



Mae Isabelle Helgeson

December 03, 2012 - September 09, 2024

Mae Isabelle Helgeson, age 11 of Lake Mills, passed away on Monday, September 9, 2024 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, from injuries sustained in an accident.

A public visitation for Mae will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at her home, 24342 470th Street, Lake Mills. Please park vehicles at Salem Memorial Cemetery or on the south side of the aronia berry field.

Mae's services will be private with family and close friends in attendance.

Schott Funeral Homes Mittelstadt Chapel, 902 E. Main St. in Lake Mills has been entrusted to care for Mae and her family.

Mae Isabelle Helgeson was born on December 3, 2012 in Des Moines, to parents Matthew and Julianne (Catlin) Helgeson. From the moment she entered this world, she made it a better place.

Mae blessed us all with unbound, joyful and contagious love. Her parents wrapped their arms around her at the moment of birth never letting go, and that learned love became her center which spread onto her family and all of her friends. She filled the world around her with light and a powerful energy. From an early age she shared her enlightening spirit with her family as she sat on every lap she could, brushed her hair in your face, always smiling, giggling, and singing all the way. If you were lucky enough to know Mae well and form a close connection, you knew her boisterous and loud side. You knew how intensely she pursued her passions, and also witnessed her gentle, caring touch. But mostly, you felt the love pouring from her soul into yours. A special kind of love that was only hers to share. A love that will endure forever in your heart.

Mae's love was a force of nature. For Mae, nature was understood to be the place we are meant to be. With a keen eye led by limitless curiosity and wonder for the world around her, Mae lived for adventures, big and small. From hiking, kayaking, and fishing, to discovering various creatures and their life cycles, she had a thirst to learn all she could about life surrounding us in our natural world. Mae found epic beauty in birding and photography, her ultimate passions with endless limits. Whether she was engaging in backyard birding, spending 4 hours tracking warblers, or taking day trips to scout rare owl species, she was always filled with excitement and fueled by curiosity. There were no trees planted, no gardens tended to, and no prairie flowers picked without her being involved, often pinned to her parents' side, eagerly helping along the way. Mae simply was not Mae without a healthy dose of outdoor time each day. On her own accord, Mae would start each day taking care of her many bird and squirrel feeders, perches and bird baths around the house; never a chore, rather an honor for her to take care of her friends.

Mae's world opened around her and her light shined as bright as ever when she began home-schooling at age 8. While blessed and guided by her mother to lean into her passions, her love for

nature and the arts developed from the start and continued to flourish as she grew. And so did her joy with others around her. After realizing field guides and the internet could only take her so far in her hobby of birding, she looked to others and created incredible friendships with fellow birders and photographers who mentored her. Eventually, she would even mentor them in her own ways.

The Ponderosa was such a special place for Mae. The songbirds, owls, raptors, bass, crayfish, deer, and special trails knew Mae so well. She soaked up the serenity and solitude of it all and was so excited to share her special place with dear friends. Day after day following a new adventure, Mae would proclaim, "This is the best day ever!" Her family is at peace knowing she lived life to its fullest with so much abundant joy.

Mae loved good food! She would eat her mom's sourdough bread with a fried egg from her chickens nearly every morning. She loved tacos, and would eat them daily if she could. Another favorite was a ripe, juicy peach, which she was always willing to share with her brothers, Henrik and Oscar, as they sat outside together.

Mae's joyfulness will be missed by her parents, Matthew and Julianne Helgeson of Lake Mills, and her two younger brothers, Henrik and Oscar. She is also survived by grandparents Don & Charlotta Catlin of Park Rapids, MN and Mike & Rosalie Helgeson of Lake Mills; aunts and uncles: C.C. & David Starkweather of Overland Park, KS, Eric & Jennifer Catlin of Horace, ND, Joel Catlin of Ankeny, IA, Ryan & Kelli Helgeson of Lake Mills, and Justin & Megan Helgeson of Milford, IA; cousins Charley, Daphney, Burke, Fiona, Wyatt, Willa, Drew, Josie, Hayden, Conner, Lane and Brooks; her dog Gus; and many extended relatives and friends.

She was welcomed into Heaven by her great-grandparents Elmer & Charlotte Brickman, Paul & Marie Catlin, Melburn & Cleone "Toni" Knudtson, and Milford & Doris Helgeson.

Condolences can be sent to Schott Funeral Home, 902 E. Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450. Please note "Mae Helgeson's family" on the envelope.

Tribute Wall

L

Leora and Hayden

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

A

Al Batt

You are all nestled gently in my thoughts.



"Material_candle_green_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson

 [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

F

Funeral Home Owner



"Funeral Home Owner posted a video"

 [Watch now](#)

G

Grand View Wrestling

All of us at Grand View send our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to Mae's entire family.



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

G

Geneva and John Hagen

We've been thinking of you all at this difficult time. Many Hugs and much Love sent.



"Material_candle_white_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson

 [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

T

The Freeborn County Corn and Soybean Growers Board

Our deepest sympathy,



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

D

DJ.Linda Raduenz & Family

Maes beautiful spirit soars high above the trees, watching over her loving family and friends. Thinking of you all with our deepest sympathy.



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

A

Anonymous

B

Bruce Rogness



"Material_candle_navy_thumbnail"
was lit in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson

❤ Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

J

Jenny and Kevin Hanson

To the family of Mae Helgeson and to honor her love of the outdoors and nature!



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

J

Jenny Hanson

I will never forget the conversation I had with Mae this last spring. I was excited to see robins Out in the yard as a sign of spring coming. And Mae told me how when the robins are bouncing around on the ground, it draws the worms up and she gave me a whole education on how nature works. I loved having the opportunity to cut her hair and hear her stories and how amazing and smart and beautiful she was and a smile that was absolutely contagious!

K

Kathy Abraham

So sorry for your families loss. I remember her and Abrianna being the 2 littlest girls in Mrs. Greenfield's class in preschool. Everyone thought they were so cute. Many prayers, thoughts and hugs being sent to you and your family during this time. May God wrap his heavenly arms around you all.



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was lit in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson

❤ Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

A

Anonymous

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of Mae Isabelle Helgeson.

M

Michelle Versteeg

We are lifting your family in prayer.

M

Michael Byars

So sorry for your loss. Have been praying for her and the family. Hoping that the good memories will help you and your family.

L

Leah Engelbarts

Mae had such a vibrant & caring personality. She truly was one of a kind. She will be missed by so many. We would like to share a couple fun memories that Skylar had with Mae. They always had such a good time together when they had the opportunity to hang out. —Matt, Leah & Skylar

**A**

Anonymous

C

Constance Rupp

You have our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathies. We've been praying for Mae and your entire Family ever since the accident. We are sending a lot of Love to all of you. Bobby & Connie Rupp

D

Dan, Emily, Cooper, and Emmett

Your Love and kindness for all things will continue through all that were blessed enough to know you. Love,

A

Anonymous

What an incredible legacy Mae left. May these trees spread her infectious energy. We will hold you all close to our hearts with continued prayers.

C

Connie Doscher

I'm so sorry to hear this. My heart filled sympathies to all the Helgeson family. Keeping you in my prayers. Connie Chose Doscher.

R

Rebecca May

Mae was quiet, yet had a radiant smile. I very much enjoyed getting to know her when she was a student in Lake Mills. I'm praying for all involved. ??

A

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mae Isabelle Helgeson

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Mittelstadt Funeral Home

