



In Memory of

Willow Amber Stoeklen

Class of 2009
29 April 1990 - 20 July 2008

Willow Amber Stoeklen, 18, went walking with her one true love, the Lord, on July 20, 2008, at Luther Hospital.

Willow was born on April 29, 1990, in Albuquerque, N.M. She attended Eau Claire Memorial High School and would have been a senior this year. Willow was and always will be known for her bright blue eyes, beautiful smile, friendly and generous personality, and most of all for her free and willing spirit. She loved the outdoors and every person and critter she met. She could always be found down at the rope swing on the island that she made her second home on the Chippewa River, the island we have all come to know as the Willow Isle. Whether she was beading a necklace or playing with her animals, she always had a shadow (Maia). She could light up a room with just her presence. Willow was drug and alcohol free, she had her own style, and was very self-confident and proud of herself. She never judged anyone or looked down on them. Willow, upon graduating next spring, had planned on going to college for massage therapy, which was how she was going to help people. She was always trying to make the world a better place.

Willow was a wonderful daughter, sister, friend and nanny. She was a person who everyone fell in love with, and she loved everyone just the same. She was an angel on Earth and now in the heavens. She lived life to the fullest and she loved Jesus.

Willow is survived by her mother, Tamie Staymate; father, Scott Atchison, and his son, Justin; brothers, Jason N. Stoeklen, 19, and William W. Null II, 27, his fiancée, Hallie, and their children, Samantha Rae, Elisha, Bridgette and

Brooklyn; grandfather, Joseph Stoeklen; Aunt Mallisa and Uncle Randy Johnson; Aunt Anne Tassi and Uncle Mike Vanidestine, their children, Shane Evens, Nate Tassi and Maia J. Rowekamp (Willow's Mini Me); Rebecca Garner and Brian Rowekamp (friend and parents of Maia); best friend, Kate "Ed" Jarvar; and too many relatives and friends to mention. Her dogs and cats, her favorites being Remmy, Baybee, Duncan, Maddie, Snowy and a baby pup, Runt, also survive her.

Remembering a Young Woman

Friends and family of an Eau Claire High School student killed in a traffic crash over the weekend are trying to deal with the loss. 18-year-old Willow Stoeklen was a passenger in a car that crashed in Carson Park Saturday night. She died early Sunday morning. Everyone who we spoke to says they're devastated to lose such a remarkably creative young woman.

Kathy Clark recalls that she never expected to lose the young woman who had become like a sister to her. Clark met Willow Stoeklen through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in 2005. Since then, the two have been inseparable.

"During the winter, we'd get lots of coffee but during the summer she was always outside...in the trees, up the trees, in the water... any chance to get outside," remembers Clark. "If there was any kind of animal around, or kids, she was a happy girl."

Clark says the pair bonded over their love of nature and art. One of her most recent memories was Willow getting into water fights at Clark's family Fourth of July get-together. "She had a blast, and everyone commented on her, that she was such a vivid girl, just full of life," says Clark. "She was out there. That was definitely her."

"What I admire most about her was the fact that she was an absolute individual," says Clark. A unique individual, whose full and vibrant life was tragically cut short.

"It's unexpected. It's like I'm not going to see her next week. Who am I going to hang out with and walk barefoot through the park with?" wonders Clark. "It's going to take some time to adjust, definitely."

Willow Stoeklen would have finished up her senior year of high school in the fall.

Her family say she was always smiling and free-spirited.

Willow Stoeklen, 18, who died early Sunday in a city traffic accident, expressed an interest in art as a student at [Eau Claire Memorial High School](#). She took several of [Matt Palm](#)'s fine arts classes at Memorial.

"Willow had a strong interest in art and was a passionate individual who celebrated all aspects of life," [Palm](#) said. Palm said Stoeklen loved creating jewelry from unexpected mediums and wore them in her own unique style. Willow was always very honest, open and accepting to others," Palm said. Stoeklen treated others fairly and stood tall in support of her beliefs, Palm said.