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# Colorado teacher, Redwood City native, dies at 44

[Oakland Tribune](#), [Nov 4, 2005](#) by [Nicole Neroulis, STAFF](#)

## WRITER

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REDWOOD CITY -- Sharon Thorpe, a fourth-generation Redwood City native, died Oct. 18 of a heart attack at home in Broomfield, Colo. She was 44.

For the last 16 years, Thorpe worked as a teacher and mentor for juvenile delinquents and at-risk teenagers in Colorado.

"She was getting these kids through classes one at a time to get a high school diploma," said her mother, Clare Thorpe.

As a child, Sharon Thorpe attended St. Pius Elementary School in Redwood City and St. Francis High School in Mountain View. She later transferred from California State University at Chico to San Francisco State University, graduating in 1988.

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While studying pharmacy at the University of Colorado, she instead developed an interest in volunteering at Boulder County Juvenile Jail. From there, she was recruited to work as a mentor, college counselor and "life studies" teacher at Boulder Prep and Justice high schools, charter schools specializing in at-risk teenagers, her mother said.

"She was tough on them, and she didn't take any guff from them, but they knew that she just loved them," Clare Thorpe said. "So many (former students) came to the memorial crying, saying how they wouldn't have graduated college without her."

Although she always hoped Sharon would return to Redwood City, Clare didn't worry much about her daughter's career path.

"I guess I'm so immune to it. I was married to a cop for 40 years," she said. "(Sharon's) grandfather was a policeman and a judge and a county law librarian, and her dad (George Thorpe) retired as a lieutenant in the D.A.'s office."

Sharon Thorpe is survived by her mother, Clare Thorpe, of Redwood City; two brothers, Kevin Thorpe, of Redwood City, and Gregory Thorpe, of Troutdale, Ore.; and her grandmother, Helen Pors, of Belmont.

More than 100 people attended an Oct. 27 memorial service at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Boulder. A memorial Mass will be celebrated 1 p.m. Nov. 19 at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a scholarship fund established in Sharon Thorpe's name for at-risk students at Justice High School, attn: Judge T.J. Cole, 1777 6th St., Boulder CO 80302.

Staff writer Nicole Neroulias can be reached at (650) 306-2427 or nneroulias@sanmateocountytimes.com.

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