

Bio of Shirley Gross

Shirley Gross was born and raised in the Appleton area to the Edlings – an original Grand Valley homesteading family. She graduated from Fruita High School in 1964. Two years later, she and her husband David moved to Glendale, Calif., and started their family, which eventually grew to include two children, Karen and Mike, their spouses and four grandchildren.

The two soon opened a roofing and insulation business, which thrived. While their business flourished, Shirley and Dave took the opportunity to explore the world while they pursued their passion of scuba diving. Whether it was exploring Australia's Great Barrier Reef, sunken WWII wrecks in Micronesia's Truk Lagoon or admiring exotic fish in the Caribbean, Shirley and Dave could be found side by side, waterlogged and loving every minute of it.

Adventure has always been part of their relationship – they met skydiving. It was Shirley's one and only time doing it, but she spent many weekends in their young marriage looking to the skies waiting for Dave to come floating down. And even just a few years ago the two joined family members in zip-lining at Canon City, Colo.

ALS became part of Shirley's journey in the summer of 2018, with her official diagnosis coming that November. She is also part of the small minority of ALS patients who receive a companion diagnosis of ALS-related dementia.

A decade ago Shirley and Dave returned to the original property that her family homesteaded all those years ago, where they live happily and are visited often by family and friends. They are thrilled by the gift of mobility from the Keenan family. Says Dave, on behalf of both of them, "This new van will make all the difference in Shirley being able to attend her grandson's band events at Grand Junction High School, as well as simple things like going grocery shopping. We are so grateful for their generosity."

Karen Hansen, Shirley's daughter