

CELEBRATING ANNI

Celebrating a Legacy of Inspiration, Laughter and Love



Cherishing Anni

A parent always knows that their child is special. They see the beauty in them from the time they are born, watching them learn and grow into the unique character they were meant to be. From the beginning, the family gathers together and supports them, making sure they know they are loved and cherished.

But every once in a great while, there comes a child so extraordinary that God ordains their light to shine far beyond the circle of their own family. Their kindness, compassion, and spirit touch everyone they meet, and before long they are known not only within their community, but across their state, and even throughout the nation. Their life becomes a testament to the remarkable difference one person can make simply by being the unique individual they are. Annika Meier was one of those incredibly special people.

It was there in her smile, in her sense of humor, and it was displayed in a genuine good-

ness that literally called to people, even when she couldn't anymore. Events were held for her, scholarships developed, and footwear manufactured. A literal army was built to launch her non-profit organization to raise important funds.

She inspired all of us in a way that will never be forgotten. Anni left every life she touched a little brighter, every heart a little fuller, and the world a better place than she found it.



Honoring Anni



REVIEW SUMMER 2026

Remembering Anni

Annika "Anni" Katherine Meier, beloved daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and friend gained her angel wings on May 5, 2026, after a five-year battle with brain cancer, posterior fossa syndrome, radiation necrosis, and recurrent cancer.

Born on May 1, 2009, in Grand Rapids, she accomplished so much throughout her short life - a decorated ski racer, passionate soccer player, avid reader, lover of animals and babies, so very happy when outdoors taking in nature - fishing, swimming, kayaking or savoring a slice of watermelon while rocking in a chair on the deck.

She was a cheerful and grateful young lady - she found joy in a glorious sunrise or sunset, the first snowfall of the season and polishing off ribs while daintily enjoying them. She loved organizing, managing the laundry when mom traveled and frequently offered backrubs and hair "cuts" in her at home beauty salon for a minimal cost. She took advantage of every opportunity to keep her brothers in line and loved them so very much.

She loved traveling, flight was exciting for her and she was so, so grateful to be able to fly with her brother Cam as her pilot in October 2025. GO BLUE! A lover of Michigan football, she lit up when she found out pre-game field passes were on the docket when we made it to a game in October 2025 or when she received video encouragement from some of her favorite players. She was delighted to attend many West Michigan Whitecaps games over the past few years - she loved watching baseball (and watching her brothers work).

Perhaps what brought her the most laughter over

the past few years was her golden retriever, Tucker. What a joyful, sweet and hilarious dog! God sure knew what he was doing when he blessed us with Tucker.

Pink defined her and she was known as "Pink Lightning" on the ski slopes while competing for WinAlpine Ski Team (WA coaches and ski families - some of our family's best memories are from the years spent with you all).

She was the catalyst behind Anni's Army Foundation, founded by the Meier family in 2021 in honor of Annika. Annika was involved throughout, taking joy in each and every Anni's Gift we were able to grant to other pediatric brain cancer patients and their families across the state of Michigan or donations to PORT and AYA at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

She was the light of many lives, a source of hope and encouragement for so many, offering sass ("Sassy Sissy"), hilarity ("dur") and a warm smile even in the toughest of times. She was a warrior and an eternal optimist, unapologetically confident that she would win the battle. Her manners were impeccable and she had heartfelt empathy for those on their own cancer journey and their caregivers.

We are forever indebted to the health care professionals at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital - to all the techs, therapists, nurses, physicians, care managers, social workers, etc. who loved on our girl, thank you. You became family throughout Annika's battle. Despite the seriousness of Annika's journey, she was so grateful for the care and was never scared to be admitted as a patient on floor 9 - she looked forward to decorating her hospital room with photos, signs

and the softest blankets, turning on the essential oil diffuser, talking about music and puppies and filling her room with Squishmallows (especially Giant Carl).

To the leadership, administrative staff, teachers, para pros, coaches, security staff and therapy dogs at Rockford Public Schools, along with her LINKs (Kate and Emma) and nurses (Kelly, Jennifer, Ramona, Becky and Matt) - thank you will never be enough to convey our appreciation for your dedication to Annika. She thrived at school and so loved her years at East Rockford Middle School, Rockford Freshman Center and Rockford High School. Despite her physical limitations, you found a way to make our girl feel "normal" and included. The entire Rockford community has been beyond supportive.

To Sarah, Dr. Bradd and Rebecca at Anchors/Hospice of Michigan. Your compassionate care of Annika has been nothing short of angelic. We've shared so many laughs, especially about Tucker, newer TVs and Dr. Bradd's guitar skills. We are so grateful to you and the entire Palliative Care Team at HDVCH. Sarah - what a gift to have you and Becca with us as Annika was welcomed into heaven. Words cannot describe what it meant to have your strength and support here for our family.

We gaze forward to the time we will be reunited in the beautiful kingdom of heaven. Until then, we know Annika is with us and her kind, funny, energetic, empathetic, warrior spirit lives on! When you see a rainbow, a snowflake, a puppy or a baby think fondly of our girl because she will be thinking fondly of you!

~The Meier Family