

Ana-Elisa de Almeida born January 25, 1968 – March 1, 2012



Mary Manning Centre staff and the Board and supporters of the Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Society of Greater Victoria honour the life of Ana-Elisa, who fought a courageous battle with cancer over the last year and a half. Ana Elisa was at the agency for a short time but her passion and commitment in her work with children and particularly youth will continue on at the Centre, where Ana-Elisa found herself finally feeling that she had come “home” in a supportive setting of like-minded colleagues. Ana-Elisa valued her relationships with staff at the Centre, citing the agency as the healthiest workplace that she had ever worked in and many times stating that it was her relationship and mentorship with her colleagues that sustained her. More than anything, Ana-Elisa hoped to return to her chosen career in working with children and youth who had experienced abuse.

Ana-Elisa was a UVIC practicum intern at Mary Manning Centre from 2007-2008. She brought insight, passion, and commitment to her practicum work with children and youth who had experienced abuse, tempered from her work with disenfranchised and abused youth in Brazil. In Brazil she learned the benefits of creating networks to address similar social problems that existed in Canada, such as homelessness, poverty, substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, social isolation, racism and discrimination.

In 2009, Ana-Elisa was hired on as a therapist as well as victim service worker at Mary Manning Centre and in both areas of work she excelled. She was an excellent communicator, having previously published a number of academic papers along with other colleagues as well as presenting both academic and non-academic papers in areas of racial

discourse in early childhood, working with ESL children and newcomers, and conceptualizing and evaluating early childhood education and practice. Ana-Elisa retained her involvement with inter-cultural issues by volunteering for Anti-Dote with the Intercultural Association.

Ana-Elisa showed interest in all aspects of the agency, including research, program development and leadership. Within her first year at the agency, she took part in year-long training with Leadership Victoria where she and her leadership group developed a project on micro-lending which continues to flourish today.

Utilizing her amazing energy, excitement and passion for life, Ana-Elisa advocated strongly for her clients always with compassion directed at improving their situation. Ana-Elisa tackled her own health dilemma with the same grace and aplomb, utilizing her resources in positive ways and organizing a network of support, this time for herself. Her support circle of colleagues, friends, family and love of her life, Glen, created a positive shelter for her to focus on health. Throughout, Ana-Elisa knew she was respected colleague, appreciated therapist and to the end was surrounded by those who cared for her deeply.

From Staff at Mary Manning Centre, We send this with and love and respect:

Sandy Bryce, Executive Director

Judith Wright, Clinical Coordinator