



Mary Catherine Hook Virnig

April 19, 1988 - November 25, 2010

Mary Catherine was born on April 19, 1988 in St. Paul, MN to Patti Hook and Arden Virnig. They moved to Sioux Falls, SD to attend Family Practice residency. Mary was known for her brilliant eyes and long hair, which required braiding to maintain any form of control. She loved to visit the Hook farm even as a toddler and was often found peering through the fence eye to eye with 20 yearling heifers. The young family moved to Onamia, MN where Mary attended and graduated from Onamia Public Schools. She participated in band, speech, 4-H and was a 3-sport athlete. She strove for excellence as a state cross-country runner, basketball captain, champion beef show person, and class valedictorian. She broke the school record in the 1600 meter run. She was the Minnesota Simmental Queen and president of the Minnesota Junior Simmental Association. She was baptized in the United Methodist Church, Tracy, MN and confirmed in Bethany Lutheran Church, Onamia, MN. Mary had planned to run cross-country at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls (UWRF), while pursuing her academic plans to become a large-animal veterinarian. Unfortunately she was diagnosed with a childhood cancer, neuroblastoma, in a pre-participation physical. She earned the title "Warrior Princess" during her treatments with chemotherapy, radiation, stem cell transplant, and research protocols. Ultimately she developed treatment-induced acute myelogenous leukemia which failed to respond to a cord blood transplant.

Mary loved her Simmental cattle and being a student at UWRF, but adored

her family. Nothing was more enjoyable for Mary than family time. Mary enjoyed broomball, ice skating, soccer, water skiing or simply sitting in the pasture watching her calf crop and cooking for friends and family. A life-changing experience for her was teaching inner city Chicago children during her church youth group's service trips.

Mary's strength, tenacity and ability to set goals were truly remarkable. She lived her life abundantly. Her ability to lie in a bed for days and even weeks yet deliver a dead-pan one-liner to make a nurse or doctor smile never faded.

Mary is survived by her mother Patti and her father Arden, sister Sarah and brothers Zachary and Samuel; grandfather Eugene Hook; Godparents Veronica and Gary Ives, Tom and Shannon Hook; Godchild Gabriella Mary Ehman. Aunts and Uncles: Ann and Donald Hoechst, Christina and James Meyer, Donna Virnig and James Behmke, Linda and John Kaufmann, Terrence and Janice Virnig, Daniel and Carla Virnig, Barb Virnig, Michael and Ruth Virnig. Cousins: Will, Bexsy and Kaitlyn Virnig; Eric Virnig; Cathy and Patrick Culligan; Jacob, Jamie and Matthew Virnig; Elicia and Ryan Rogers; Benjamin and Nora Kaufmann; Justin and Jessica Virnig; Leah and Joseph Hoechst; Isaac Meyer; Joshua, Joseph, Cassandra, Sarita and Annaka Hook; Susan, Dominic and Matthew Ehman.

Mary was preceded in death by baby brother Isaac Jeremiah, grandparents Mary Alice (Towler) Hook, W.J. Virnig, Catherine Eleanor (Kuisle) Virnig, and step-grandmother Shirley Virnig.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **28**. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Center - Onamia
102 Crosier Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Catherine Hook Virnig*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Dear Patti - I don't know if you remember me but we met many years ago in 4-H (Golden Gophers). I'm in San Antonio now but mom called from Morgan to let me know about your loss.*

I am so very very sorry for you and my heart goes out to you and your family. Be strong and know that she's in a wonderful safe place where nothing can harm her - and that she's just waiting patiently for you.

You are definately in my prayers.

Suzy.##imported-begin##Suzanne (Suzy) Fischer##imported-end##

December 14, 2010 at 09:29 PM



“ *Everyone at the Ronald McDonald House is thinking of your family and wishing you peace of mind. Mary Catherine was a brilliant, beautiful and courageous young woman. We are grateful to have known her and your entire family.*

Meg##imported-begin##Ronald McDonald House Charities##imported-end##

November 30, 2010 at 05:39 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies goes out to your loved ones on this most difficult time. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Much Respect,

Louise Davis and Family##imported-begin##Louise Davis##imported-end##

November 29, 2010 at 02:51 PM



“ *Mary Catherine you are in our thoughts and prayers today. May a perpetual light shine on you, your family and friends as they deal with this difficult loss. You no longer have pain and suffering... God has a beautiful place waiting for you. God Bless##imported-begin##Mark, Paula, Hannah and Abigail Kuisle##imported-end##*

November 29, 2010 at 11:30 AM



“ *Dear Arden and Patti,
An extraordinary journey for Mary Catherine, you, and your loved ones and friends. She touched so many, many lives. I am very saddened by your loss, but also encouraged by another lovely angel in heaven.*

*God bless you and surround you with love now and always,
Barb Eller##imported-begin##Barb Eller##imported-end##*

November 29, 2010 at 11:22 AM