

Who is Candy Jeris Core?

By Jerry and Marilyn Core

Cultivating the Teacher

Candy's love for teaching started at an early age. She began "teaching" her younger brother at the ripe old age of five. She made sure that her brother also learned what she learned in her Kindergarten class. And although she was young, Candy was a patient, encouraging teacher: attributes that would be apparent all her professional life.



Candy was also an excellent student, learned quickly, and was always ready to lead others. She was a squad leader in Band, Vacation Bible School teacher, and later, a college assistant in a mission group to help the underprivileged.

After graduating in the fall of 1996 from Southwestern University, Candy chose to work as a substitute teacher instead of applying to teach full time, so that she could work in the Georgetown Youth Group as a director of young people there.



Though she loved the people and the job, Candy decided to apply for a full time teaching position. Her first teaching assignment was at Eisenhower High School in the Aldine Independent School District in fall of 1997.

Creative and Colorful

Always the perfectionist, Candy spent hours on deciding how to decorate her room each year. Her bulletin boards had to be dramatic, colorful, and relevant to the subject matter being taught. She wanted her room to sparkle and pop. Fellow teachers would stop by to see what Candy was doing in her room and when they told her how great her room looked, she was delighted. But, she always had ideas to share with her fellow teachers and was the first in line to help them become successful. Candy's brain seemed to be hotwired for finding teachable moments.



Candy inspired creativity in her students by encouraging them to write and think "out of the box." She chose to have the students make and illustrate their own individual fairy tales and then she arranged for the students to bring their books to the nearest elementary school and read them to the young students. For a unit on Shakespeare, Candy had her students make and wear period costumes and participate in an English feast and festival.

Collaborative and Caring

Candy wanted her fellow teachers to love teaching as much as she, so she had an "open door" policy. She always made time to listen and usually had chocolate and perhaps a Dr Pepper available for the teacher who dropped by. Candy spent many late evenings at school happily planning for upcoming school events or making sure that she had papers graded and lessons in place for her students. Candy worried

that some of her students didn't have the needed supplies, so she bought supplies for them. One tall gangly student seemed to need clothes but being male and a ninth grader, Candy knew she would have to approach him very tactfully about the subject. She managed to bring some of her father's clothes for the young man and the clothes fit beautifully. He wore them all year long.



Career

Candy began the Student Council at Eisenhower Ninth Grade School, and under her direction the team won many first place awards at state competitions. In 2000, Candy was chosen "Teacher of the Year." She was selected to be the AVID Coordinator for her school, and she put her energies into making the students who were in AVID successful and accomplished. She maintained high expectations of her students mastering the curriculum, scheduled tutors to assist these students, planned field trips and invited motivational speakers to build the students' confidence and self-esteem. When Eisenhower Ninth Grade School became a magnet school, Candy was asked to become the Magnet Coordinator. While in this position, Candy began to successfully lobby for her school to become an International Baccalaureate School. Candy was chosen to visit Korea with Korean Studies for American

Educators. About the time she began working on her Master's degree, Candy found out she had been chosen as a Fulbright scholarship recipient to visit Japan. It is also during this time that she decided to apply at Region 4 for a position as English Language Arts Consultant.

Candy Core Remembered



At Region 4, new challenges awaited Candy but she rose to meet each one. She presented many workshops for teachers, wrote a book on English Language Proficiencies, and co-authored STELLAR, a book for teacher training on the STAAR test for ninth graders. Candy was overjoyed when she received the Employee of the Month Award from Region 4 in 2011.

Candy fought her final battle with her third cancer and lost on June 11, 2011, but she would love to know that her lifelong love of teaching and learning would be acknowledged. She would encourage everyone to be bold, try new things, be individuals, stand up for what is right, seek knowledge, embrace humor, care for mankind and the Earth, and to give your "time", the most treasured gift of all.

Your gift was possible through a generous donation from the Candy Core Endowment Fund.

For more information about Candy, or to send a Thank You letter:

Jerry and Marilyn Core
QuillJAC@aol.com

