

casual

Colon cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives
IN MEMORY OF HELEN PHILLIPS

Story of Support



Moriah Harding Talarico in her 2016
C.A.S.U.A.L. Day t-shirt.

Ten years ago Moriah (Harding) Talarico purchased her first C.A.S.U.A.L. Day t-shirt from a co-worker. Her involvement with CASUAL Day has grown every year and in 2011, she created a Team in memory of her Aunt Ann Harding Sabaitis.

For in October 2003, Moriah received an unexpected phone call. Her beloved Aunt Ann had been diagnosed with colon cancer. Aunt Ann served as the “paternal grandmother” for Moriah and though geography separated them, they kept in touch through phone calls and letters.

Ann had been reluctant to get screened even though there was a history of colon cancer in her family. Only when her symptoms were too difficult to ignore and the cancer was advanced, did she seek medical help. Ann participated in a clinical trial determined to have more time with her family – especially her grandchildren. On February 19, 2004, Ann passed away. She left behind a husband, two children, and a large extended family– all devastated and feeling as though a huge piece of their heart was missing, wishing that they could’ve done more.

2016, C.A.S.U.A.L. Day fell on Ann’s 83rd birthday so Moriah wrote a letter to thank the Cancer Institute and share Ann’s story. Moriah’s hope is that Aunt Ann’s story will help create an open discussion about colon cancer awareness, the importance of knowing family history of the disease, and talking with your healthcare provider about screening. Ann fought her colon cancer with grace and a positive attitude. Had Ann been diagnosed earlier, the outcome may have been different.