

Lorraine Snyder worked with cancer patients

She died of ovarian cancer after working for three years to get the word out about the disease.

Ben Cohen, Star Tribune

Lorraine Snyder, whose ovarian cancer was believed to be misdiagnosed more than seven years ago, could have let her anger get the best of her.

Instead, she found a purpose and worked to help other people with cancer.

The Eden Prairie resident died May 4 in Edina at age 56.

"She wanted to make sure no one else would go through what she went through," said Kathleen Gavin, director of the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance, whose purpose is to raise awareness of the disease through education of the public and physicians, as well as providing support for cancer survivors.

Snyder's ovarian cancer was diagnosed in 2003, and it was in an advanced stage. It may be difficult to diagnose because symptoms are sometimes subtle and may be easily confused with those of other diseases, according to the website of the alliance, which is in St. Louis Park.

Shortly after Snyder's cancer was found, she became active in the alliance, eventually becoming a board member. She was responsible for coordinating the education of medical students. With other cancer survivors, she regularly served as a guest lecturer at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.

Even when sick in bed, she would struggle to get out and lecture medical students or help others with the disease.

Snyder gave Sarah Noonan, an ovarian cancer survivor and alliance board member, hope. "She never, ever gave up," Noonan said.

Snyder, a human resources professional for 30 years, had her own consulting business, Human Resource Strategic Partners, for the past 10 years.

She is survived by her husband, Robert (Tripp) Snyder of Eden Prairie; a son, Brody Felchle of Chicago; a stepson, Sean of Denver; parents Hilbert and Jordis Baumgarten of Durbin, N. D.; sisters Lynette Nieuwsma of Bemidji, Minn.; Cheryl Naze, of Minot, N. D.; brother Rolland Baumgarten of Belfield, N. D.; her former husband, Mitch Felchle of Driggs, Idaho, and two grandchildren.

Services have been held.