

# JoAnne Gager

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JoAnne Gager

Charlotte, MI

JoAnne Gager, 81, of Charlotte, passed away after a second courageous battle with cancer on November 29, 2016. JoAnne led a great life full of humble service. She had a family she loved and who loved and adored her. She had a beautiful way of making others feel valued and important, always putting others before herself. She had a sincere interest in others and was a kind and generous soul that touched the lives of countless individuals.

JoAnne was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 16, 1935, to Joe and Inez Smith. She graduated from Resurrection High School in Lansing. She was a graduate of [Michigan State University](#) where she earned a bachelor in education and a master's degree in Special Education. Jo began her teaching career in Grand Rapids. She then taught for 3 years in Germany and 2 years in Minnesota before engaging in 29 year of service to the Eaton Intermediate School District. What sets her apart is her

compassion, dedication, and commitment to children and adults with disabilities.

JoAnne was a volunteer for the Parent Teacher Association, Mobile Meals, Girl Scouts, Charlotte Hospital Board, Peckham, Camp Sunshine, Friends of the Library, Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health, Women's Club, St. Mary's Church and Eaton Community Palliative Care. Her greatest passion was the House of Ruth - a home for individuals with disabilities including her son, Matthew. She found ways to make her community better. She did not boast about all she did; in fact, she never spoke about her constant service to others: she just did it, and lived her truth. She was a humble servant.

JoAnne loved to shop, read, play bridge, and cribbage. She played 2 games of cribbage with her husband, Raymond, every day for over the last thirty years. She loved wine and chocolate. She loved a sunset at the family cottage on Lake Michigan and watching her grandchildren sailing on the lake. She was a gourmet cook and loved family dinners. JoAnne had a wonderful sense of humor. She was an excellent storyteller and would keep us in stitches with her antics. JoAnne was a consummate host. She loved to entertain and attend a good party - especially if wine and tasty food was involved. Her family was her greatest source of pride. She celebrated 52 years of marriage with her love and best friend, Ray. After retirement, JoAnne and Ray would spend their winters in Orange Beach, Alabama. They spent their summers at the family cottage. They loved to travel including several family trips with their children and grandchildren.

JoAnne is survived by her husband, Raymond; son, Matthew Raymond Gager; daughters, Mary Gager (Jack) Drew, Megan Elizabeth (Joe) McCall; grandchildren, Madison, Ray, Maggie, and Katie; Sisters-in-law, Joan Rademacker, Janet Morgan; nieces and nephews, Karen, Carol, Nancy, Fred, and Mike; and many very special friends.

Visitation will be held at Pray Funeral Home on Thursday, December 1 from 5-8 p.m. Celebration of Life Mass will be held at St Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte on Friday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to The House of Ruth, in care of Ray Gager, 716 Pleasant St. Charlotte, MI 48813 and encourages JoAnne's friends to keep the House of Ruth in their charitable plans in the years to come. Friends and family are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in JoAnne's Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com).

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