

Mary Courtney

Mary founded Pine Grove Country Day School in 1979, after moving to Mahopac from the Bronx. Starting as a small nursery school, Mary expanded Pine Grove to provide programs for children from Infancy through Middle School. She put her heart and energy into creating a joyful place for parents to feel safe to bring their children. As a pioneer for early childhood education programs, Mary created opportunities for all children to succeed, partnering with PARC Preschool.

Mary's life work was to create a warm, loving environment for children and families. Her nurturing spirit and gentle guidance inspired children, families and colleagues to grow into their truest potential. Throughout her life she modeled courage by following her dreams and passions.

The love, gentleness and commitment Mary provided her own family, and enduring belief in the beauty of children was extended beyond Pine Grove and into the larger Mahopac community. She was also a founding board member and past president of the Putnam County Child Care Center and a dedicated volunteer at the Women's Resource Center. Due to her hard work and love for the community, Mary was awarded the Mahopac Female Entrepreneur of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication to the community.

Mary passed away on Oct. 18, 2012. During her last days in her physical body she was doing what she loved to do, volunteering in Africa reaching children and building community. Mary leaves a legacy of love, family, community and believing in the beautiful spirit of children. Mary's huge heart and beautiful smile is the center of a big, loving family. Her gift of making everyone feel special was the essence of her spirit.

Everyone that knew Mary can attest that she was one of a kind.

Her laughter, warm words of wisdom and smile will continue to live on in all those she touched. We celebrate Mary's life, courage, joy, warmth, smile, generosity and the gift of herself, which she gave so freely! We honor Mary by carrying on her hard work and dedication, and continuing to love and educate all the children that make Pine Grove a second home!

By:

Tommy, Maryanne, and Debbie Courtney
Her children

We thank you for honoring our mother.

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Best,

Maryanne Courtney-LaRue
Owner, Pine Grove Country Day School
Literacy Specialist B-6

"All of your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney