

**KAREN THOMASENE JOHNSON  
ANDERSON  
'Mother Figure' For The Homeless  
Dies At 46**

By Lenore Harris Hughes  
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When Karen Thomasene Johnson Anderson succumbed to Hodgkin's disease last month at age 46, the 39 residents at El Paso's Home for the Homeless at 526 West Missouri lost a manager, a friend and "a mother figure."

Karen, who died March 22 in El Paso after a long battle with the illness, would have been 47 this coming Thursday. Her death left a big gap in the operations of the home.

Karen was first diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease while working in New Orleans in 1981. At the time, she was employed by Gulf Coast Contact Lens Co., where she had spent 11 years.

But in 1993, she returned to El Paso, where she had lived as a child, and began looking for a place to stay. She was directed to the Home for the Homeless, where the Rev. Fred S. Morrison said she was soon noticed as a bright, efficient and talented woman. She was asked to take over as the manager of the home, taking care of the needs of the house and its residents and handling the distribution of supplies.

The Rev. Morrison said she quickly became a "mother figure" to the residents.

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