



Maureen Powers

January 3, 2026

Maureen Powers, 77, of Lancaster, died at Hospice and Community Care, Mount Joy, on Saturday, January 3, 2026. She was born in Altoona to the late John William and Jeanette Powers.

Maureen grew up in Loretto, PA. She graduated from St. Francis University in 1970 and later earned her master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg. After teaching briefly in Lebanon, PA, Maureen moved to Lancaster County, where she spent the remainder of her life. She worked as a Lancaster City planner for seven years and then joined the staff of the YWCA Lancaster in 1985. Maureen became CEO of YWCA Lancaster in 1987, a position she held until her retirement in 2014. Throughout her distinguished career, she was a passionate and dedicated advocate for women's issues, racial justice, and equal rights.

She was an avid volunteer in the community and served as the Treasurer, Board of Directors for the Community Action Program of Lancaster County (4 yrs), President, Board of Directors of Lancaster Day Care Center, Advisory Board, New Choices, for Lancaster County Career and Technology Center (22 yrs), Board of Directors for United Disability Services (5 yrs), President, Board of Directors for Lancaster Integrated Specialized Transportation System, and the Board of Directors for Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect. She also held positions such as Chair for YWCA Mid-Atlantic Region (4 yrs),

Diversity Task Force for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry (11 Yrs), and Advisory Group for Nonprofit Resource Network (6 yrs).

Over the years, Maureen has been the recipient of many awards, including Harry C. Robinson, Sr. Humanitarian Award from Lancaster City-County Human Relations Commission (1989), Jean Royer Kohr Award from Lancaster Women's Alliance (1993), Women Who Care from the Fulton Theater (2000), Kit Howell Progressive Voice Award from Lancaster Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom (2003), Racial Justice Award from YWCA Mid-Atlantic Region (2005), Champions of Diversity from Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Urban League (2009), Racial Justice Award from YWCA Lancaster (2014).

In her personal life, Maureen found great joy in spending time with friends and family, especially around her table sharing the delicious meals she prepared. She also loved cats, including her beloved pets and strays alike. During the spring, she could often be found in her garden admiring her daffodils and tulips. Later in life, she traveled extensively with her family to far flung places like Kenya, Turkey, Egypt, and Europe; her wonder for the world never ceased.

Maureen is survived by her sons, Matthew Aaron Kauffman (Christina Figueroa) of Penitas, Texas, and Ethan Andrew Kauffman (Jennifer) of Ardmore, PA; sister, Kathleen Gormish (Joseph) of Mountville, PA; brother, John William Powers (Virginia) of Lancaster; two nephews, two nieces, and two children of a nephew.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Maureen's Memorial Service at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA, on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the YWCA, 110 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, to honor Maureen's memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

JAN 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Maureen Powers*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - January 09 at 03:31 PM

AJ

“ *Maureen was a courageous and compassionate woman. She helped immensely to further the well being and rights of all women. I remember how proactive she was. I honor her memory. Angela*

Angela Jeannet - January 20 at 12:12 PM

CH

“ *Maureen was, and shall forever be, a voice for women, and all of us. I have the honor of having known her as a friend, and in conjunction with the YW. My sincere wishes go to Matthew, Ethan and families.*

Carol Hickey - January 18 at 11:33 AM

GR

“ I had the honor of working with Maureen at the YWCA, serving on both the Board of Directors and Trustees. There are few people in life that I have found more inspiring than Maureen. Her courage and dedication to the mission of the YW were unparalleled, as was her endless curiosity about the world around her. Lancaster has lost one of her most cherished citizens.

Georgina Russo - January 13 at 07:44 AM



“ 67 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - January 09 at 04:15 PM

MH

“ So many have been impacted by Maureen and will continue to be into the future. Strong and rational she set high standards and stayed the course. The last time I saw Maureen was in the dairy section of Giant, she on her scooter and me with my cart. We began mid sentence even though we had not seen each other for several months. She made so many things possible including my wonderful safari to Botswana. Thank you, Dear Maureen.

Molly Henderson

P.S. Let's not forget her laugh!

Molly Henderson - January 09 at 02:20 PM

RS

“ Robena S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maureen Powers.

Robena S. - January 09 at 02:10 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Maureen Powers.



January 08 at 03:05 PM



“ I met Maureen through service on the Respect Together Board. She interviewed me for a Board member position a few years ago. Then, once I joined the Board, she recruited me to the Governance Committee where she served as chair. I feel truly lucky to have had Maureen as my mentor. Though I’ve only known her a few years, I’ve learned so much from her about leadership, speaking up for vulnerable people, and her sheer power of presence. I just wish I had had more time with her...a feeling I’m sure many of Maureen’s loved ones share. She was a beautiful person—inside and out. I feel extremely lucky to have been able to spend some time with her last week when she entered hospice. Your body may be gone from this earth, Maureen, but your fighting spirit on behalf of vulnerable people lives on in me and every one in your orbit. I will never forget you, Maureen.

Susheela Varky - January 07 at 06:16 PM

JG

“ I had the pleasure of working alongside Maureen at the YWCA (I worked at the SAPCC), and most recently in her work with the board at PCAR/Respect Together. I learned a lot from her, and will miss her so much. In a recent conversation with her, she told me how proud she was of me. I’ll never forget that. Rest in peace, Maureen. Thank you for all of your contributions to the world.

Jennifer Grove - January 07 at 02:20 PM

SV

“ I met Maureen when serving on the YWCA’s Development Committee in the late '80s/early '90s. Kindness, intelligence, quiet strength and wry humor were some of her numerous attributes. Lancaster Countians are very fortunate that Maureen chose to live among us. I will miss her.
Stefanie Valar

Stefanie Valar - January 07 at 11:08 AM



“ Years ago, in the middle and late 1980s, I used to swim over the lunch hour at the YWCA pool. Maureen was often there swimming at the same time.

She was a dynamic woman who inspired me as I came to know her. Despite obstacles she continued to be an inspiration to me through the years. I will miss her.

Dee Forry - January 07 at 09:22 AM

NO

“ Maureen was an inspiration, a mentor and a dear friend to me for the past 5 years. We would sit on her deck during Covid sharing a bottle of wine on warmer days- which the two of us did finish -while Maureen providing history and advice in my role in Development. She was in tune with the struggles facing women and people of color. She never missed an opportunity to raise up issues not always popular in Lancaster County with out fear or hesitation. Her love for the YWCA and the programs provided was evident in her words and actions. Lancaster will not be the same without her. May she rest in peace knowing she did so much for so many. I am lucky to have known her.

Nancy OHalloran - January 07 at 08:48 AM

CT

“Maureen was a wonderful, strong and dynamic woman. I had the pleasure of being under her tutelage as a program director from 2002-until her retirement. She shared so much knowledge and insight into many aspects of the YWCA locally and globally. I was also able to attend the YWCA National Conference in D.C. with her, which was one of the many highlights of my time at the YWCA Lancaster.



I am truly grateful to have known her.

My sincerest condolences to her sons, Ethan & Matthew, family and friends. May your memories be filled with joy and peace.

Maureen, you will be missed greatly.

Christelle Thaw-Bolton - January 07 at 12:26 AM