



Rylee Madison Hanson

November 11, 2005 - February 21, 2026

Our free-spirited baby girl, Rylee Madison Hanson unexpectedly gained her wings to continue her journey on February 21st, 2026. While Rylee lived on this earth only 20 short years, the impact she made will last a lifetime for those who knew her. Rylee was an honors graduate of Kankakee Valley High School in Demotte, Indiana where she dually achieved certification as an EMT from Ivy Tech Community College. While in high school, Rylee was elected by students and faculty to proudly represent her school at HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) where she continued annual attendance as a youth counselor mentoring teenagers throughout Indiana. She then began pursuing her dream of forensic criminology at Indiana University. But her passions did not stop there. Rylee loved to travel experiencing dream destinations of Hawaii, France, and Ireland. Rylee could always be found chasing her next concert, participating in scares at Haunted Hills, cooking, drawing, dancing, and singing her heart out.

Rylee will live forever in the hearts of her dad and mom, Michael and Cassie Hanson. Rylee cherished the unbreakable bond she shared with her younger siblings, Michael, Nathan, and Abbie Hanson; as well as, her blended family, Emily (Steve) Alexander and siblings, Lincoln and Lucas Alexander and Jaiden Jillson. The love and memories continued through her many grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and beloved cat, Snick.

Rylee's contagious laugh and endless jokes will stay with us for a lifetime. Her beauty and ability to light up the room will continue through the stars above.

Rylee would say to those that loved her, "Until we meet again. Meow"

A celebration of life will take place Saturday March 14th, 2026, from 1pm-6pm
at D.W.'s Junction 2-65 2971 E. 181st Place, Hebron, IN.

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory entrusted with arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **14**. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

D.W.'s Junction
2-65 2971 E. 181st Place
Hebron, IN 46341

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Charles F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Charles F. - March 14 at 08:15 AM

BH

“ Blake H. purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Blake H. - March 13 at 06:03 PM

BH

“ Blake H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Blake H. - March 13 at 06:03 PM

HT

“ Herscher transportation team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Herscher transportation team - March 13 at 01:42 PM

HT

“ Herscher transportation team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Herscher transportation team - March 13 at 01:42 PM

TF

“ The Joyce Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



The Joyce Family - March 13 at 01:40 PM

TF

“ The Joyce Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

The Joyce Family - March 13 at 01:40 PM

FI

“ From Rylee's S.P.E.A. family at IUN purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



From Rylee's S.P.E.A. family at IUN - March 13 at 11:31 AM

FI

“ From Rylee's S.P.E.A. family at IUN planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

From Rylee's S.P.E.A. family at IUN - March 13 at 11:31 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



March 12 at 10:13 PM

LF

“ Love the Wiggins family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Love the Wiggins family - March 12 at 05:53 PM

LF

“ Love the Wiggins family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Love the Wiggins family - March 12 at 05:53 PM



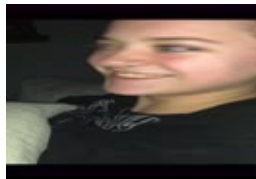
“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.* ”



March 08 at 08:35 PM

ML

“ I’ve already posted on here, but I wanted to share some photos of Rylee that I have. She and I spent so much time together, and I couldn’t be more grateful. Every memory that she is in I will forever cherish, and I wish I could share them with everyone. I honestly can’t stop thinking about her and her family and how devastating this is. It still doesn’t feel real, but I’m up right now thinking about her and I just thought I’d share some photos. For context, the one with the tic tac toe board is the first time she was able to beat me. We went to cup of joy a lot, and around Valentine’s Day they set up these tic tac toe boards on the tables, and every time we went we would play. It took countless tries, but eventually she won, fair and square. She was so proud. I also love that photo of her with our turtle. That was one of the first times she ever came over, and I didn’t know it then, but she would eventually mean the world to me. She eventually started to come over a lot. It started as just wanting to watch the Hunger Games. One day we got around to watching Mockingjay part 1, and I told her we should wait because if we watch part one she’ll want to watch part two. She pointed out that it was still pretty early and we had time for both, but I told her I wanted her to have an excuse to come back. Without missing a beat she told me that as long as I was home she would have an excuse. I am so grateful that I had her in my life. I can’t even remember the context of the video, but it’s still so funny, and really just because her laugh was so infectious. I can’t watch it without laughing, and I don’t even remember what it was really about. I’ve done so much reminiscing lately I decided I’d share these photos and some stories because maybe it would make the family smile and laugh like they do for me. She truly was such an amazing person, and she deserved so much better, both from me and from fate. My love to the Hanson family, as always. Thank you for allowing me to know such a wonderful person. Best wishes ♡♡



Maddi Lee - March 04 at 12:55 AM

EB

“ Eleanor B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Eleanor B. - March 02 at 11:54 AM

DH

“ I first became friends with Rylee in 2023 during our junior staff year of HOBY. Even before that I remember thinking “wow, she is such a cool person and I want to be her friend.” I learned she wasn’t just cool and fun, but also one of the most passionate and kind people I had ever met. I still remember her favorite cheer during the seminars was “little red wagon” and she’d always lead it with such enthusiasm. She was always a friend who we could lean on, and taught us how to have fun and live life to the fullest. She embodied HOBY’s messages and I know each and every person who knew her will carry the light she gave shared with them. It is very rare in this life to meet someone with the passion and love that Rylee had, and I will forever be grateful to have called her my friend. I love you Rylee and I’m sorry I never got to go dancing with you ☐
-Dani (HOBY)



Danielle Hoffman - February 27 at 08:31 PM



“ Express Sympathy and Condolences "I Have You in My Heart" with Butterfly Wind Chime was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.

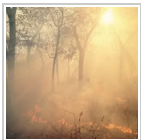


February 27 at 09:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

February 27 at 09:04 AM



“ I've taught at IU Northwest for 34 years and somehow have developed insight into which students come to us as true gems that will further grow and develop into outstanding scientists and humanitarians. In just a few weeks this semester, it was perfectly clear that Rylee was an exceptional student who was going to expand in so many directions and make incredible contributions to lives of so many folks. Her sudden passing can leave everyone who knew her feeling helpless....but it shouldn't. If each of us strives, as Rylee was, to excel in what we do and to do so with complete compassion for everyone, then Rylee will, in a way, live on for decades.

Spencer Cortwright

Spencer Cortwright - February 26 at 03:00 PM



“ Aunt H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Aunt H. - February 26 at 02:47 PM

HE

“*Fly high beautiful angel and spread your wings. You are so loved and will be deeply missed. You have accomplished so much in 20 years. Gone too soon, but you will never be forgotten. I will forever treasure the memories. RIP beautiful girl love you forever, Aunt Heidi*

Heidi - February 26 at 02:35 PM

JW

“*Rylee was a student in my chemistry class this spring at IUN. She was the type of student every professor hopes for - not just academically talented, but also attentive, engaged, interested, kind, and helpful. Rylee was excited about chemistry because she knew it was related to her goals of forensic science, but she also genuinely wanted to figure things out. In class, when I asked a question of the students, she would often quietly but clearly give an answer. During discussion sessions, she worked diligently on the problems, not afraid to ask me for help because she clearly was interested in figuring out the process. What really struck me was her kindness in helping her fellow classmates when they were stuck with a problem. She would patiently guide them in a problem and answer their questions. Her confidence in chemistry was increasing and I am heartbroken for her loss. My sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends. She will be remembered by our class and missed.*

Jessica Warren - February 26 at 01:21 PM

LM

“ I didn't know you but my granddaughter worked with you at the Haunt and when she called me so heart broken it hurt me as well... I'm sorry you were taken way too soon but you'll forever be remembered. Heaven received a beautiful angel. My sincere condolences to your families/close friends, fellow workers. 🌸🙏🌸



Lisa Medellin - February 26 at 12:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

February 26 at 10:21 AM

CF

“ Chris Farr purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Chris Farr - February 25 at 11:59 PM

CF

“ When i first met rylee, it was my second year working at the haunted house. From the start she had high energy, I loved that about her. As a cast member from haunt, I can say she had this hidden talented spooky character that was meant to be heard. I really enjoyed every moment i had working with her, weather it was at haunt or at the production side of haunt. I will truly miss her as she was a close friend and my heart goes out to her family as they raised an amazing free spirited woman.



Chris farr - February 25 at 11:49 PM



“ I remember Rylee and your family back when I was in Hobart. As a consequence of my profession my heart has gone through these sad events more times than I can count. But that same heart tells me that compared to the vastness of time, this separation is but temporary. We will meet again.

Dr. Marc Connery.

Marc Connery - February 25 at 11:42 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



February 25 at 09:26 PM

HW

“ I met Rylee when I was an ambassador at HOBY in 2023 and she was a member of Junior Staff! Her lust for life and enthusiasm shined on the stage when she led cheers. We got to connect last year on the special assistant team and had many meaningful chats. She will always be a light for others! Until we meet again, sweet girl!
-Hannah Webster (HOBY Indiana)

Hannah Webster - February 25 at 12:39 PM

CH



Cassie Hanson - February 25 at 11:16 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



February 25 at 10:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

February 25 at 10:49 AM



“ I first met Rylee at HOBY Indiana in 2022, and she continued to be an incredible friend for the years to come. Rylee was always one to brighten up a room. She always knew how to tell a joke to make me laugh (especially when I was stressed out with work during the seminar) or how to make me smile when I was crying and sad to leave. One of my favorite quotes from this past year at HOBY that shows her humor is from when she pulled a “push” door and said “It’s sooooo hard being so smart and so pretty;” that ended up being something we repeated throughout the week. I have so many pictures of Rylee doing the funniest poses and faces (I’ve included some of my favorite pictures from HOBY 2025), but that’s not to say there weren’t serious moments as well. She always let you know how much she loved you and she never let you forget it. And she was so insanely dedicated to whatever task she was assigned to-- no matter what she was going to get the job done and done well.

I love you and miss you dearly, Rylee. Rest easy my friend.



Julie Monesmith - February 25 at 10:45 AM

CH

Thank you for sharing this. I am so glad she was part of the amazing journeys at HOBY and that she has so many great friends there. I love that she will live on in so many people. ❤️

Cassie Hanson - February 25 at 11:18 PM

AD

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. Rylee was an angel here on earth that touched so many souls. I am a mother of a girl whom she made such a huge impact on. She helped my daughter Mariah transition into high school. She was my daughter's mentor. Because of her free and confident spirit, my daughter and her quickly grew their friendship. She gave my daughter confidence to be herself and the freedom to express her creativity. She touched so many with her beautiful personality. Mariah loved to go to Haunted Hills and visit her and see her new dramatic role! We are very blessed to have known such an amazing lady. I pray my daughter will continue her spirit. I know my daughter is devastated and we will pray for all of you through this.

April Degani

April Degani - February 25 at 09:54 AM

CH

Thank you for sharing. I am so glad that your daughter will carry Rylee with her forever. Thank you for being part of my baby girls journey.

Cassie Hanson - February 25 at 11:20 PM

Jl

“ I didn't get a chance to know Rylee as long as some. But the little time I did know her, was enough time for her to make a big enough impact on me, that I'll forever be grateful to have known her. My condolences to her family friends.

Juan M Jayme II - February 25 at 09:24 AM

SI

“ Sally Cespedes (classmate from IUN) purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Sally Cespedes (classmate from IUN) - February 25 at 12:36 AM

SI

“ Sally Cespedes (classmate from IUN) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Sally Cespedes (classmate from IUN) - February 25 at 12:36 AM



“ i was only a friend through an art class my sophomore year of high school but that year changed my life. you were such an inspiring person and i wanted to be like you, who was always lighting up the room no matter where you went, full of passion and love. i miss you so much and i hope you're resting easy. 💕💕

Megan Munro - February 24 at 11:19 PM

KF

“ Karlie Mann, with her parents and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Karlie Mann, with her parents and family - February 24 at 10:08 PM

KF

“ *Karlie Mann, with her parents and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.*



Karlie Mann, with her parents and family - February 24 at 10:08 PM



“ *Dear sweet Rylee, I met you when you were about 5 or 6 years old. I was your cheerleading coach. I will always remember the most beautiful little girl I'd ever seen walking into my classroom with your long blonde hair in pigtails, and crystal blue eyes shining. Not only were you beautiful, but you were so talented! Fearless, confident, and a true star. I knew you were destined for great things. I will always remember you as that little bright star, and I will look to the skies for you at night.*

*All my love,
Kristen Paris*

Antonia Schiralli - February 24 at 09:05 PM

CH



Cassie Hanson - February 24 at 10:48 PM

KM

“ *I wish I could take the pain away from the loss of your baby girl. She was the light in your eyes and the joy in your heart. Rylee was loved by many, and missed by anyone who knew her. Love you all!*

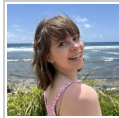
Karen Maynard - February 24 at 08:12 PM

CW

“ Rylee was one of my closest friends from HOBY. I have so many sweet memories with her, all filled with an abundance of joy because of her bright spirit and contagious laugh. I will always remember how much she loved our "jorts" that we made with another friend the first year, and how she made sure that they were passed each year to the next person. They were the traveling HOBY jorts!



Camryn Williams - February 24 at 05:57 PM



The jorts!! I love this so much. <3

Julie Monesmith - February 25 at 12:19 PM

LF

“ Louise Frazee lit a candle in memory of Rylee Madison Hanson



Louise Frazee - February 24 at 05:01 PM

BH

“ Rylee, you were such a sweet, loving girl from the time you were born. You were so full of love for everyone, especially your family, so very talented throughout those 20 years . We love you and will miss you dearly. Aunt Brenda And uncle Gary.



Brenda Heims - February 24 at 04:41 PM

ML

“ I am so beyond sorry, and I can't even imagine how you are feeling right now. My relationship with Rylee got complicated towards the end, and we eventually stopped talking, but I never stopped loving her. And I never will. She was everything to me, and I hope she knew that. Right after it happened I completely broke down out of nowhere and I texted her and apologized for my role in our falling out. I don't know how, but it's like I knew. I just wish I had texted her sooner, and I wish I had been able to fix things. I loved her intensely and unconditionally, and while we weren't talking towards the end, I thought about her almost daily. I wrote dozens of letters to her that I kept in my journal, saying I wished her well and I loved and missed her. She was a beautiful soul to be around, and I will spend every second of my life regretting that I didn't tell her that when I had the chance. She was an amazing person, and wherever that beautiful soul is floating around now, I know that mine will find it someday, and then we will meet again. Until then, I miss you and love you forever Rylee.

Maddi Lee - February 24 at 03:54 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.*



February 24 at 03:53 PM



“ *I didn't know your beautiful daughter I saw the story and I just wanted to say I'm so sorry for the loss of such an amazing young lady my heart hurts for you sending deepest condolences*

Just another parent - February 24 at 03:30 PM



“ *I did not know her but I will forever remember her dancing on that video. Im soooo sorry you all lost such an amazing friend. Hugs to you Karlie mann*

Lori Bales - February 24 at 03:25 PM



“ *Love always Cornell and Jodi Smith purchased the I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.*



Love always Cornell and Jodi Smith - February 24 at 03:16 PM

LJ

“ I did not know her. I only read about this terrible accident that took this beautiful young woman.
I am so sorry and will pray for all her family and friends! ❤️🙏🙏🙏
🙏🙏

Laurie Jones - February 24 at 02:35 PM

FF

“ To the parents, I'm sending my heartfelt condolences to each of you during this tough time. Rylee was such a beautiful young lady and student. There are no words that can comfort your broken hearts at this time.
Please know that God will take care of her as she rests in his care. I pray God continues to strengthen you and your family during this difficult time.



*Felicia Freeman
Biology Dept (IUN)*

Felicia Freeman - February 24 at 01:57 PM



“ Rylee was a childhood friend of mine. I played soccer for her dad's team with her brother, Michael as one of my closest teammates. We all became so close between playing soccer, chasing around her younger siblings, and watching ghost stories on her phone. I wish I stayed in touch after they all moved. The last time I saw Rylee, we were both EMT students for different schools. I was directing my group to find the fake patients for triage. As I was talking, Rylee came running down the hall at me for the biggest and best hug ever! We started to catch up briefly and then sprinted through the hallway together with our classmates to find and traige patients. During the event she had the brightest smile and best laugh (she always did tho). I'll never forget it.

Rylee you'll be missed by so many. You left the best impact on the world. Until we meet again, kick up those boots and save me a dance.

Alexa Alias - February 24 at 01:05 PM

SD

“ Sophia D planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rylee Madison Hanson.

Sophia D - February 24 at 12:35 PM

SD

“ Sophia D purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Rylee Madison Hanson.



Sophia D - February 24 at 12:35 PM

MV

“ Rylee and I used to hangout while we were in middle school. We'd talk in classes and hangout downtown in Hobart with other friends. I remember her always being energetic, funny, kind, and definitely a little crazy, but in the best way. I still have videos of some of the crazy middle school activities we'd get into downtown back then. I even shared these with her again a couple years ago.

I saw her and started talking to her again briefly recently at Hobart's 4th of July parades and at Ivy Tech graduation when we both graduated. I wish we hadn't grown apart so much after middle school. Rylee was a great friend and great to be around. I'll miss you, Rylee. Fly high.

Michael Vukobratovich - February 24 at 12:21 PM

PA

“ Cassie, Michael and kids, my heart hurts so bad for you all. I wish I could take this all away. As we all know I can't and no one else can. We all will send hugs and prayers your way, that someday this pain will ease some. That you as a family can look back and find only smiles when you look at her beautiful pictures and Videos. Be thankful GOD gave her to you and you provided a wonderful full life, with love and adventures for her short time Thank you for letting me be able to watch her grow.

Rylee, you were as close to a beautiful Angel, to so many people here on earth. When around you I felt the positive energy you always had . Wear those wings proud and dance in that beautiful sky now. You earned them
Love you baby girl ,Patty

Patty - February 24 at 12:18 PM



“ Rylee was one of my closest friends in middle school. Her heart was so big, and she had the sweetest soul. One day I was really upset and couldn't breathe and she skipped choir class just to talk to me, just to be a friend. She always checked up on anyone who was in need. I wish time never made us drift. I love you Rylee.

Alexandria-Taylor Paris - February 24 at 11:34 AM