

Joyce Sorensen Graham

Born and raised in Mayfield, Utah, Joyce Sorensen Graham learned the value of hard work at a young age by helping with chores on her family's farm – including tending to the chickens. But her real passion was indoors at the piano, where she would practice for hours each day developing her love for music and her skill as a pianist.

After attending grammar school in Mayfield and high school in Manti, she enrolled at Snow College, where she would not only gain a wonderful education and enjoy campus life, but also meet the "love of her life" and future husband, Robert Graham. It's no surprise that the 1950 Snow College yearbook gave Joyce a "personality-plus rating" for her "friendly spirit, sweet smile, and help in all school activities." It was a perfect assessment of that outstanding young woman! She would go on to graduate with a degree in Elementary Education from Brigham Young University, and then teach Kindergarten for several years after she and Bob were married, supporting him with enthusiasm throughout his educational endeavors.

Service to her church in many capacities – including, of course, as a pianist – was not only important to Joyce, but also brought her great joy. She also found deep satisfaction in other community service, particularly as a volunteer with Utah Youth Village where her efforts made a lasting impact on underprivileged children and teens who were struggling to succeed. What an incredible role model she was.

Joyce was also an extraordinary role model as a cancer fighter – and survivor! While she "beat" cancer in her 40's, it left her with lifelong health challenges that could easily have diminished her life's experiences. But she would have none of that. Joyce accepted her challenges with grace and courage, and then met them head-on with a positive attitude, extraordinary strength, and quiet dignity for the rest of her rich and full life.

Joyce's greatest success as a role model, of course, was as a wife, mother and grandmother. Her close and loving relationship with her husband, Bob, and devotion to their three daughters, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren set an example few could match. Joyce had a "magical" way of instilling close, supportive relationships within their family, and she established delightful and beloved family traditions that will be carried on for generations to come.

When Joyce passed away in May 2013, it left an absence in the lives of all who knew and loved her. Each and every day, her legacy and influence continue to impact friends, family and those she benefitted through her service, who will continue to feel her inspiration throughout the future.