



## Volunteer Spotlight

# Case In Point

## LINDA CASE HELPS HEAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

by Joy Blackburn  
MSA Staff Writer

Critical care nurse, teacher, parent, photographer, author, organizer, community leader, and enthusiastic fundraiser, Linda Case had never met her match until Nikki Pfeiffer moved in across the street from her.

“We were friends immediately,” Linda told me during our recent interview. “From 2007 to 2019 we were neighbors in a close-knit cul-de-sac.” Some of these neighbors were leaders in different areas of civic life, including Linda herself who worked with military Veterans. “It was all very dynamic and exciting,” she told me. Linda hosted four to six parties a year for the cul-de-sac, and she never missed one of Nikki’s famous Christmas parties. The two grew close both personally and professionally. “I’d invite Nikki to host a table at my YMCA Veteran’s Breakfast. She’d then invite Veterans from the MSA to come join my events. I’d then invite her to speak to one of my groups, then she’d invite me to make raffle baskets

for one of her fundraisers. It’s like a dance,” Linda said, describing this symbiotic interaction. “Sometimes I would lead, and sometimes Nikki would lead.”

Few people can keep up with either Linda or Nikki, and when the two of them are together, mountains get moved! Linda also respects



*When Linda Case, Chair of the VA Mental Health Council, (above) began teaming up with Nikki Pfeiffer, President and Executive Director of the MS Alliance, the outcome of both women’s efforts quadrupled.*



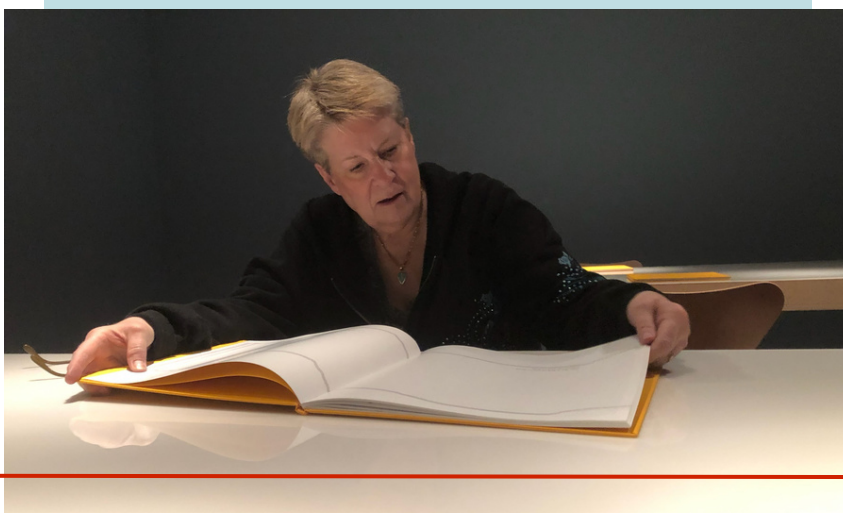
*Left: Writing under the name Linda C. Case, Linda showcases her sixth manuscript at a public book-signing event.*

what Nikki is doing. “For example,” Linda mentioned, “Nikki would host these annual Health Fairs, and that really interested me, not just because of my background as a critical care nurse, but because two of my family members have MS. I learn so much when I’m working alongside Nikki!”

In 2012, Linda’s interest in the MS Alliance grew unexpectedly. “Nikki invited me to help decorate for the MSA Christmas Luncheon,” she remembered. “I was to come early to decorate the dining hall, then stay to help serve meals.” Linda embraced this assignment with joy. She went from table to table, talking to everyone there, listening to their stories, and found herself really caring for these clients. “There are four elements to community service,” Linda said, ticking them off. “Passion, Purpose, Conviction and Action.” This was the day her passion for the MSA was ignited, and she has worked the MSA Christmas Luncheons ever since.

“There was a wheelchair-bound client at these luncheons named Mike Tanous who was a long-time member of PDIS [the Peak Digital Imaging Society] and Treasurer of this photo club,” Linda recalled. “He was a positive influence as both a photographer and a friend.” Last year when he passed, PDIS donated framed photographs from various photographers to the MSA in Mike’s memory. In July, Linda and Nikki arranged a fundraiser at the Academy Art & Frame Company where these framed prints went on display.

*Below: Linda visits the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Art of all kind is deeply meaningful to Linda, and she spends as much time with it as she can.*



*Above: Linda is caught cowering behind Darth Vader’s cape at an MS Alliance Health Fair in 2022. Linda served as event photographer and also passed out cool cloths to refresh participants.*

During their overlapping journeys of community service, Nikki turned to Linda for her talents as a writer, photographer, and community organizer, while Linda drew inspiration from Nikki’s spirit, energy and determination. “One of the things Nikki did that motivated me is when she landed Dianne Derby, the Emmy-Award-

**Right:** Nikki Pfeiffer (on the left) at the MS Alliance's booth during the 2023 sidewalk art event. The Peak Digital Imaging Club donated the framed photographs for the MS Alliance to use as fundraising pieces.



**Left:** Linda came to see her own photograph of a defiant sunflower surviving a storm as a symbol for the fight against multiple sclerosis. She used this image to make beautiful cards for Nikki's recent event thanking caregivers.

winning journalist from KOAA, as a speaker for one of her events," Linda recalled. "Nikki's ability to network is phenomenal!"

No matter what project she and Nikki work on together, Linda always feels as though receives more than she gives. It's a partnership she never sees ending. "God has given me the strength and the energy

to help Nikki," Linda said, summing up her years working alongside her friend. "And that's what I'm going to do until I simply can't do it anymore."

"I call her the Angel of Colorado Springs." ✨

*When I was in critical care nursing, the patients would come in, I'd care for them, then they would leave. There was a beginning and an end-point to my job. What I have learned from Nikki is endurance. Her job is not a short-term commitment. To have the stability - emotionally, physically and spiritually - to go the distance like that is extraordinary.*

*- Linda C. Case*

