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Christmas in October

Cary Griffin

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Santa Claus dropped everything he was doing at the North Pole to pay a special visit to Forney Sunday.

The event that drew St. Nick was "Christmas in October"—a communitywide outpouring of love for Lauren Smith, the Forney 13-year-old who has been battling a rare cancer for the past two years.

Earlier this year, physicians told the Smith family that conventional treatment would no longer help Lauren, and the family sought alternative treatment in Tijuana, Mexico. Lauren returned home from a second round of the alternative treatments last week. So far, however, the treatments haven't had an effect on Lauren's tumors, and doctors say she may not live to see Christmas 2009 at its usual time.

**See entire story and additional photos in the October 29, 2009 issue of the Forney Messenger.*