

**“What you are is God's gift to you,
What you do with yourself is your gift to God.”**

Danish proverb



Michele Karen Chung **September 18th 1973 - August 28th 2002**

From a young age, Michele Karen Chung was a poetic writer. She wrote from deep down in her soul, digging for the true meaning of friendship, love and passion; Her heart and her hands pouring out life's meaning.

In some ways, Michele may have been trying to leave her mark on this world - a legacy that would live long after she was gone. But Michele's mark was not a tangible one; instead it was one that was embedded in the hearts of everyone she met.

Michele was many things to many people. And each person was thankful for the gift of Michele, Mich, Michi, Michie-mokes, Michu-bichi, Chung-alung-ading-dong – sister, daughter, wife, cousin and friend.

When Michele first got breast cancer it was she who counseled everyone. As the newspaper article on her said, she wasn't afraid to talk about "it". And at the tender age of 24, she wasn't.

In fact, she wasn't afraid to talk about anything. For five years she took it upon herself to spread the word about breast cancer by speaking to high school students about the dangers of smoking and sharing her personal stories with them. She also counseled other women going through similar struggles by giving them her love and support.

Through her loving and caring way, Michele taught us all many lessons. We hope that you can carry some of these lessons with you in your life, knowing that a girl with a heart of gold would have wanted you to be happy, to fight with all your might and to live life with an open and caring heart; Just as she did.

By following the example that Michele left for us, you will be helping to ensure that the legacy Michele most wanted to leave will be accomplished.



Michele's Life Lessons

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY: More than anyone else, Michele was dedicated to her family. Her family meant the world to her and she to them. They proved this time and again with their numerous gatherings, the way they always stuck together through good times and bad and how they all banded together to help Michele when she needed it most.

LOVE LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HURT, DANCE LIKE NOBODY'S WATCHING AND WORK LIKE YOU DON'T NEED THE MONEY: Those who knew Michele will never forget her. She stunned the world with her beauty, her kindness and a genuine innocence that made people, especially those close to her, want to help her, hold her, love her and enjoy life with her.

A LIFE WITHOUT PASSION AND COMPASSION IS NOT A LIFE TO LIVE: This lesson was one that Michele lived by every single day of her life. She showed tremendous compassion towards people. She would take you in when you needed it, take you out when you needed it and bend over backwards to get you whatever you needed to make you smile again.

Michele didn't hold back her feelings. She was always the first one to say I love you, to throw her arms around you and to tell you what you meant to her. You always knew where you stood with Michele and were always thankful for having a spot close to her heart.

CAESARS SHOULD ALWAYS BE SPICY: This one speaks for itself.

FORGIVE AND FORGET – FOR EVERYONE ON THIS EARTH IS HUMAN: I don't know anyone else who could make people feel as important as Michele did. It is one of the many lessons that she taught us. Michele placed value in people; all her relationships were important. She invested her time in all of them, giving them the respect they deserved.

NOTHING was to be wasted. NOTHING was to be lost.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE: Michele was always the person to keep people together, in touch, informed and up close and personal. She seemed to have a knack for being able to remind people of what was truly important in their lives – friendships and love.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING EACH DAY – AND EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY: Michele always remembered everyone's birthday. She was the only one who would call and send a card to let you know that she was truly happy for you and wanted to celebrate the day you came into this world. She never missed an opportunity to tell you how blessed she felt to have you as a friend.

Everyone felt the same way about her.

*Michele, may God give you the wings that you so much deserve
– because you are an angel – and always have been.*

*Written by Melonia Montreuil, Michele's life
long friend*



Following is the gift Michele gave to us for Christmas 1998, one year after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was done artistically in the form of a scroll and shows the depth and meaning Michele gave to life, family and friends.

Lessons We Have Learned

This last Christmas has been a difficult one for us. As we spent 1998 traveling this new and challenging road, we learned many things, some of which we would like to share with you, those that we love, this Christmas.

We learned that when you are faced with a frightening challenge, you must face it, deal with it and conquer your fears in order to grow and become proud and fearless...

We learned that we must take the time to appreciate those around us, including each other, and make every effort to brighten someone's life if you can. This is a unique power that each of us holds with the special individuals in our lives, and it is up to us to make a positive difference....

We have learned to make each moment count. Once a moment has passed it can never be relived, and missed opportunities cause feelings of regret....

We learned that life's accomplishments are not based on material acquisitions or lots of money, but rather on the friends that you've made, the family that you've cherished and treated with respect, the helpless that you have helped and the kindness and generosity that you have bestowed upon those around you....

We have learned that family is a prized possession never to be taken for granted or forgotten. Family is unconditional love and mutual respect with friendship intertwined....

We have learned to be grateful for all that we have been blessed to possess, our families, our friends, our lives and our time together on this planet...

We learned that there is no limit to love and that every heart has the capacity to love everyone as much as possible...as we love you.

Michele Chung
Christmas 1998

Donate online to the Michele Karen Chung Legacy Endowment Fund here:
<https://secure.ohfoundation-fondationho.ca/registrator/startup.aspx?eventid=228543>