



Tara A. Franey

July 10, 1973 - October 27, 2023

Tara Altemus Franey of Dearborn, Michigan passed unexpectedly on October 27, 2023 at the age of 50. She was the loving daughter of James and Diana Altemus, cherished mother of Benen Franey, adored partner of Scott Bettinger, and dear sister of Krista (Todd) Peterson and the late Francesca Altemus. Tara is also survived by her former husband and best friend Brian Franey, her loving nephew Caleb Peterson, dear nieces Samantha and Meredith Peterson, and the Michigan community at large – through which she changed and inspired the lives of many.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in History from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tara's unwavering passion continued to carve out her path of higher education, earning her a post-graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from Wayne State University, and a Masters degree in Urban Studies from Northeastern Illinois University. Through this journey, her vast knowledge on the power of positive change began to align with her fierce devotion to public service. She dedicated her life to bettering the lives of others, and exhibited this selflessness with grace all throughout her admirable career.

The impact of her nonprofit work is immeasurable: Most recently, she held the titles of President and CEO of the newly formed Mina and Richard Sidlo Family Foundation, but she has also served the widespread communities of

Hannan Center, Habitat for Humanity Detroit, the Women's Business Development Center of Chicago, the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, and beyond. In every space she occupied, Tara was recognized for her commitment, compassion, and infectious spirit, and her work was always a reflection of her outstanding character.

Outside of her career, Tara volunteered at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Detroit to support the mission, visitors and advocates of this organization. She was also a proud member of Shamrock Nation at Sacred Heart (Dearborn), where her love and kindness transformed the community at large.

To know Tara is to know love in its purest form. Her inclusivity of all people – no matter their race, age, sexual orientation, or religious creed – defined her expansive world view, and she effortlessly wrapped every friend, family member, and stranger in the warmest and sweetest light. Her life was an incredible gift, and her transformative legacy will live on forever through the thousands of lives she changed along the way.

Tara's friends and family will gather together for a funeral service on Saturday, November 4th at 11 AM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home: 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, (between Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Visitation hours will take place at the funeral home on Friday, November 3rd from 2-9 PM. Interment will follow the funeral service at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton. Memorials in her honor may be made to the Zekelman Holocaust Center, Habitat for Humanity Detroit, or Hannan Center.

To share a memory of Tara, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Knollwood Memorial Park

1299 North Ridge Road
Canton, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

NOV 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Tribute Wall

SV

“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service Livestream*



Staff Vermeulen-Sajewski - November 16, 2023 at 09:43 AM



“ *Tara A. Franey*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

B(

“ *I will always remember walking to your house for lunch from elementary school and watching Grease ❤️.*

Brandy May (Taig) - November 04, 2023 at 10:49 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 03, 2023 at 06:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 03, 2023 at 03:14 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 03, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *Kristy and Aguirre Riley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.*

Kristy and Aguirre Riley - November 03, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *Tara recently became a neighbor of ours in Montana. In the brief time we knew her, we were struck by her kindness and enthusiasm. We were so saddened to hear of her far too early passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her son Benin who we also liked very much.*

Gary and Cyd Kellman

Gary Kellman - November 03, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 03, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 03, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ *Tara A Franey leaves behind cherished memories and a legacy of warmth and kindness that touched the lives of all who knew her. Tara was a beacon of light, bringing joy and comfort to every gathering she graced with her presence. Her innate ability to make everyone feel at home and welcomed was a testament to her genuine and caring nature.*

Tara will be deeply missed by all who were all fortunate to have experienced her radiant spirit. Her legacy of compassion and inclusivity will continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Benen and Tara's entire family during this difficult time.

Terry Gorski and Michael Samojuden

Theresa Gorski-Samojuden - November 03, 2023 at 10:49 AM

YF

“ Your Hannan Family planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.

Your Hannan Family - November 03, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 02, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

November 02, 2023 at 05:19 PM

EM

“ Eve M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.

Eve M. - November 02, 2023 at 04:58 PM

YE

“ Your Friends and Colleagues at ECN purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Tara A. Franey.



Your Friends and Colleagues at ECN - November 02, 2023 at 04:44 PM

YE

“ Your Friends and Colleagues at ECN planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.

Your Friends and Colleagues at ECN - November 02, 2023 at 04:44 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 02, 2023 at 03:07 PM

JP

“ I first met Tara when she was working at Habitat Detroit. Her warmth and smile were immediately captivating! She was such a pleasure to work with and cared so deeply about the families that she was touching with her work that you could not help but adore her! She left a lasting impression of a person who's heart was as big if not bigger than her smile! Although our paths did not cross often, when they did it was as if we hadn't skipped a beat! She will be sorely missed! Major condolences, hugs and prayers to Tara's family and friends. It has been said that all who knew her loved her. No truer words have been spoken! I continue to sit in shock over the news.

Jason Paulateer - November 02, 2023 at 02:51 PM

MW

“ We were all so happy that Tara joined our Montana neighborhood. We will greatly miss her warmth and kindness.

Molly Webb - November 02, 2023 at 11:49 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 02, 2023 at 10:01 AM

KM

“ One of the sweetest angels to walk this earth, I cherish my fortune knowing her. She brought life to everyone she touched. This world will sadly miss her....

Kyle Marshall - November 02, 2023 at 08:47 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 02, 2023 at 08:43 AM



“ *Richard S. purchased the Lavender Reflections S pray for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



Richard S. - November 01, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ *Richard S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.*

Richard S. - November 01, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 01, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 01, 2023 at 10:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

November 01, 2023 at 10:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

November 01, 2023 at 09:43 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 01, 2023 at 09:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



November 01, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



November 01, 2023 at 03:27 AM



“ A co-worker at Habitat for Humanity I have never forgotten; she filled a room with joy like no other and always made you feel a part of something special; her smile and laughter was contagious and I wish I could have bottled some of it for when days were rough. My deepest condolences to her family but I know she is smiling down upon us, gone but never forgotten....Barbara David

Barbara David - October 31, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ I thought I was done making friends at work and then I met Tara. Almost immediately I had this cool fashionable friend who was also warm and had the ability to calm storms. I will always love her and be saddened by her passing. We bonded over being cool aunties, celebrity gossip and a shared sense of humor. The world was less scary when I knew I could text her. To know her was also to know her son. She was so proud of Benen and for good reason. I am grateful that she was so willing to share him with us. She gave a lot to a lot of people and I am just blessed to be one of them.
Love you forever,
Draughnie

Melissa Draughn - October 31, 2023 at 04:47 PM

VG

“ My deepest condolences to Benen and the family on this terrible loss.

To my Madam President and friend,

I was in shock when I heard the news that you had a heart attack over that weekend, and I texted you because I knew you would be freaking out about it! Tragically, we were never able to have that conversation and my heart was completely shattered when I received the news that you went to be with God's Angels.

So many thoughts and conversations run through my memories of you. From the time we first met at Habitat for Humanity Detroit and your office in the “Lower Level Suites” i.e. “the basement”, to the Hannan Center, and all the way through to loving your dream job of running a new foundation! Filled in with your trips to Cancun, tapping, boiling, and brewing maple sap to make maple syrup, your book reading and chilling, the Celtics, your love and concern for Benen and your parents, my family, children and grandchildren, our afterhours discussions, your laughter, and your smile.

You were beautiful both inside and out, welcoming, energetic and dynamic. I was already missing you at the Hannan Center and looked forward to having those intermittent conversations when time allowed, and now I will miss you forever.

Vaya con Dios mi amiga,

Grzy

Vince G - October 31, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



October 31, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



October 31, 2023 at 09:27 AM

SO

“ Tara was a beacon of light within the Habitat for Humanity Detroit community. She served the mission for many years and was integral in transforming hundreds of lives. She is remembered by so many Habitat families as a kind and compassionate woman. She is remembered by countless volunteers who she worked alongside, especially during the blitz builds. She left a lasting impact on every person she touched. I only met Tara a few times. She was one of the very first people I met with when I first started at Habitat for Humanity Detroit and she was supportive, encouraging and genuinely cared about rebuilding the organization. She has a lasting legacy with Habitat and we are so honored that she chose to shine her light through our mission. She was a beautiful person, inside and out.

All of us at Habitat for Humanity Detroit are sending love and support to the Franey family and to everyone who is mourning this devastating loss.

Stephanie Osterland - October 31, 2023 at 09:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

October 31, 2023 at 07:29 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 31, 2023 at 07:29 AM

SH

“ *Florida February 2023.* ❤️



stella husch - October 31, 2023 at 07:22 AM

AC

“ *Aimee C lit a candle in memory of Tara A. Franey*



Aimee C - October 31, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.*



October 30, 2023 at 11:44 PM

MS

“ Tara was one of the most incredible people I've ever gotten to know.

What started off as a professional relationship quickly turned into a friendship that was founded on fashion sense and nail polish colors. She had a heart of gold and made everyone she met feel like family.

One instance I will always remember was one day that she caught wind of me having a terrible day of work (a little birdie named scott leaked it to her and I couldn't be happier that he did). She called me and gave me a 30 minute long pep talk ensuring me that I was stronger than anything else. We obviously started chatting about who knows what after but I will never forget that day and how close I felt to her. She was not just a client, but a friend, the type of friend you always want in your corner who is your biggest cheerleader.

Her memory lives on through so many that loved her and I am so lucky I am included in that.

Sending love to the entire Franey family. I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts. ❤️

Meghan S - October 30, 2023 at 09:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 30, 2023 at 08:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

October 30, 2023 at 08:58 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 30, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 30, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Tara's loving community of family and friends. My thoughts and love is with you at this impossibly difficult time.

Olivia Y - October 30, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ Olivia Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.

Olivia Y. - October 30, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

October 30, 2023 at 07:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 30, 2023 at 07:08 PM



“ *There are some people that walk this earth as both human and Angel. Tara, was definitely an Angel of light. I am thankful to have met her and be impacted by her generosity of love & support. I had the great responsibility to fulfill huge shoes when she left Hannan, but Tara was always a phone call if I needed anything (even if I called early in the morning forgetting a time difference in Montana). The same grace that Tara has is shared with Benen. My continued prayers to this family. May God continue to strengthen and give you comfort and peace. - Pastor LaTrell Bell*

Pastor LaTrell Bell - October 30, 2023 at 06:54 PM



“ *I've never met her but I've heard a lot of wonderful things about her .. Benen you're a treasure to everyone . I'm very sorry for your loss , I pray God gives you the patience and comfort during this time of sadness.. love Khalto Sue*

suzanne Berry - October 30, 2023 at 06:23 PM

CK

“ Carrissa K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tara A. Franey.

Carrissa K. - October 30, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

October 30, 2023 at 06:20 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tara A. Franey.



October 30, 2023 at 06:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tara A. Franey.

October 30, 2023 at 06:16 PM