

A portrait of Dixie van de Flier Davis, a woman with short, wavy, reddish-brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a bright blue blazer over a black top and a gold necklace. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The word "Celebrating" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the top of the image.

Celebrating

Dixie
van de Flier Davis

“ Yesterday I reminded myself that these things aren't cosmic games to be won or lost. They are part of the human condition to be experienced.

We win or lose based on HOW we greet the challenge each day. We can win out over the challenges each day. We don't let the challenges define who we are. That's how we beat [them]. ”

Celebrating Dixie

Her Life

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

WELCOME - PAM KIKER, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

DAVID ZINGER, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

UNFORGETTABLE - CBS4 Video

TIM WIELAND, Board Member, Raise The Future

DARREN KUMASAWA, Nephew of Dixie

ED ADAMS, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

JIM PADGETT, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

WASH MY EYES by Greg Brown

THE VAUGHN FAMILY, Adoptive Family

ANN AYERS, CEO, Raise the Future

ALICE TOWER, Dear Friend

BRAD MCNEALY, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

RAY NUTT, Former Board Chair, The Adoption Exchange

VALERIE VAN DE FLIER, Dixie's daughter

FIRST TIME EVER I SAW YOUR FACE by Ewan McColl

BERT VAN DE FLIER, Dixie's husband

I'LL BE SEEING YOU by Sammy Fain

THANK YOU

GOING HOME by Kenny G

*Music orchestrated and performed by
Wendy (Niece of Dixie) and Jeff Woolsey*

NOVEMBER 23, 1943 - FEBRUARY 21, 2022

Dixie van de Flier Davis was born the youngest of four sisters in a rural town in Indiana. Her loving upbringing and close bond with her parents and sisters would guide her life to come. Her youth, during which she lived in Indiana, Kenya and Vancouver (WA), taught her that a loving, supportive family standing firmly behind you is the key to a happy, successful life.



*Dixie at about
age 3*

She took the lessons from her family with her when she went to college at George Fox University and CU Denver to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social work and a Master's degree in Education and finally obtained an Ed.D. in psychology from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Just learning about how to help people wasn't enough for Dixie. She had a fire in her, wanting to provide every child with the love and support she had experienced in her youth.



As a social worker she noticed how hard it was to get children in foster care adopted to permanent, loving families. Ever the optimist she decided to do something about it and founded The Adoption Exchange to facilitate better possibilities for the (special needs and older) children who needed a loving family to call their own the very most. She helped found the AEA and NAA, all organizations founded in the belief that every child deserves love, and working hard to make that possible.

(continued)

Her drive and big heart, her strength, compassion, love and tenacity helped find many thousands of kids permanent homes and families. She was presented with many awards for her tireless work for the children who needed it most, though the knowledge that the lives of these children had permanently changed for the better, was her greatest reward.

Dixie cared about everybody and was a firm believer in peaceful solutions. She had a loving, kind word for everybody she met, from impoverished single mothers to American presidents and everybody in between.

Willing to always help everybody, everywhere, she spent time in Romanian orphanages, but also showed visiting international sports teams around Denver. This is how she met the love of her life, Bert, and gained two stepchildren and later a granddaughter who she loved and cherished the rest of her life.

Dixie leaves a legacy of tens of thousands of people whose lives she has touched in one way or another and will be sorely missed by everyone. The memories are plentiful, but never enough, she's gone, but will never be forgotten.

VALERIE VAN DE FLIER
Dixie's Daughter

Tributes

A giant among women, Dixie has fallen. She was grand. Her exceptionalities and talents saved thousands of lives. She cried with me, for me, sat with me in times of joy and put her arm around me in comfort on the back steps. Regardless of it being in front of the TV crews or in the boardrooms, the wealthiest or poorest of all, Dixie changed the lives of children for the better. She stopped at

nothing to make families a reality.

Dixie, you were the genie in the bottle...a noble woman of our time, you scattered pixie dust and sunshine with class, spirituality, and hard work everywhere you went. You developed people who are currently changing lives and families forever. It was an honor to know you! To serve with you! You changed my life and made it better! I thank God for you! Your spirit shines on.

I am so sorry for your sweetheart and family for the enormity of their loss. You were a giant in my life's forest. Their void must be great.

May everyone know I love you! I love my sons who you and your team brought into my world. I believe God placed each one of you in my life and theirs. I love the life I have due in part to you and your teams who are equally yoked to making this world a better place one child and family at a time. I salute you.

I cried the day you crossed over into immortality. Thank you for sharing your talents and fantastic resolve to change this world and make children and teens lives better one adoption at a time. You live on. You, like father Abraham, will forever be known for good. God be with you and yours until we meet again!

Bert, I thank you for your sacrifice in allowing Dixie to change this world and tens of thousands of lives just like my family's. God bless you for letting her light shine so brightly!

DAN MINNICK
Adoptive Dad and Former Utah Board Chair



*Dixie & Bert the weekend
of their wedding*

Dixie van de Flier Davis was an unstoppable force in the cause for adoptive children. In the many years I knew her, I was forever impressed with her energy, her dedication, and her big heart.

DAVE COURVOISIER
KTNV Nevada

Dixie had a huge heart for and dedication to the children and youth that we serve. Her legacy still lives on at Raise the Future. Not only do we continue to serve children and youth, but because of her we are able to support families who have opened their hearts and homes to the children we serve. I remember her often saying that the families we serve are ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things.

KATHY SEARLE
Raise the Future, Utah

Dixie could make you laugh and make you cry, all in the space of a few minutes with stories about the children we were there to serve. She had the ability to always bring us back to center -- to the children, the children who were waiting. Waiting for us to find families. She was a leader and a mentor like no other. She made us believe in ourselves and our work. We knew we could always do more, more, more . . . because there were still more children waiting.

JACKI PROPERNICK
Former Employee of The Adoption Exchange

There isn't room enough here to talk about all the things we loved about our Aunt Dixie. She lit up our legendary family gatherings with her big personality, incredible wit, hilarious stories and that unmistakable, contagious laugh that will echo in our heads and our hearts forever.

Aunt Dixie's hugs were a full body experience. Regardless of the size of the arriving group, she made you feel like you were the one

she'd been waiting for. You were special to her and you knew it.

She had a way of asking questions and listening that gave you her complete attention, that was non-judgmental and never made you feel less-than or small, no matter your age. She told us we could ask her anything, from family history to her cancer details, and she didn't sugar coat the truth but had a way of delivering insightful answers that made you feel empowered rather than weak.



Dixie and her sisters, Judi, Patsy and Betty

Selfless, witty, compassionate, larger-than-life, ever positive. She valued people and it showed in her actions and words every day. We will miss the all-encompassing, loving hugs that told us so.

THE JUDI & DAN NOLTA FAMILY

Dixie was a force of nature. Her legacy is the thousands of children who have families because of her unwavering passion and determination. Dixie believed in collaboration and working together. "We can do so much more together than we can alone." Those of us who had the privilege of "working together" with Dixie were better because of it. The world is dimmer with her gone.

SUSAN COX
Adoption Advocate and Friend of Dixie's

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
CBS4 Denver for their commitment to the children
Julie Nolta (Dixie's niece) for the program design





FROM DIXIE

Thank You
to:

My incredible love, my husband, Bert van de Flier

My children:

Valerie van de Flier and her husband Laurens de Vries
Roger van de Flier

My granddaughter: Oriana van de Flier

My sisters:

Betty Feightner, Damon (Amy) and granddaughter

Judi and Dan Nolta

Julie, Jeff (Kristie), Daven, Darci (Kirk), Dixie (Jamie), Rene'
and grand- and great-grandchildren

Patsy Kumasawa

Darren (Christi), Wendy (Jeff) and grandchildren

The Adoption Ya-Yas

My Adoption Exchange family

Our neighbors, former staff, Rotarians, volunteers and
all the friends who are like family

Adoptive parents and children in or from the foster care system –
for shining a light on my journey.

*"We made our time together matter,
and I will carry the warmth of our friendships
through my last moments on this earth."*

