

Joann Smith Brown

“Los Alamos is an amazing town. I feel blessed for my many years living in a beautiful spot,” said Joan Smith Brown, where “friends help friends.”

Having lost her husband, the late Duane Smith to cancer; surviving cancer twice herself; marrying Don Brown, who lost his late wife Mary to cancer; and most recently having lost her daughter Kim to cancer, Joan volunteered for Relay for Life and Reach to Recovery. She has answered many a late night call from those suffering from a serious illness or grieving a loss.

Joan and Duane arrived in Los Alamos in 1959. They raised their daughters Kim and Kelly in Los Alamos, where Duane served as Los Alamos Schools Superintendent from 1972-79, for whom the High School Auditorium was named.



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Music is major component of Joan's life. She played piano and sang in the United Church choir for nearly 60 years, and plays at Aspen Ridge and for weddings and funerals. She has accompanied school choruses and was a rehearsal accompanist for a Light Opera production. She also organized the Hot Flashes, a two-piano, eight-hand piano quartet which has performed for benefits and Fuller Lodge Brown Bag concerts.

Joan served on the YMCA board, is active politically, was on the siting committee for the County Municipal Building, and is president of the Philanthropic Educational Organization, AK Chapter.

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