

Shirley Dudek Demmer was a loving wife and the proud mother of two sons and a daughter. Just 54 years old, she was focused on planning for the future with her husband and children. She tirelessly dedicated her life to the family she cherished, the home that she treasured, and the community that she loved. This all changed on November 12, 2007.

In the midst of preparing dinner one night, Shirley collapsed suddenly. Her husband called an ambulance and she was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors broke the news to her stunned family that a brain aneurysm rupture had caused catastrophic damage. Surgeons tried to repair the damage, but were unable to save her.

Shirley's family was shocked by her sudden death that came without warning. Shirley exercised regularly and was in seemingly perfect health. Her husband said she had had every medical test that was recommended and kept meticulous notes of the results.

Shirley was a person of extreme warmth and caring. Throughout her life, she was dedicated to family, faith and community. Her philanthropic efforts, particularly in the area of women's rights and violence against women, had a remarkable effect on everyone whose lives she touched. Her three children were never able to say goodbye. Her husband, her family and her friends were left trying to make sense of their loss. They lost a mother, a wife, a good friend, and an important member of her town's community.