《感人！10月圣诞节 美全城为病童提前过节》

Little Ethan Van Leuven died Tuesday, just a week after his town of West Jordan, Utah, banded together to celebrate the holidays early so Ethan, who had leukemia, could enjoy them.

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Ethan, 4, passed away "surrounded by family and friends," a statement on Ethan's GoFundMe page read.

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"Super Hero Ethan earned his wings. He fought as hard and as long as any Super Hero could. His family are in all of our prayers and thoughts," the statement read.

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Though diagnosed just prior to his second birthday, Ethan lived almost three years post-diagnosis and only stopped responding to treatments very recently.

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"The doctors basically said he's got two days to a couple of weeks left to live, and so that's when we thought we would make the most of the last days he has remaining with us," Ethan's father, Merrill Van Leuven, told the "Today" show.

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Residents went trick-or-treating on Oct. 21 and Ethan donned a Superman costume, the Deseret News reported. On Oct. 23, a parade was held in town to mark Ethan's fifth birthday, one month early. Darth Vader, Indiana Jones, a bagpiper and dozens of others marched in Ethan's honor, the paper said.

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"You are our hero," a police officer said over the car's loud speaker, according to the Deseret News. "Thank you for being a part of our lives, Ethan. Our hero."

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On Oct. 24, the town celebrated Christmas, Ethan's favorite holiday. Neighbors decorated their houses, and Santa and Mrs. Claus (with the town's local fire department) gave Ethan a ride on a fire truck. Carolers sang and the family toured the neighborhood to see the decorations. The next day, the family celebrated Christmas Day, according to the Deseret News.

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Merrill Van Leuven said he was "just overwhelmed" by the community's support.

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