Gentleness in Person

From NCCMH’s Executive Director Christine Gebhard, when she announced Julie’s passing to her colleagues:

“…Today’s message is a tribute to Julie—for her commitment to improving the lives of the people we serve through her tireless advocacy for their independence and integration into their community, and for her unwavering belief in human potential. She was a leader, an educator, a coach, a mentor; but most of all, she was a kind and compassionate person.”
Innovator With Big Heart

From Dale Murton, RN, colleague and friend:

Julie wrote the huge Federal Grant for Grand Traverse Industries to build the Northern Living Apartments in Mancelona along with GTI’s Director, Steve Perdue.

Julie started the DD Christmas Party which has spanned 30 years.

Julie started “My Camp” and although it is no longer running, it gave Camp Hayowenta the impetus to include young people on the autism spectrum as regular campers!
Compassionate

Julie was a founding member of the Traverse area Poverty Initiative who also volunteered to help with the Homeless Census when they go out at night (in November.) and count how many people they can find on the streets.

Julie participated in the Hunger drive “Empty Bowls”.
Pioneer and Advocate

Julie volunteered for the Traverse Symphony Orchestra.

Julie arranged for clients to go to the State Capital and self advocate with lawmakers.

Julie pioneered self determination, meaningful employment, person centered planning, supported independent living advocacy and so much more, long before State mandates.
Julie was a skilled listener, wise and insightful mentor, who quietly led you to the right path without telling you what to do, and helping you believe it was at least in part your decision.

Julie as a leader never wanted the spotlight or credit, she generously credited her staff before herself.

Julie was a moral compass and compassionate advocate always thinking about the person first.
Friend, Supporter, Organizer of the NRCODD Conference

Julie was a mainstay of the Northern Regional Conference on Developmental Disabilities,

She served many years as an organizer, presenter and advocate for clients and direct support care givers.

Her steady support and encouragement of clients and caregivers were unwavering.
One of Julie’s close colleagues wrote the NCCMH Director, “please do not let her legacy of **person first, morally compassed, innovative care** fade into the past in this clinical climate of data driven everything,”

Her reply? “**We won’t.**”

Neither will any of us who knew and were privileged to have worked with Julie.
Julia A "Julie" Moran

Julia A "Julie" Moran (nee Fitch), 74, of Alden left this world peacefully on Feb. 21, 2021 at her home. She was born on Sept. 14, 1946 in Indianapolis to Carroll and Agnes (nee Crip) Fitch. Julie grew up in the Bronx, New York where she attended The Ethical Culture Fieldston School. She then completed a Bachelor’s Degree at University of Michigan and a Master’s Degree at Central Michigan University.

Julie had a long career in Social Work serving as a steadfast and fierce advocate for persons with developmental disabilities. During the last 32 years she was a compassionate, inspiring friend and mentor to many of her dedicated colleagues at North Country CMH.

Julie was a beautiful woman with an even more beautiful spirit. She was very active and enjoyed spending her free time hiking, swimming, kayaking or anything outside as long as her dogs were with her. She was also passionate about supporting community, political and environmental causes.

Julie is preceded in death by her father, mother, brother C. Bruce (Ruth "Joni") Fitch, Jr. and brother Thomas G. (Polly) Fitch. She is survived by her partner David Peterson, sister Susan (Chuck) Maley, daughters Krisin (Adam) Baar and Chelsea (Chris) Kieliszewski, grandchildren Alexis, Laura, Diego, Brendan, Sydney and Chase, as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a private celebration in the future. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you honor Julie’s memory by donating to Impact Traverse City.