



## Put Some Pizazz in Your Life & Make a Difference!

My pal **Carol Landau** is dying of colorectal cancer. But then, so are a lot of people. **Carol**, however, is literally, having the time of her life doing so. She is living proof that regardless of how sick you are, (she's had an ileostomy bag for 20 years) it's never too late to put some pizazz on your bucket list.

Along the way, she's inspiring childless baby boomers to rethink the rotating charities they tack on to the end of their wills. I think you should know about her.

**Carol** invested her money to live to be 90. She's clearly not going to make it. She has no kids, the rest of her family is financially okay. So...what to do with the money? Give it to a college? Leave it to a cat? **Carol** had a different idea.

In 2011, at age 60, she retired as a Florida municipal clerk and headed her camper across the USA to work on her bucket list. (& to visit me at the Western end!)

As she drove she visited small towns and quietly donated to animal and wildlife rehab centers, a children's corner in a public library and a homeless shelter. Twenty-three weeks and 11,608 miles later she was home. Rather than deplete her strength, the trip energized her. She made another trip in 2012.

**Carol** was struck with the impact a relatively small donation could have on an entire community, and how good it felt to give this way. When illness cut a third trip short in 2013, she decided to amp up her giving.

Volunteer fire depts. became a special focus. Most need simple things: helmets, hoses, jaws of life, even boots! She bought them. When a child died in a home fire because the local dept. lacked the gear to go into a burning building. **Carol** bought them 6 sets of gear.

Living in Seattle, I was clueless about how little money the volunteer depts in small towns have. At one point **Carol** gave a fire chief a check for \$8,000.

He teared up, telling her it more than quadrupled his annual budget!

Small towns talk. Suddenly **Carol** found herself in the local news. Two of us have promoted her to the Ellen DeGeneres Show (Keep your fingers crossed!). Since other folks want to get involved, **Carol** and some pals are setting up a website matching donors & projects. 4 details, check her blog [www.Carolsadventures.com](http://www.Carolsadventures.com)

What stands out is that this is not big stuff. This is useful, practical, pretty easy stuff . . . that makes a big difference. She's certainly making me rethink end of life giving!

*In addition to her gift-giving, Carol's been checking off a bucket list including such items as:*

- Participating in a Native American canoe paddle with 51 tribes and 98 canoes.
- Doing wildlife rehab with Capuchin monkeys, lemurs, deer, and a host of other animals.
- Crewing at the Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Fiesta.
- Riding in the Goodyear blimp—twice!

Yep, she's dying, but she's going out with pizazz! Let that be your inspiration!

### Truth is:

As Humor Pal **Don Nilsen's** photo shows, these days are so hectic that we often don't know whether we're coming or going.



The best part about having friends like you is that it doesn't matter. My life is enriched by you, no matter in what direction we're traveling!

*Patt*