

St. Benedict , KS

Karen Ann Schraad Esslinger, 45, of St. Benedict, died unexpectedly Wednesday evening, October 24, 2012, at the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital.

Karen was born in Axtell on February 13, 1967 the daughter of Eugene and Elizabeth Skoch Schraad. She grew up northeast of Seneca on a farm and graduated from Nemaha Valley High School in 1985. After graduation, she went to Manhattan Area Vocational School for Secretarial Law.

On September 2, 1989 she married Michael E. Esslinger in Seneca, Kansas.

Karen worked for Country View Estates, Life Care Center of Seneca, Krayola Korner Day Care, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital and Nemaha County Training Center.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Benedict.

Karen enjoyed helping other when she could and was very active with the Nemaha County Relay for Life. Karen and her family were involved in the foreign exchange program, hosting Anja from Germany and Marine from Belgium, both of them returned to visit as recently as last summer. She loved to take care of animals, crafts, and crocheting afghans. Karen took great pleasure when she was called Grandma Karen.

Survivors is her husband Michael of St. Benedict; five daughters, Anna Marie Ward of Seneca, Angela (Jeremy) Clary of Seneca, Ashley (Jesse) Sura of Seneca, Autumn Esslinger of Axtell, and Rachel Heideman of El Paso, Texas; a son, Anthony Esslinger of the home; her parents, Gene and Betty Skoch Schraad of Seneca; her grandmother, Mary Skoch of Seneca; brothers, Jim Schraad of Seneca, John Schraad of Sabetha and Bryan Schraad of Seneca; six grandchildren; and her father-in-law, Waymer Esslinger of Sabetha.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Ariel Esslinger on January 26, 2007, a granddaughter, Shawna Brook Esslinger on January 26, 2007, her grandparents, Elmer Skoch, August and Anne Schraad, and her mother-in-law Pauline Esslinger.

Mass of Christian burial will be 10 AM Monday October 29, 2012 at St. Mary's Church in St. Benedict. Rosaries will be prayed at 2 & 7 PM at Lauer Funeral Home in Seneca on Sunday October 28, 2012.

Memorial contributions may be made to Relay For Life and may be sent to the family. To express your sympathy and for more information visit [www.lauerfuneralhome.com](http://www.lauerfuneralhome.com).