



Jennifer Bowman

September 26, 1975 - March 12, 2026

Jennifer Kate Bowman, 50, of Mishawaka, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2026. She was born on September 26, 1975, to Douglas and Barbara Bowman in Bluffton, Indiana.

Jennifer found her truest peace in nature. An avid birder, she inspired a love of birds and the outdoors in many. She explored nature preserves, sought out natural springs, followed winding riverways, and was always ready for her next adventure. She cherished spending many joyful hours with her beloved dog, Milo, in local parks.

Jennifer never knew a stranger. She loved meeting new people, and those people quickly became friends. Her spirit was rare and beautiful.

She embraced a simple, intentional life: choosing to eat locally, visiting farmers markets often, and supporting the bounty of nearby farms. Jennifer approached life with energy, discipline, and curiosity, always seeking to grow and learn.

She valued her time and friendships at the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation Transportation Department. Most recently, she served as Maintenance Manager of the Mishawaka Penn-Harris-Madison Public Library, where she was known as capable, thoughtful, and endlessly hardworking. She

loved her coworkers and took pride in creating a space that felt warm and welcoming to all.

Jen will be remembered for her sensitivity, infectious personality, keen awareness of the world, love of family and friends, and her endless desire to learn and grow.

Jennifer was preceded in death by her parents, Douglas and Barbara Bowman; her grandparents, Thomas and Jean Bowman, Dale and Isabelle Thomson; uncle, Jim Stokesberry; great-niece, Emma J. Liddy; and her beloved dog, Milo.

She is survived by her sisters, Dana (Tony) Holmes, Laurie (Kenny) White, Angie (Jack) Welter, and Megan (Chris) Alberding; her brother, Sam (Luanne) George; 18 nieces and nephews; 25 great-nieces and great-nephews; her uncle, Bryan Bowman; her aunt, Marilyn Stokesberry; her aunt and uncle, Arg and David Thomson; her former spouse, Twyla Kendrick; and many cherished friends, including Patrick Foster and Glen Lothery.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 16th, at 4:00 pm at Shiojiri Niwa Garden in Mishawaka. Following the celebration, there will be a time for food and fellowship at Sun King Brewery. Casual attire, and even bare feet, are welcome in celebration of Jennifer's love of being "one with nature" and "grounding."

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 16. 4:00 PM (ET)

Shiojiri Niwa Garden
450 N Niles Ave
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Fellowship

MAY 16. 5:00 PM (ET)

Sun King Brewery
235 Ironworks Ave
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Tribute Wall

JE

“ I've been trying to think of the right words to describe just how wonderful Jen was, and how much sorrow her loss brought when I learned of her passing. When I first met her, I thought, "she's way too cool, there's no way I could approach her!". She was indeed super cool, but she was also a very approachable, down-to-earth, and genuine person. I always appreciated our chats when we crossed paths; she often offered a unique perspective on things. Once, I was lamenting how long this past winter was lasting and she reminded me to appreciate the seasons while they last, using how beautiful the moon looks against a snow-covered field as an example. Now, just a few months after that conversation, I lament missing the opportunity to get to know you better. I wish you could have seen how beautiful this spring was. The flowers bloomed early this year, and most of the foliage has returned by now. I know you would've loved it. You are loved by so many, and will be so greatly missed. Rest easy and fly high, Bowman.



Jessie - May 18 at 11:52 AM

JJ

“ It's hard to put into words how lucky I feel having had the chance to cross paths with you and get to experience the wonderful person you were. There wasn't a day we worked together that we didn't cry laughing. The memories of you becoming Phyllis since having 2 Jenns at work was confusing to buying you a plush colon to replace your broken one will forever be something I cherish. You are so greatly missed.

Jenn J - May 17 at 09:41 PM

JR

“ *Jamie R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jennifer Bowman.*

Jamie R. - May 14 at 10:33 AM

DW

“ *Jennifer, although your time with us has ended, your influence remains! You'd be so incredibly proud of your amazing Maintenance Team-they're still cleaning "Bowman-style", and our buildings continue to shine! I pray you're enjoying your heavenly life and being reunited with loved ones that passed on before you! Until we meet again...*



Dena W - May 01 at 10:20 AM

BH

“ *My dear friend JB, I will miss you greatly. I have cherished our friendship since the day I met you. It was impossible to not love Jen. Her smile and humor made any dark day a bit brighter. Your light will shine bright with each day. Love you my friend.*

Brittany H - April 30 at 05:06 PM

DC

“ *I am so sad to hear this. She was such a beautiful soul. I always enjoyed the opportunity to hear her share. The world will definitely be a little less bright without her.*



Dana Cole - April 14 at 09:33 PM

MM

“ *Very sad to hear this. My love goes out to her family.* ”



Mindy Monticue - April 13 at 07:26 PM

KT

“ *We will never know what others are caring. Jen was a light and a smile. Always loved to see her walking through my neighborhood with Milo, her shadow. We shared time together last Independence Day with Conversation and food, but Jen had to leave a little early because she was concerned about the fireworks and their noise for Milo's anxiety. The thought of not seeing Jen ever again breaks my heart. I've got beautiful memories in my heart.* ”

Kyla Townsend - March 31 at 11:48 AM

KH

“ *I had the pleasure of being Jen's barber the past few years. She was an amazing, beautiful soul. I will miss all of our talks about weekly adventures, nature, and our pups every 2 weeks. In Jen's words to me at the end of our appointments "See you next time."* 💙 ”

Kayla Haughee - March 30 at 09:50 PM

PM

“ I am incredibly sad to hear this news. I met Jen when she was as a bus driver at PHM school corporation where she, not only was a great driver, but had an infectious laugh and great wit about her. It was hard to be in a bad mood with her around. I remember her compassion as well and how she was always there to lend an ear if needed. We may have lost touch over the years but she is someone I will not forget and I am so very sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.

Patty M. - March 25 at 08:48 AM

MV

“ So sorry to hear of Jenn's passing. I am sure she is in the company of her higher power

Mable Vanett - March 21 at 05:08 PM

SH

“ I will miss our early morning chats before the library was prepared for the arrival of the day's company. No matter their situation, Jen believed every single person deserved a clean, warm, and welcoming building to come in to, a place where they could seek shelter if needed. Bowman was appreciated more than words can ever convey, and I will miss her greatly.

Shondra - March 18 at 10:17 PM

MG

“ Jen was a good friend who lived with a beautiful heart and a mission to help others. We spent many Sunday nights together, often bursting into merriment and fits of laughter over chaotic events in life. She truly believed that good cheer was a gift to be shared, and her laughter will stay with me forever.

Mike G - March 18 at 07:32 PM

DM

“ Jen was one of the kindest people I've ever met. She wanted to leave you feeling uplifted. And if she could help, she was going to all the way ... It wasn't enough to humanely catch the mice sneaking into the library -- she had to find them a home at a nearby park and build a warm space for them to survive through the winter.

Donna M - March 16 at 04:41 PM

EM

“ Jennifer was a light. She has made such an impact at the library that it will not be the same without her. She cared for any living being, she saved many spiders and mice that found their way inside. And she made everyone feel like her friend. I will always remember her as a hard worker who was a kind spirit and loved being out in nature. We miss you Bowman

Emily - March 15 at 09:13 PM

RE

I am deeply saddened by Jen's passing. I meet Jen when she came to Penn to drive a school bus. She was the most energetic person I have ever met. She was always busy doing something. Idle time was never in her vocabulary. She and Milo were always welcomed in our home because she was part of our family. We will miss her so very much. I pray Jens family finds comfort in knowing how much we all loved her. R.I.P. Bowman!!

Regina - March 16 at 10:05 AM

JE

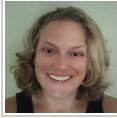
"We have to get the house ready. Company is coming" Jen said this regularly about the library. She encouraged me in ways I'll never forget. She was in tears reading a teen patrons poem feeling a sense of purpose in what she did. "Libraries save lives. " yes, indeed Jen. Thank you for this. We'll miss you daily. I hope you know how much we all love you so much. You changed everything for the better. You made everything brighter.

Jenni - March 16 at 09:47 PM

DC

Jennifer will be missed at River Isle. She was so friendly. She made us feeling welcome when we moved in just a little over a year ago. Her and Milo welcome us.

Doug and Char - March 17 at 08:22 PM



I met Jen while she was going through her training when she first came to Penn. She became my aide until she got her license. Jen was so energetic, funny, compassionate, and such a hard worker. Always getting her steps in even if it meant pacing the aisle on the bus. She was so health conscious, doing push ups at the desk, whatever it took. We talked nutrition and she encouraged me on my weight loss. She was willing to help anyone. She is a spirit and a smile with a wonderful laugh that will be missed in this world. Prayers and condolences to all of her family. Rest in peace my friend.

Kimberly Ross - March 17 at 10:28 PM

JS

I valued Jenn so much as a colleague and a friend that it's difficult to know what to write here that would adequately pay tribute to her. I didn't have the privilege of knowing her for a very long time, but I so enjoyed the brief time I knew her and the time spent working with her at the library. She took to that job so well, and I could tell that she was so loved and appreciated by the library staff. She was so friendly and outgoing that the "getting to know you" stage of our friendship was incredibly short. She made me feel like a lifelong friend in no time at all. We love you and miss you very much, Jenn. May you rest in peace.

JS - March 18 at 06:09 AM

TS

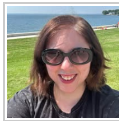
Jen was a very open and sharing person. We used to talk about her best friend, Milo and my best friend, Kody. She was upset once because she either lost her watch or it stopped working. I told her to follow me to my house because I have watches I don't wear and I have a perfect one for her. When we got here my German Shepard was looking out the window going crazy. Very intimidating! I asked her if she wanted to meet him. She agreed. So I gave her some tips concerning the introduction. Jen stood very still and allowed Kody his moments of familiarization (Kody very intimidating-even scary). Within about 1 minute they became friends. I gave Jen the watch, we hugged and that was the last time I saw her. I liked her because she saw-and, was comfortable with me in ways not many were/are. I will miss her!

Tim Somers - March 18 at 12:33 PM

SA

I had the gift of sharing many meetings and shares with Jen. We floated together on the float trip and had hours of conversation. I included her on my gratitude group chats after my son Ross passed 7-8-22 she called me to offer her words and condolences. I will miss her dearly this disease has taken too many beautiful lives 🙏🙏

Steven A - March 20 at 06:45 AM



Oh, Bowman ... Jen was so truly loved by her library family. The pride that she took in her work and the kindness that she showed to staff and patrons alike made her truly one of a kind. I will miss getting to work and swapping good mornings and hearing tales of her past, sometimes wacky, travels. Rest well, JB. <3

Jen Ludwig - March 20 at 11:54 AM