



## Denise Kay Whiteford

August 17, 1958 - January 5, 2024

Denise Kay Whiteford, 65, a Traverse City native, passed away on Friday, January 5, 2024. She was born on August 17, 1958, the 5th of 6 children born to Charles and Johanna (Perry) Whiteford in Traverse City, Michigan. She found joy in preparing delicious meals for her family and friends, extending her culinary talents to cater various weddings and parties. She was known for her extraordinary birthday cakes that brought smiles to both young and old faces. Among her culinary creations, Denise's world-famous salsa and delicious taco Chex mix were treasures, eagerly anticipated by friends and coworkers. Her generosity in sharing these treats reflected her warm and giving spirit. Beyond the kitchen, Denise found happiness in the company of loved ones, especially during holiday celebrations and around a campfire. To relax, she loved to read and go to the beach. Throughout her life, Denise dedicated herself to her work. Early in her career, she contributed her skills to Bayview Inn and then at various doctors' offices. Most recently Denise had been working at Munson Medical Center on the D4 Unit. Denise faced numerous health challenges, including a kidney transplant, yet her resilience and determination were unwavering. Despite the hurdles, she always bounced back, displaying remarkable strength. Denise will be lovingly remembered by her siblings; Chuck Whiteford Jr., Sharon Whiteford, Carol Whiteford, Pat Schwind, Lisa (Tim) Sadler; nieces Sheila (Jeff) Zenner, Jenny (John) Besko, Becky Whiteford and Melissa (Dave) Wittbecker; many grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother-in-law Bill

Schwind; and nephew Adam Whiteford. A memorial service will take place at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM. The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to her family, c/o Carol Whiteford, PO Box 1457, Kalkaska, MI 49646. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Cemetery Details

## Acme Township Cemetery

Acme Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home  
152 S. Cedar  
Kalkaska, MI 49646  
(231) 258-3346

# Tribute Wall

RT

“ Richard T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise Kay Whiteford.

Richard T. - January 12, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Denise Kay Whiteford.



January 12, 2024 at 03:09 AM



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

January 10, 2024 at 02:42 PM

GP

“ Gale and Tammy Perry purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Denise Kay Whiteford.



Gale and Tammy Perry - January 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM

GP

“ Gale and Tammy Perry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise Kay Whiteford.

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Gale and Tammy Perry - January 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Denise Kay Whiteford.



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January 09, 2024 at 04:03 PM