



Elvida danced to her favorite band at her 90th birthday celebration. Photo credit: Carolyn Gomes Cordova

Elvida's 90th birthday dance celebration!

Elvida, a retired healthcare worker and proud grandmother, was born to dance. You helped her host her 90th birthday dance celebration!

"It is a part of who I am. In fact, it's not something I choose to do—it is something that I have to do."

Ninety-year-old Elvida has always loved dancing.

A Pomo tribe member, Elvida was born and raised in Yucaipa but moved to the picturesque Northern California city of Santa Rosa 70 years ago, where she started her family.

You can help make end-of-life Dreams come true with a gift of \$25.

For work, she picked hops, prunes and grapes in the field. Then she spent 40 years as a nutrition manager at the Sonoma County Indian Health Services, working with moms and their infants and babies. It was a role she loved.

Today, she is retired, and the proud grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother of 106. Her big, beautiful family is her world.

But even while working and raising her family, she never stopped dancing.

"I spent my entire life performing around the country at blues festivals, clubs, casinos, everywhere," she explains.

When she was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, Elvida dreamed of gathering her family around her at a party in celebration of her 90th birthday.

"The truth is that I can't tell you how important it is. Having this party means the world to me."

More than just a celebration of her life, Elvida wanted her whole family to see that she was at peace with its end. That she was going out dancing.

Elvida's daughter, Kathy, and son-in-law, Ruben, offered their back yard, set with tables and chairs for guests with plenty of room for dancing and for the kids to play.

Your gifts helped provide the catering, the all-important dance floor and Elvida's favorite band—"Twice as Good." Elvida has been dancing to their music for years, on and off-stage.



Elvida celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by four generations of her big, beautiful family.



Elvida begins her Art Meditations journey with a set of prints from artist Laina Miller.

The celebration was everything Elvida had dreamed of—and more. Her kids brought their kids, and they brought the grand-kids. Everyone reconnected, reminisced, laughed, ate, drank, and, of course, danced, led by Elvida.

Along with her Dream, Dream Foundation supporter and artist [Laina Miller](#) gifted Elvida a set of Art Meditations; a series of prints for Elvida to decorate using whatever materials she chooses. Another chance for Elvida to pull on the thread of creativity that has held strong throughout her life.

Dream Team teens make the difference!

Dream Team Club members meet regularly at all the schools around our head office in Santa Barbara. They create cards for Dream recipients, plan and run fundraisers and help spread awareness of our programs.

One Saturday per school year, they join Flower Empower in a day of making bouquets for those in need of comfort and cheer in the Santa Barbara area.

The pandemic forced them to put many of their activities on hold, but they are back in action—most recently holding a fundraiser at Kyle's Kitchen in Goleta, California to help raise funds for Dreams!



Our inspiring Dream Team members after their most recent fundraiser in support of the Dream Program held at Kyle's Kitchen.



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Welcome to your May Dream Journal!

Once again, we find ourselves in tumultuous times because of world events. With so much happening across the globe, I wanted to say how grateful I am for your compassionate support for Dream recipients and their families across the nation.



You see, travel restrictions imposed by the onset of the pandemic saw a drop in Dream applications. And, as those restrictions end, the number of Dream requests is rising. That includes the number of requests for family trips to Disneyland, like Jorge's, whose request you can see in "Dreams in progress."

Thank you for being there for terminally-ill adults when they need you. Your support means so much to everyone touched by each Dream.

Thank you for dreaming together with us.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kisa Heyer".

Kisa Heyer
CEO, Dream Foundation

Just two of the Dreams currently in progress!

You help provide inspiration, comfort and closure to those who most need it!

Since being diagnosed with cancer, Allen has had to stop working and rely on others for somewhere to stay. He also found the isolation enforced by Covid hard. He Dreams of visiting Kauai, Hawaii with his brother and caregiver, John. "I want to travel somewhere peaceful and so beautiful that I will be able to forget about cancer and the challenge of life for a while."

Jorge dreams of taking his family to Disneyland and Universal Studios. "I would like to do something fun for my family. I would like to see them smile and feel happy...The last four years have been nothing but pain and suffering and I want them to remember that life is such a wonderful thing to have."

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end-of-life Dreams come
true with a gift of \$25.*



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