

On May 30, 2010, Zareinu lost a most respected and admired occupational therapist, Barbara MacDonald. Barb worked in the Infant Intervention Programme for 18 years, in addition to working at The Hospital for Sick Children, teaching numerous courses to physio and occupational therapists, while maintaining a thriving well regarded private practice. I used to joke with Barb that she would work 8 days a week before she would turn anyone away.

Barb's tremendous energy and zest for life never ceased to amaze me. Athletic since childhood, she found immense pleasure in paddling a canoe, skiing down snowy slopes and most of all, attending the myriad of sports activities in which her 3 adored sons participated. Among Barb's numerous activities including exercise classes, book club meetings, travelling, and camping, she still managed to carve out time to volunteer at the ballet class which she helped design for little girls with special needs. As well, Barb was an important contributor to Zareinu's Advisory Committee. We enjoyed shopping together for toys for "our kids" and because her days were so full, she often had to schedule late night phone appointments with me to discuss the children in our programme and to work on our end of year reports.

It has personally been both an honour and privilege to call Barb a cherished colleague and good friend. I will always remember her tremendous passion and dedication to our special "kiddies" – as she liked to call them. Barb's knowledge, talent and skills were sought out so often and by so many. She was certainly a mentor to many of us, and we have been very fortunate to have had a person of Barb's distinguished professional calibre working at Zareinu.

Barb most definitely made a difference in so many lives! Zareinu has lost one special woman. She was an inspiration to the Infant Team and constantly shared her unique expertise with staff and parents, while always demonstrating a loving gentle approach and style. I will always remember Barb's hands – those hands with all the rings – those hands that worked wonders on all our children who passed through our infant programme.

Barb's warmth and caring nature shone through in all that she did. Barb will be missed terribly by her colleagues and all the families whose lives she touched so deeply. As Wanda reminded me – we always joked that we would still be working together as a team when we were too old to get up and down off the floor. We are so sorry that we will never get that chance.

Throughout her battle with cancer, Barb remained strong and positive. She was and will remain an exceptional role model to all of us facing challenges. Our deepest condolences are extended to Barb's husband Ross, her sons Jamie, Scott and Jeffrey, her parents and her siblings. May her memory be for a blessing.

Written by: Ellen Babbin