

In Memory of Tessie Schweitzer

These are comments drawn from our Facebook page and from emails that were sent to us in memory of Tessie.

Jane Walker

Who could forget Tessie's charming manner coupled with her strong leadership and advocacy for children and their families. She was one of a kind and left a wonderful legacy with Families as Allies.

Julie Propst, LMFT

Tessie asked me to come to her home for an interview as the Statewide Family Network Director. After two hours, I asked to go to the restroom and then the interview segued into a MSFAA Christmas party! I ended up making the spinach Madeline casserole, because she and Jack were arguing over the correct ingredients. This experience was just the beginning of MSFAA adventures with Tessie, Tressa Knutson, Terrance Spann, and Cynthia Moore-Hardy.

There will never be another Tessie Schweitzer! So grateful for her leadership and encouragement. I can't think of Tessie without Brenda Scafidi. They were two peas in a pod and both were trailblazers in advocating for children with mental health needs and their families. It was through their vision that the COMPASS program, MYPAC and other programs were created. They both influenced not only the systems of care focus for Children's Mental Health services, but provided a template for all Mental Health services in Mississippi.

Theresa Johnson-Ratliff, PhD, LCSW, CG-C

I met Tessie many years ago, I think in the mid 1990's. She was warm and very engaging. I wanted information on support groups for parents who had children with mental health issues. She was very helpful. Tessie will be remembered for her advocacy, policy and other resources for children, families, and practitioners. She will be greatly missed.

Joe Kinnan, Ph.D., Col. (USAF, Ret.), NAMI-MS Pine Belt Affiliate

I recall Tessie giving an outstanding talk during a NAMI Mental Health Conference in Hattiesburg. I had the honor to introduce her to the audience. She's a gem! Our prayers are with her and her family. The Lord is telling her "Well done..." She was a great companion on our journey and a wonderful mentor/encourager to many vulnerable people.

Joyce Sand

So sorry for your loss. Will hold you all In Prayer.

Veronica Lane

My condolences

Martha Mitternacht

Sad to hear this

Sharon Townsend

So sorry

Amy Earnhart Gibbons

My goodness I am so saddened by this news. What an icon & legend she was!! I treasure my time spent with her, learning from her & still using the skills & knowledge I gained from her! Sending hugs & prayers ❤️🙏

Jane Adams

I am sad. Tessie was kind, a friend always. She was a guiding light in my life and in what I learned to do in Kansas. Thank you for sharing this.

Gail Cormier

A very sad time for our family movement.

Pat Hunt

Such sad news, Joy. Tessie was a remarkable person and gave us all so much.

Charles Araujo

So sad to hear this. Tessie was incredible.

Kristi Reedy Plotner

So sorry to hear this. Tessie did so much for children and families in MS. Her legacy will live on. I am so glad I knew her.

Kris Howell Jones

Tessie inspired so many. I am so sorry to hear of her passing.

Pam Keith Dollar

Tessie was an incredible lady! I am so sad to hear of her passing. She helped the Coalition write our first PTI grant. She was always willing to help any way possible. Tessie was truly a jewel!!!

Marty Jean

I'm sorry for your loss ...God will surely bless this lady

Annette Rinehart

Prayers

Terrence Spann

Praying for the Family (Matt 5:4). I'm grateful for having the opportunity to work for and with "Mrs. Tessie" as we called her & what she did for Children's Mental Health and the families we were blessed to partner with and serve.