

Giovanna

*By Suzy Hopkins*

She had just turned two years old when I moved to Denver in the fall of 2012. We hit it off right away. I was much more fun than her dad or her other grandparents. We did crazy things like climbing to the very top of the climbing sphere at the park or sliding down the biggest slide face first. When winter arrived we would scale the biggest pile of plowed snow and jump off. At Xmas time we would walk around all the fabulous outdoor decorations at night here at Windsor Gardens until we were freezing and then go home to hot chocolate with tiny marshmallows. Snowball fights with Giovanna were dangerous. She threw barehanded and rarely missed. In summer we had water gun fights with blasters. She was a ruthless warrior and never backed down even when I squirted her right in the face.

Over the years my health worsened so I just watched her enjoy these things. Luckily she is clever and enthusiastic about everything we do like Chinese checkers, Crazy Eights, making Xmas cards and harder and harder jigsaw puzzles. We play miniature golf and rarely get a hole in one but her eagerness makes it fun. I savor those moments.

Our favorite activity is painting. She is creative beyond her years so she takes very little direction from me. She mixes her own colors which even some adults don't know how to do. We laugh at our attempts and delight in the results. I have her paintings hanging all around my house. I've sold many of her paintings when I have a table at an art sale.

All the hours when Giovanna and I are on exactly the same wave length is time well spent.