



Michelle Place

October 10, 1975 - January 22, 2012

Slay Memorial Funeral Center

Aubrey, Texas

Michelle D. Place of Krugerville passed away Sunday, January 22, 2012 in Denton. Michelle lost a courageous battle with breast cancer. She was born to Michael C. Downing, Sr. and Rita Urrutia Downing October 10, 1975 in McAllen, Texas. She married Gary Place in Fort Worth, Texas on February 14, 2004.

Michelle had the most giving, kind and gentle soul. Her family does not have the words to describe the nobility of her character. She always put other people first. She was honest and very hardworking. She owned and operated a small private preschool where she had the opportunity to do something she loved. Even the most timid of children would open up to her. She loved the idea of giving young children a head start on their education and life skills. She had a love of live music, travel and fashion. Her love of fashion was not shallow in nature, but she saw a noble art that had the ability to make people feel good. She had an unbelievably sweet, caring and sincere personality. She was beautiful inside and out. She was her husband's wife, best friend, and the

mother of their two daughters. She was loved and will be missed terribly.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Gary, two daughters Morgan and Sophia all of Krugerville; her parents, Michael and Rita Downing of College Station ; one brother, Michael Downing, Jr. of College Station; one sister, Melissa Novosad of College Station; grandmother, Eileen Stone of Aubrey; In laws, Dan and Dianne Whitfield of Aubrey, Gary and Darla Place of Fort Worth. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 26, 2012 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Slay Memorial Funeral Center Chapel in Aubrey. Services will be held Friday, January 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. with Father Tim Thompson officiating. Burial will follow the services at Belew Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Terri Slay and staff at Slay Memorial Funeral Center in Aubrey, Texas.

Tribute Wall

ME

“ I did not get a chance to know Michelle on a personal level. But I had the pleasure of meeting her, when I enrolled my son into her preschool. I called her frantic late one evening, after some troubles at our former daycare. She was so kind and so calming. Immediately I knew it was no mistake that crossroads montessori was the first place I found on my search for a new daycare. It was definately the best place for my son. It was evident that Michelle cared a great deal about the quality of care provided, and had poured her heart into this school. My heart aches for her family and her girls. I am so sorry that her time was cut short with them. I pray for comfort and peace for her family. And I pray that her girls are always surrounded by love and support of their family and community.

Misty Evans - January 26, 2012 at 09:43 PM

TM

“ Michelle,
You will truly be missed and are so loved by many. What you and Gary have done for our small community with the school is beyond amazing. The compassion, strength, and love you showed to my twins will never be forgotten. God took an amazing woman, wife, mom and teacher for his army in heaven. For those of us left behind I can see her now sitting on the floor with all Gods children surrounding her. God bless you Gary, Morgan and Sophia...

Tory, Courtney, Leland and Lily Morgan - January 26, 2012 at 09:33 PM

AB

“Michelle will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our daughter Addie Bell attended her preschool. It was always comforting to know that my little one was being cared for by Michelle. She was such an amazing woman who spoke with such a calm tone. She will be greatly missed. We will pray for comfort and strength for your family during this difficult time.

Andrea Bell - January 26, 2012 at 07:33 PM

JC

“I am dearly saddened by your loss and will be praying for you all. Michelle was an incredible, unique blessing to many lives around her, including mine. I was fortunate enough to know her during her first half of life, and I am amazed to see how she ran with her dreams. She will truly be missed!

Jon Chancellor - January 26, 2012 at 06:11 PM

DP

“Michelle, you were my daughter in law and friend. We always had fun at our annual wine trail in April. We both loved our musicals at Bass Hall and loved to go together. I am glad the Morgan is hooked too so I will still have someone to go with me. You are greatly loved and missed.

Darla Place - January 26, 2012 at 05:35 PM

KF

“Michelle was my sorority sister, she was my college roommate, and she was my friend. We shared so many great memories through college and after. My heart goes out to Gary, Morgan, Sophia and the rest of Michelle's family. She was loved by so many and will be missed terribly. Michelle, you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Kimberly Hatcher-Stumpf and Family - January 26, 2012 at 11:53 AM

TS

“ I Walked into Crossroads with hopes of finding the perfect prechool for my soon to be 2 year old. My heart was racing. I saw Michelle. She smiled sweetly, spoke calmly and my heart slowed. Everytime I was around Michelle I found the peaceful loving spirit very comforting. What an amazing woman. May God blanket the family with the same peace and love I found in her. God Bless.

Teddi, Gunner and Jay Simon - January 26, 2012 at 11:21 AM

TB

“ Our family loved Michelle so much. She was teacher to Anthony and Joe, boss (for a while) to Amanda, and friend to Lisa and me. We credit her and Crossroads Montessori every time Anthony comes home with good grades or an award. Gary, we are praying for you and your family.

Todd Brooks - January 25, 2012 at 05:42 PM

TT

“ Our hearts and prayers are with your family.

Tommie & Dian Turner - January 25, 2012 at 02:44 PM

BB

“ I would like to extend my most sincere condolences to Michelle's family. I hope solace can be found as you mourn the loss. I met Michelle about 2 1/2 years ago, shortly after she and Gary opened the Montessori Academy. My daughter, Elianna Burns, started going to the school shortly after it opened at the age of 3. In advance, Michelle and I met and discussed the extra work involved in caring for Elianna, who has Cystic Fibrosis. Michelle's willingness to be a part of Elianna's development, while at the same time support her medical needs, defined my lasting perception of Michelle. Even in the early stages of her cancer battle, Michelle would call and express concern for Elianna's condition, and thereafter would help take the extra steps needed to help her overcome a CF flare-up. Michelle was a beautiful, caring woman. While my heart is heavy, I am glad to have known Michelle and will be forever thankful for the year and-a-half she spent supporting the development and care Elianna required.

BRUCE BURNS - January 25, 2012 at 01:24 PM

GM

“ Gary and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Michelle's beautiful spirit will live on in all of those that she touched.

Gayla Mitchell - January 25, 2012 at 11:57 AM

SR

“ Gary and family my prayers go out to you and your family and I pray that the lord carries you all through this difficult time. I had the pleasure of knowing Michelle as my son Branson attends Crossroads Montessori. She was a beautiful caring person that put such pride into her school. She will truly be missed. May God Bless you all!

Stephanie Rummans - January 25, 2012 at 11:15 AM

JJ

“ I'm so glad that i had the pleasure of being apart of Michelle's life. She was such a wonderful person that brought light to so many people. Anytime that i was around her she made me feel so calm and relaxed because that was part of her demeanor. She will be missed dearly and her spirit will remain in all of us especially Gary, Morgan and Sophia. We love you.
"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Thessalonians 1:3

Jennifer Jones - January 24, 2012 at 11:42 PM

CM

“ My family was honored to meet Michelle 3 years ago when she opened Crossroads Montessori. She taught both my boys with love and a passion for learning. I know that not only the academic, but life lessons of patience, kindness and an eagerness to discover will forever be an imprint left by Michelle on my children. She was truly a beautiful person inside and out. I know that her beauty, strength and love will forever shine through both her daughters.
Our love and prayers are with you Gary, Morgan and Sophia. May God comfort and bless you.

Carolyn, Jay, Blake and Cole Moore - January 24, 2012 at 10:54 PM

JA

“ Knowing Michelle first as my childrens teacher & later as a boss & friend has truly been a blessing in my life. She was a beautiful person inside & out. My kids were so lucky to have had her as a teacher & she will be missed so very much. Our thoughts & prayers are with Gary, Morgan, Sophia & the rest of her family. May the Lord cary you all thru this difficult time.

Jamie, Carter, & Abbey Acton - January 24, 2012 at 10:05 PM

RR

“ Gary and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Michelle was always so sweet to me and she had such a gentle demeanor.

If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate.

Know that you, Morgan and Sophia and Michelle's family are in my prayers.

Rebecca (Megan's Mom)

Rebecca Richter - January 24, 2012 at 07:56 PM

SO

“ I remember spending the night out at your house in 8th grade and making silly movies with the video camera. You were funny and sweet and a great person to know!

Sarah Olona - January 24, 2012 at 04:51 PM