crying to her and asking for her prayers for you, as well as, for me, as I could not understand why this could happen to such a bright and beautiful person. My friend stopped, listened and thanked me for interrupting her hectic day so that she may thank God for you and "her very small problems." She told me I should be thankful for you. She was right and I am.

**Anonymous**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer, you gave me much more than I ever gave to you. I will never forget your strength and smile. Caring for patients like you is what gives me fulfillment, joy and now sadness. I'll miss seeing you. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Julie Lynch -- OHSU**

**June 1, 2004**

Although I didn't get the chance to spend as much time with you as I would have liked, I spent enough time to see what an incredible spirit you had. Always positive, giving your love, advice, support and help to anyone who was blessed to be a part of your life. People like you are what make this world a better place-you make me want to strive to live my life to the fullest, you exemplify that Jennifer. Your kids and your family will be filled with wonderful memories of you by so many people whose lives you have touched over the years. There are nothing but good things to say about you, and I am so proud to have had you in my life for as long as I did. You are the bravest woman I have ever known, thank you for always putting a smile on my face and making any situation a positive one. You have touched so many lives and will continue to daily. May God bless you and your family; you are all in my prayers.

**Parvaneh Kalantari**

**June 1, 2004**

Jennifer: Meeting you for the first time at your wedding, I remember how easy you were to get to know. I remember how you and Greg seemed to be true soul mates; the love between you was so confident and strong. My favorite memory of you is a very long time ago when we went horseback riding and you showed up in a white outfit from head to toe, it was adorable as always, but completely dusty brown after the ride. You had never been horseback riding and you were a trooper, cantering down the trail (out of control) but with a huge smile on your face. I admired you so much that day. That's how I remember you. You never showed weakness, you were always positive and a lot of fun. All my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**Marti Jacobsen**

**June 1, 2004**

Dear Jennifer, You have truly been an inspiration in my life and will always live in my heart. The life lessons you taught me will remain with me forever. Your constant positive attitude and fighting instinct always amazed me. You were a blessing sent from God and though your time was limited, the impact you have made on people's lives has been astounding. Thank you for your friendship and setting an example of how to live our daily lives. Rest now and watch over us until we meet again. I love you and will deeply miss you!!!

**Marijean Johnson**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## **June 1, 2004**

I met Jennifer through her brother Tom. She was definitely someone who anyone could get along with, and also someone that everyone liked. My last memory of her was the one dance she saved for me at her brother Tom's wedding. I remember how happy she was for her brother; she was "one big smile" for the entire wedding. Whenever I saw her that night, I called her "JEN-NEE", referring to how Forrest Gump said it in the movie of the same name. It made her laugh a lot. She will be deeply missed.

**Latham Conger III**

## **June 2, 2004**

Though I haven't seen Jennifer for a number of years I never thought I'd be talking about her in the past tense, it's not easy. I got to know Jennifer in Florida at the Holiday Retirement Corps Ormond in the Pines where she led the marketing effort to high numbers. To me Jennifer was a cute, vivacious, perky, inquisitive and determined lady with a good sense of humor. She could always make me smile. She was a life brightener for all who knew her. She usually had a bottle of Mountain Dew around somewhere in the afternoons, for energy I think. She was a good sport, a bowler and pool player. Her passing, I'm sure, has left a very large hole in the lives of those who knew and cared for her. I know it has in mine.

**John Tritz**

## **June 2, 2004**

Although we never met - you were in my prayers! Now that God has called you home - I feel so sorry for the loss to your family. They know that God had a special place waiting for you (as HE does with each and every one of us!) and eternal happiness is yours forever! The Scriptures tell us, "I have called you by name. You belong to me. You are precious to me. I love you." God will see us all through the tough times ahead - ask and we shall receive. My thoughts and prayers are with your family! God bless you ALL!!! Remember, Jennifer's new birthday is May 30th, 2004 - she has her REAL reward now! (Also May 30th, Sunday, this year was Pentecost Sunday how God planned Jennifer's going home!

**Anonymous**

## **June 2, 2004**

Jen, you have been and will continue to be such a light unto the world. You always had a beautiful smile and something nice to say. I so appreciated your welcoming spirit. Memories of you will become a constant light unto others reminding us daily of the gifts we have been given. Our hearts will always remember the joy and love you shared

**Gertlar Family**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 2, 2004**

When I think of Jennifer, I think of the color pink, because she loved the color pink. I think of perfection, because she was the perfect daughter, the perfect wife, the perfect mother, and truly the perfect friend. She was always so honest and genuine; I loved that about her. She had grace. She had impeccable style. And most of all, she had beauty - both inside and out. I think of a life well lived. Jennifer loved so much in life: spending time with Greg and the kids, visits from her mom and dad, shopping trips, dinners out with the girls, her white chocolate mochas, gathering out front with the neighbors and kids just to play and talk - catch up. She took nothing for granted. I think of caring; Jennifer was very generous with her time, her home and her love. She checked in daily just to see how your day had gone. She truly cared about her family and friends - she was genuine, through and through. I think of family: Greg & Jennifer were a shining example of what a marriage should be; what a family should be; and, what life should be. And I think of a verse that I had tucked away that was read at another dear friend's memorial. It seemed very fitting for the brave, young woman whose life we're celebrating today. It goes...

*God saw that she was getting tired,  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around her,  
And whispered "Come With Me",  
With tearful eyes we watched her suffer,  
And saw her fade away.  
Although we loved her dearly,  
We could not make her stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God took her from this earth  
To prove He Only Takes the Best...*

He truly did take the best. We will miss and love Jennifer the rest of our lives. But I take great comfort in knowing I'll get to see her again when God decides that I'm good enough to join them. From now on, when I think of Jennifer, I will think of heaven! Rest in peace, sweet girl. I love you!

**Lori Medlin**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer, I feel so blessed to have known you. You truly are an inspiration to me to someday become such a well-rounded woman. Your children are a direct reflection of your positive and amazing spirit, and they are lucky to have such a wonderful mommy. I already miss talking to you, and I appreciate all the times you listened and gently advised me. I look back so fondly on our talks about everything and nothing, from Isabelle's new words to relationships, from boys to clothes, and everything in between. Thank you so much for making me feel so confident in myself, you are fabulous.

**Beth Gerhart**

**June 2, 2004**

Our children went to the same preschool together and I'd see you at the grade school sometimes. Jennifer, you always had such a warmth about you. I wish I could have gotten to know you better. What a great mom.

**Anonymous**

**June 2, 2004**

I met Jennifer at my sister's home (Dede Carr) a couple of years ago. I didn't realize at the time Jennifer had CF. I was amazed, nevertheless, that this person I met was so upbeat, friendly, sweet and full of life. It was inspiring being around Jennifer, that day. I can still see her sparkling smile. I think Jennifer would make a fabulous angel.

**Valerie**

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer was unconditional in her feelings for me and other staff members. No matter how poorly she was feeling she always asked how I was feeling and give me emotional support in my life and my pregnancy. I felt like Jennifer was far more than a patient. She was a friend and an inspiration to us all on 8DVA. I will miss her friendly smile and her loving family. My thoughts are with all of her loved ones and I thank God for having her be a part of our lives. She has touched me in so many ways.

**Michele Elder RN**

**June 2, 2004**

I regret that I only had the pleasure of meeting Jennifer once at Rolling Green for her brother's wedding. As pictured, her smile radiated her happy personality and she impressed me with her beauty and genuine kindness. I would like to express to Judy and John my deepest heartfelt sympathies and to her husband along with their children. As parents, I know you have no regrets for the unconditional love shown to Jennifer, and she to you. God Bless all of you and may your memories be forever sweet of your beloved daughter and wife.

**Michelle McGrath**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer, I wish there were words to say how much you will be missed. Your smile and enthusiasm was so refreshing to see on 8DVA. I am so privileged to have been able to get to know you and your family in the last 9 months. Thank you for coming into my life and giving us such a wonderful lesson on how to live life to the fullest. I will never forget you. You and your family will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

**Sabrina Ratts RN**

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer was an amazing young lady. To meet her only once was never to forget her. She always brought a smile to your face with her laughter and spirit. She never let you feel sorry for her or her situation. With Jen, you realized that life is worth living.

**Dennis and Rita Nudo**

**June 2, 2004**

I only met Jennifer once at Rolling Green when she was having lunch with her Mom and little ones. Her smile was what made an impression on me. What a lovely young women. Judy and John: my deepest sympathies; love you lots.

**Joan Whisler**

**June 2, 2004**

Every day I went into see Jennifer, she had a smile on her face, even when she wasn't feeling well. I remember tucking her in at night every time I went in to check on her. I want to say how sorry I am to Greg, Joshua and Isabelle and how much we are all going to miss her.

**Jennifer Quick, RN OHSU**

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer, I regret that we lost touch with each other over the last few years for what now seem like trivial reasons. You were such a wonderful friend to me and I enjoyed the many laughs we shared. I appreciate some of our fun moments (sometimes making the best of difficult times) . . . trying to strategize on getting first class upgrades without paying too much, being there when you got the call about Joshua and sharing the ups and downs until you were finally holding him, going to the park, Gymboree or hanging out with the boys, driving to many destinations (and having fun doing it), taking you lunches and cookies (with milk) when you weren't feeling well, you bringing me pizza for our move or insisting on lunch out when I needed a break from work, and the many moments shared on-the-road, at work, home, or out - laughing, laughing and laughing. Oh, I have and will miss you.

**Lisa**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 2, 2004**

Jennifer has been my very best friend, wife, partner, mother of our children, the best homemaker and friend for more than 10 years. I miss her so deeply and wish desperately that we could have saved her life somehow.

The love and support that we have received from our friends and neighbors has been nothing short of remarkable and our life in our home is truly been "living."

I was able to reassure Jennifer that our children and I would be fine in time. She asked at a time of extreme selflessness. Our children will be a living legacy of the love, support, devotion and giving nature of their mother, Jennifer. Joshua is such a warm and kind natured soul whom loves his mother very, very much. Isabelle, young and sweet, will know her through the stories and pictures that Jennifer has left upon us.

Jennifer was called to Heaven to become an Angel - one that will watch over us (her family) and those whom she has touched in her young 30-years of life. We will find peace knowing that Jennifer will always be with us and will forever be cherished.

Her spirit and zest for life will continue to inspire others that become familiar with her even after these days.

Jennifer only became more beautiful as time went on; however, it was her inner beauty, kindness, generosity, and caring manner that were most compelling about this angel of ours.

I will always love Jennifer and cherish our time together. She and our children have been the most wonderful people to ever enter my life. I can only thank her for the love that she gave to me and her commitment to our marriage and home.

Many thanks to those whom offered the donation of their lungs and for those at OHSU hospital for the care, friendship, companionship and love that they extended to our Jennifer.

**Greg Roderick, Your Loving Husband**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 3, 2004**

I feel blessed to have known Jennifer. It was several months after we met before I realized how serious CF was because Jennifer loved life and brought happiness and laughter to everyone around her. It is hard for me to accept that she's gone. Even during the last few times that I spent with her, that fighting spirit was still as strong as ever. To her family, I hope that you can find comfort in the memories of all the lives Jennifer touched. You are all in my prayers.

**Carlene Kesterson**

**June 3, 2004**

Did Jennifer touch my life? Of course she did. Jennifer had a special charm that lit up the room. It was such a joy to spend time with her. She always made me smile and laugh, which was one of many of her special gifts to this world. We as respiratory therapists loved Jennifer very much she was a special friend to us all. She will always be in our heart. Her children and family will always be in our hearts too. God bless.

**Nichole - Respiratory Therapist, OHSU**

**June 3, 2004**

Jen IS my favorite pt. of all-time. I will miss her very much...she always brightened my day. Words can't express how much she will be missed.

**Wes**

**June 3, 2004**

We first met Jennifer the day she was born. Jen's Grandfather Clarence Greenwald and I were there to greet her. However, illness set in early on at 2 months. We spent Birthdays, Holidays, summer cook out, even baby sat when her parents took a vacation. Those were close family times that I will remember. My deepest Sympathy are with Greg, his children, John & Judy, Tom and Tracie. Much Love,

**Grandma Mary Jane Greenwald, Salem, WI**

**June 3, 2004**

To repeat Karl's words the first time he met Jenny: "What a cutie!" John, Judy, I will always remember the day you brought Jenny over, so she could drive my car. We put the top down and away we went. I couldn't get her to really step on it, she just drove so sensibly, but she did enjoy it. She was sure a special girl, and we feel very blessed to have known her. Our love and prayers to Greg, Joshua, Isabelle, and to John and Judy.

**Karl and Sally Singer**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 3, 2004**

I only met Jennifer once, but I remember her very clearly for her wonderful, bubbly, welcoming personality. Greg, please know that you and your beautiful children are in my thoughts and my prayers.

**Kristen Howland**

**June 3, 2004**

Jennifer, a memory I have of you is last summer you and Joshua and Isabelle were going for a walk and you took the time to stop by my house to say hello. We had just met and found out that Joshua and Bella were going to be in the same class. I thought it was so nice of you just to stop by. I wish I would have told you how much I appreciated that. I wish I would have gotten to know you better.

I firmly believe that God sends you beautiful angels down to Earth to teach us regular folks how we should behave. And then he takes you back so we can be sad at the loss of you and maybe learn something from our sadness. Maybe we will learn how to be good people. Maybe we will strive to be more like you so that someday we too can go to Heaven and be near you again.

Your beautiful smile is what I will remember most about you

**Dana Montgomery**

**June 4, 2004**

When I think of Jennifer, I remember her being my very first patient at OHSU and over time she became so much more, a friend. She always had her toenails painted, the cutest PJ outfits on, a Starbucks in hand, and a smile. Jennifer was such a people's person and it was rare when I would come to her room that she wasn't talking on the phone or had her family or a friend visiting. It was so obvious how much her family and friends meant to her and how much everybody thought of this extraordinary little lady. She has taught me and many others what it means to live life to its fullest and we are all going to miss you, Jennifer. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Becky Sterzinger RN

**June 4, 2004**

I wish I could have done more to help the fund raising to find a cure - just wasn't fast enough for you Jennifer! I will continue to help find the cure.

**Gary Hulse**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 6, 2004**

I met Jennifer once at Rolling Green when Joshua was a baby and I remember how happy she was—and what a smile she had! She had a very loving and supportive family and she touched people's lives in so many ways. Jennifer was on the prayer chain at our Living Water Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, AZ and prayers were said for her every week. God granted Jennifer 30 years on earth to bring joy to her family and friends and now He has called her to Heaven to be with the angels and have everlasting life and peace. Our love and prayers now to go Judy, John, Greg and their families.

**Carol and Bill Gasser**

**June 6, 2004**

I met Jennifer when I chaired the fall black tie dinner dance and auctions. I remember Jennifer as a beautiful young lady so full of life and fun. She always greeted everyone with such a warm smile. My heart goes out to her devoted family. Know that her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

**Anita Cole**

**June 6, 2004**

Jennifer, it has been many years since we worked together; I was shocked and saddened to see your beautiful smile in the paper today. You were always supportive and positive in our meetings - the perfect marketing person. I admired your knowledge and professionalism for someone so young. My prayers are with your husband, children and family. You are well loved and will be missed terribly.

**Linda Douglas**

**June 7, 2004**

Jennifer's beautiful smile compelled me to write. I did not know Jennifer personally, but I too lost someone to CF. My brother passed away one year ago today, and he too was a selfless wonderful person. I was thrilled to see that Jennifer had a loving family and children. My heart and prayers go out to all of you. Many things have happened over the past year to show me that my big brother is still with me. Shortly after the funeral, my husband's aunt gave me a rose bush, not knowing that roses were his favorite flower. It was already in bloom and it was white. Although it was beautiful, I couldn't help thinking that pink roses were his favorite. When the rose bloomed this year, the buds were pink. Jennifer will be with you always.

**Susie**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 7, 2004**

Jennifer, what a blessing to have known you. I always admired your warmth, confidence, style, faith and your compassion for others. Your love for your family, friends and Christ always shined forth in your actions and words. You brought out the best in others because of this. You believed in the goodness of others and rejoiced in and encouraged their hidden talents and strengths. You will be deeply missed by me and my family. I know you are now surrounded in God's light, joy and peace and that provides much comfort. Thank you for your friendship and your inspiring example of a life well lived.

**Kathleen Bernert**

**June 7, 2004**

To Greg and family: My son, Andre, goes to MAC preschool with your son Joshua. The wake of Jennifer's death was mighty. I've heard so much about this beautiful young spirit that I feel the love and warmth and.... the sadness. There is so much greed, distrust, and evil in the world that my view of humanity becomes very low at times. The love and admiration that your wife & mother has earned from so many good people has lifted me to a higher place. Maybe in my next life I too, will have the privilege of knowing her.

**Parris Chargois**

**June 8, 2004**

Jennifer and Greg were one of the first people we met moving to West Linn from New Orleans. Our neighbors for a short time but great people always with a smile. We remember sending gumbo over when Jennifer was sick. Our prayers are out to Greg and his family.

**Max & Clare Kimble**

**June 8, 2004**

It was several years ago on a wonderful weekend in Portland that we attended a barbeque at Jennifer and Greg's home with John and Judy and later went rafting with them on the Deschutes River. Jennifer was full of life and we were amazed at her energy. Clearly she was deeply loved by all of her family and an inspiration to all that knew her and how she lived a spirited life. Our deepest sympathy goes to Greg, the children and Judy, John and Tom.

**Pam and Jerry Greco**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 8, 2004**

Dear Jennifer, this past week I have reflected so much on the past and I have so many wonderful memories of you. Meeting you in junior high (1986!) and all our fun times together in high school. I saw you meet the most wonderful man and fall in love. I felt so honored that you chose me as your Maid of Honor and will cherish the memories of your wedding. How beautiful and happy you were, and how you continued to always share that happiness with everyone around you. Through the years, as your marriage grew stronger and your family included Joshua and Isabelle, we always kept in touch even though there were many miles keeping us apart. We would call each other only every few months but spend hours on the phone catching up. It had been too long since we last spoke. During the day at work, I'd be telling myself "you need to pick up the phone and call Jen tonight". Of course I would get home and start doing all the unimportant things people do in the evening, sometimes I'd look at the clock and think "Oh, it's dinnertime in Oregon, I'll wait a little longer to call and then the next thing I would know, it was 10:30 at night and too late to spend hours catching up. Excuses, excuses I wish I'd never made. I want you to know that even though I didn't call you to check in with you, that I cared about and loved you always. Your passing has taught me not to let time slip by and make excuses or take things for granted. I wish it was a lesson I didn't need to learn, but you've reminded me to continuously strive to be a better person and as a result a better friend, sister, wife and daughter. You led by example with your grace, beauty and sweetness. Thank you for this and for everything else your friendship has given me, I will miss it and you so very much. Your loving friend, Carrie.

**Carrie Hunse (Parks)**

**June 8, 2004**

*"Life is not measured by how many breaths you take  
But by how many moments take your breath away..... " ~Unknown*

Jen,

Thank you for showing us all how to live. The photos that were shown at your beautiful memorial reflected such joy and thankfulness. I just know you had many breath-taking experiences in your life. It was such fun dancing with you and Teri a year or so ago, when you came out to hear Steve's band play at Dr. John's Pub. This is all so surreal. God bless you in heaven and Greg and the kiddos down here on earth. We all know you're looking over them and us....always.

I have your family photo right by my front door so every time I leave the house. I'm reminded not to take that particular outing for granted. What a beautiful reminder.

Thank you.

**Michelle Kuepker**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## June 9, 2004

Jenny, words cannot express how much of an inspiration you were to all of us. You lived life to the fullest and never showed us negativity while we knew you were not feeling well. We will always keep a place in our heart for you. Most of our memories of your smiles, clever wit and fun times we had as you grew up will always be cherished. We know you're at peace now and in God's kingdom. We'll all miss you!

**Uncle Bill, Aunt Debbie, Jeff and Clint**

## June 9, 2004

It's sad to think that it's been over a year since I last saw you and now I will never have the chance again, I can at least be happy to know that every memory I have of you was a good one and that your radiant smile made everyone else in the room happy. I think my best memories of you were from your wedding when I was the ring bearer and how happy you were as well as everyone else; you and Greg were such a perfect couple. Another great memory I have was the last one, I believe it was Christmas of 2002 when we all sat around and chatted and I hoped to come see you one day in Portland and keep in touch, it's sad to know that we never did and now I won't have the chance. My prayers go out to Aunt Judy and Uncle John, Tom and Tracie, and finally those who you loved the most, your husband Greg and children Joshua and Isabelle, not only did the world lose a great person, but also a great wife, daughter, mother, and cousin. All of this is just a reminder that our time on Earth is short, all that matters is what you do with that time and because you were here for as long as you were, it made so many of our lives better.

**Cousin Clint**

## June 10, 2004

Greg: you, Joshua and Isabelle are in our thoughts and prayers. I know we haven't spent a lot of time together over the last ten years because we were both moving from coast-to-coast with our careers, but Patrick kept me posted on Jennifer's condition. I know you are a very strong person and had every detail worked out prior to Jennifer's departure to Heaven, but, nothing ever truly prepares you for that final goodbye. When I think of Jennifer, I think of this petite woman, full of energy, laughter and happiness. I remember meeting her in Florida when you began dating. I remember meeting her parents in Chicago and of course the wedding. The last time I saw her was at your house four years ago. I regret that our business careers have separated us so far geographically. Laurie and I were celebrating our 10th Anniversary in Italy when we heard the news. We arrived back into Florida late in the evening on the 2nd of June. I know your in San Diego right now with the kids, but if there is anything Laurie and I can do, please let us know. You, Joshua and Isabelle are welcome to stay with us in Orlando. We can take the kids to Walt Disney World, Universal, Sea World the beach - Sierra is 9 now and Shaylin is 7. It would be nice to get the kids together. With much love,

**Shawn & Laurie Lucas**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 10, 2004**

Jen, I am thankful that I had the chance to get to know you. I learned so much from you over the past 4 years that I have known you, and am very sad that you had to go so soon. You were such a strong, caring, vibrant, and gorgeous person. You lived life how every person should live it - to the fullest. You mean so much to me, and are an inspiration for everyone. You are my role model. You were like a second mother, a sister, and a best friend to me. You were the mother that looked out for me and gave me self-confidence, the sister that I could tell juicy secrets to, and you were the best kind of friend because you were always there for me to talk to, receive advice about boys/friends/fashion/etc, shop with (you were always up for shopping!), and confide in. You always put me in a good mood, and your smile was contagious. I remember that sometimes I would be worried about problems in my life that I thought were big deals, and you made me realize how small they were compared to other things, and how I shouldn't waste time worrying about things that don't matter (you were always straightforward with me). If there is one thing that I want to do with my life, it would be to live like Jennifer and not take anything for granted. I want to live my life to the fullest, and take what I learned from you and share it with others. Jen, you made such a huge impact on peoples' lives - even if they only met you just once, and that is truly amazing. You are such a beautiful and amazing woman! You made the world so much brighter, and now it is up to everyone that you touched to take what they learned from you and share it with others. I miss you so much, but know that you are watching over us all. I promise to help keep taking care of your family, and to give Isabelle a kiss every time I see her like you told me to. I love you!

**Allie Carr**

**June 15, 2004**

I am so sorry that I never kept in touch with you after you were married. I stood up in your wedding. I remember how we used to share each others dreams, memories, hopes and wishes when we were younger. You were a very trustworthy person. You always made me laugh. I enjoyed playing baseball in the middle of our court. Your brother always was on top of the scores. You never gave up even when you were losing. You never really got upset with me, and never took our friendship for granted. I always enjoyed being your friend. I have thought about you this past month. I thought about how you were doing, and I wish I could have been at your side during the tough times, just like you were with me when I needed you most.

I thought of you when I put some pictures of us in my scrapbook. I had to journal what we were doing at that time. I will always remember you as my best friend, and I will never forget you. I'm glad we never really did say goodbye. I'm glad we left it that way. I will always love you..... Thanks for being my best friend.....

**Karen Jurs**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**June 24, 2004**

I am so happy that I had a chance to know you. I am so thankful that you are the mother of my child. You truly are! I am glad he had you in his life and always will. Words cannot describe how I feel right now. I am sorry..... I am happy I gave you a chance I knew you were the one from the moment I met you. Even when the times were up and down for me Thank you Jennifer! You are Joshua's angel :) Thank you to Greg too!!

**Lauren Hindman**

**July 8, 2004**

We got to know Jennifer two summers ago at the Oregon Golf Club. We played with her and Greg in a couples Twilight Golf (a.k.a. "hit and giggle"). We all giggled a lot!! What stands out is how far Jennifer could hit a golf ball. Her club was about as long as she is tall and of course, she was dressed for the event, but boy, could she whack that thing. On various occasions we sat and chatted at poolside while watching our kids swim. Jennifer has always had a warm, approachable presence. We feel fortunate to have known her.

**Johnny and Laurie Coppedge**

**July 8, 2004**

I only met Jennifer a couple of times, but it was so clear to see what a great Mom she was, and how gracefully she carried herself in a way that never showed the pain she lived with, or any trace of a person dealing with all she had to deal with. I know her loving parents and husband will keep her memory alive for her children and they will know her love through them. With warm thoughts for all of her family,  
Diane Kirley and Family

**July 9, 2004**

"Mama Heaven" is what Isabelle says daily. Not fully understanding what Heaven is or why her mommy is there - but she knows that her mommy is far up in the sky and lives in Heaven.

Isabelle visits Jennifer each week and takes flowers to her. She looks at Jennifer's pictures and says, "Mama Pretty" and "Mama Heaven". When at the grocery store recently, Isabelle picked a dozen roses for "Mama" because they are "Pretty" so we brought them home and have them out - just like we used to do for Jennifer nearly every week.

Isabelle is adjusting well and we are making every effort to have wonderful and lasting memories and personal belongings of "Mama Heaven" around for a very, very long time. Jennifer was a wonderful mother and even at 2 1/2 years old, Isabelle appreciate the love and devotion that Jennifer gave to her.

**Isabelle Haley Roderick, Daughter**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**July 12, 2004**

Mommy,

One day in many years I will see you again. I took you flowers just the other day. And when I die, I will see you in heaven. When I miss you I am very sad but when I think of you I am very happy. I remember our trips to Disneyland, to Hawaii, Arizona and swimming. We had a lot of fun - I know you love me. Thank you for the toys and for your love. I will never forget you. Daddy, Isabelle and I are going to be okay and have happy lives. I love you!

**Joshua Andrew Roderick, Son**

**July 14, 2004**

Recently I had passed the park Jennifer & I used to play at along with Tom and some neighbors on Norwood Court. I remembered how we all used to pile up in my dad's truck and off we went. We always used to look forward to going there, and didn't want to leave when it was time to go. My dad used to always make Jenny laugh with the silly pranks he used to play on us.

I also remember how Laurie my sister used to swing her around while waiting at the bus stop. She also taught dance lessons in the backyard. Thank God of course it was always the backyard and nowhere else. I remember how Mrs. Greenwald used to play Kenny Rogers when I would come over to play. How we used to catch baby catfish in the pond, and the trick or treating. There never was just one bag, but many. Sometimes we would go to the same house twice because the candy they gave out was so good. Going to Woodfield was always fun, whenever Jenny had the latest style, I had to have it to - Jordash jeans, Guess jeans, Gloria Vanderbilt and Liz Claiborne.

The memory that I really remember the most was when her dad gave her a necklace that was in the shape of an envelope. When you opened the envelope it had a little diamond on it and said "I love you". Sometimes I wish my father would have given me something like that. Jenny, you really, truly are an inspiration - even though I can't see you.

By the way, my one and only dream finally came true Jen; I got married in the Bahamas!!!  
With love & memories,

**Karen Neil (Jurs)**

**July 26, 2004**

Not a day goes by that I do not thank God for you, as a friend so rightfully so advised me.

**Adele**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

**August 7, 2004**

Jennifer,

Although I've written already to you on this page, I often think of you and go to this page to read what others have to say. After having read every entry, I know that you have touched so many people in a way that only a few have done before you. I ran across this poem a few weeks ago and it screams out your name.

There are many people who come and go in our lives. A few touch us in ways that change us forever, making us better from knowing them. You have made a difference in my life, and for this I am grateful. I think that I speak for just about everyone who you have ever touched in your life... THANK YOU!!

**Lara Dewey**

**August 7, 2004**

I never knew Jennifer but my mom worked with her dad. We would say prayers for her every night to get better. Now that she is gone we say hi to her in our prayers. Always watch out, angels always say hi back!!!!!!!!!!

**Melissa (age 10)**

**August 8 2004**

Jennifer, I miss you very much. The kids and I talk about you every day, visit you every week and live with your spirit around us. Know that you will never be forgotten and that people talk about your life, kindness, love and way of life every day. Joshua is doing very well and is really growing up. Isabelle is such a little lady and is progressing very well. We continue to work to raise money to fight Cystic Fibrosis. Your family, friends and neighbors love you - words cannot fully express just how much. Knowing you are in Heaven to watch over us gives us peace.

**Greg Roderick**

**August 9, 2004**

Jen, there is not a day that goes by I haven't thought of your friendship. I remember the times Tom said what an annoyance I was cause we practically lived at each others houses, and went everywhere with each other. Tom always expressed "Isn't there a time when you aren't together? Why do you always have to be around her?" I am glad I always fought him on that. I always told him to shut up, or be quiet. I knew one day you would go to heaven. Thinking we were so young at that time and I did not know how much more time you would be with me, I wanted to spend all that time with you, and am very grateful for that. I miss you, and regret not keeping in touch. My husband Scot & the Hoffman Estates Fire Dept they are sorry they never got to know you. God bless your family.

**Karen Neil (Jurs)**

# *Jennifer's Memory Book*

**August 16, 2004**

Jennifer, Jack and I sincerely hope you received the bright yellow balloon that came your way a few days ago. Though Jack shed many tears at first, he quickly recovered when mommy assured him that his balloon went up to heaven, and that Jennifer will be so happy to have it. Now he tells everyone that Jennifer has his balloon. We still think of you and miss you, sweet girl. Lots of love and kisses...

**Lori and Jack Medlin**

**August 23, 2004**

My dear little friend, thank you for visiting me in my dream last night. Not a day goes by when I don't think about you. I even planted those "pink" flowers for you even though I don't like pink in the garden. You know me—I have been a bit of a recluse again this summer staying close to home. I owe Greg and the children a visit soon. I promise you "Tornado Teri" and Mark will be visiting them before the summer weather disappears. I love you dearly and miss you so much.

**Teri Sharman**

**October 8, 2004**

I became good friends with Jen's parents when Jen was only in grade school. I was first impressed by the smile that always graced her face. We made a connection right away, and I was honored when she asked me to be her godmother at her Baptism. She always seemed years ahead of herself - as if she knew that she had to squeeze a lot of living into a short life. Although, we all prayed that this was not true. She left her family and friends much sooner than anyone was prepared for. Jen, you'll be greatly missed by myself and many others.

Love from your godmother, Kim

**Kim Corrado**

**October 13, 2004**

Dear Jennifer,

We miss you so very much, even though we had been separated by the miles and years, just knowing that you were well- raising a beautiful family- and probably smiling or laughing at any given moment kept our friendship alive over the years. There are those people you meet in life that impact you and challenge you to be a better person- from our young years of sleepovers, playing at the racquet ball courts and cabbage patch doll birthday parties- I always remember knowing that you had CF but it was so hard to believe that you endured such an illness by your fearlessness and love of life. Your spirit will continue to bless our lives, because by knowing you and through sharing our memories of you our lives have been made better. Will, Anna and I send our love. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

**Love, Shannon, Will and Anna Kopecky**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## **November 4, 2004**

Dear Jennifer, I was listening to Nora Jones this evening and it brought back warm memories of you. Unfortunately, my words are unable to express how much everyone misses you... including me! A day does not go by without you touching my life. When I am feeling down, I find comfort and strength in thinking, "What would Jennifer do in this situation?" The answer is simple... seize the day by only promoting positive thoughts and never let excuses get in your way.

I must say that you have two of the most beautiful children. I am so excited to see pieces of you being carried inside Joshua and Isabelle. For example, Isabelle has your spark and spunk. Joshua, at age six, seems to already understand the importance of friendship and socialization. Plus, they both make their father proud every day.

Speaking of Greg, you also raised him well too... ha-ha. Greg is an amazing father, role model and friend. He carries your spirit with him everywhere, and his motivation and drive are fueled by your memories. He has actually taught Joshua and Isabelle to really "stop and smell the roses" when ever they walk by real roses. I must say, it is something all of us must never forget... enjoy life every day and never take it for granted.

Thank you for looking over Greg and giving him the strength to carry on your family's goals and passions. I will always be grateful for everything you have done for me and how you have forever touched my family, way of life and heart.

Your friend,  
**Matthew Dunham**

## **November 9, 2004**

Happy Birthday! I went trick-or-treating. I was a pink Care Bear. Love you Mommy! Happy Birthday. Daddy is funny.  
Isabelle, Your Daughter

## **November 9, 2004**

Mommy, I went trick-or-treating and I was a skeleton. I wish you a Happy Birthday. Last night (11/08/04) I did 2 scores in basketball practice. And, I love school. I have my first game on Saturday morning and we are going to the Toronto Raptors versus the Blazers that night. I got a trophy for playing soccer. And, I like Isabelle.

Love,  
**Joshua, Your Son**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## **November 9, 2004**

Jennifer, your birthday (11/10) was always such a special day that we would really celebrate. Today, you would be 31 years old and look 21. Your energy and drive would give you a glow that drew people closer to you.

Joshua, Isabelle and I have had many talks about your birthday and how we will visit you, take flowers and have a nice dinner (even with cake and candles). Your spirit continues to live on and everyone remembers your birthday.

I know that you hear the prayers every night, the continuous thoughts every day and the warm comments from friends and family.

Time is a healer - but those whom we have loved and lost are never forgotten. We love you and miss you dearly but we know you are in good hands and watching over us. We just wish we could wish you a Happy Birthday and celebrate your 31st like we had in the past.

**Greg Roderick**

## **November 10, 2004**

Happy Birthday, Jennifer! You are forever in our thoughts, prayers, hearts... We love you, sweet girl!

**Lori, Tim, Alex & Jack**

## **February 12, 2005**

Mommy, Happy Valentine's Day! I love my treats, lollipops and chocolate. Daddy and I love Joshua.

**Isabelle**

## **February 12, 2005**

Mommy, Happy Valentine's Day! I really like school, my friends and I have a lot of trophies for my sports! My fish Nemo is doing great! We have been going to lots of Trailblazer games and we are going to California for spring break.

**Joshua**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## **February 12, 2005**

Jennifer, the year of "firsts" continues with yet another holiday, St. Valentine's Day. I have so many wonderful memories of this day - we had great times!

The kids are really growing up - Isabelle, now 3, and Joshua just five months away from 7-years old. He learned to rock-climb over Christmas, he swims as good as ever and he is preparing for another year of baseball. He has a lot of friends, is doing well at school and is reading now - he is growing up fast. Isabelle is still in Gymnastics, loves her Montessori school and friends there. She is full of spirit, outgoing, energetic, loving, and determined. What a ball of fire she is.

The kids really miss you - but we are holding each other up well and we are realizing more and more how important we are to one another. We are going to Palm Springs for the Spring Break 2005 with many friends. Not a day goes by that someone does not mention you and how much they miss you.

Work is really going good - you would be very proud of what has been built there and with all of the other projects underway. That is a lot of fun.

I just wanted you to know that we are all thinking of you on this day and that you are missed.

**Greg**

## **March 8, 2005**

Wanted to let you know I am walking for great strides and am a team leader. My friends and family really have come together to help find a cure. It is great fun and you meet all kinds of people. We all love you, and many wish they could have known you. Wish me lots of luck, and the best to your family!

**Karen Neil**

## **March 17, 2005**

Jennifer - I'm sure you know just how much I miss your friendship. I wish Jillie and I could go shopping with you and Isabelle tomorrow. I miss those fun, bright times we use to have together. All of your friends are thinking of you, and hoping for the best for Joshua, Isabelle, and Greg.

**Melanie**

# Jennifer's Memory Book

## **April 4, 2005**

Jen, I've been thinking about you a lot lately, especially on sunny days like this one. I thought I saw you walk past the bakery last week - maybe it was you checking up on me. I got a new job working at New Seasons as a baker. I start next week; I think I will like it there very much. They make such beautiful bread and I am excited to be a part of that. Allison and I are getting along now, you would be so proud of us. :) I continue to try to live each day to its fullest just like you taught me. I hope you know what a difference you made in my life. I am so thankful you were and still are a part of it. I love you Jen.

**Libby Jane**

## **April 22, 2005**

Jennifer, I sat at your memorial service nearly a year ago and wrote down my thoughts about you. I am finally sitting down to type them in!

I loved anytime I was around you. One of my favorite times when I got to spend a lot of time with you was when we taught VBS together. Josh is the same age as my kids. Both of us were somewhat new at being teachers (and being Moms!) I think our kids were 3 that summer. We were in charge of 15-20 3 & 4 year olds. You were just such a joy to work with. You were always so willing to try something new, do something more, be silly.

In general, what I remember about you is your warm, genuine smile, your honesty, your optimism. The world is a little dimmer without your light. And heaven is a little brighter!

I thought of one more things. In January 2003, I had a small, outpatient surgery (pacemaker implant). I was in & out of the hospital; up & around in a few days. You, meanwhile, were just getting out of one of your bouts in the hospital... a much longer and more difficult stay. But, YOU called ME to see if there was anything YOU could do FOR ME!!!! You would hardly even let me inquire about your health; you acted like I was the one with a serious disease. This was just one small example of the many times you were unselfish, compassionate, and caring.

I feel very fortunate to have known you in this life, and look forward to meeting up with you again in heaven.

**Gretchen Dumestre**

## **April 29, 2005**

As I read through these entries I am once again struck by how many people's lives were touched by Jennifer. She left us all a legacy that will remain with us forever. It has been a privilege for me to be the caretaker of the "Jennifer's Page" web site, and I want to thank everyone who visited and shared their memories.

**Steve Carr**