

We have a young man in our fire district named William Sidebottom who would like to receive as many Christmas Cards as he can this year. This unfortunately may be his last Christmas. William is battling a heart condition and is requesting Christmas cards after doctors said his body is rejecting the transplant he received.

"If it's my last Christmas like I keep on saying, I love to have fun and so I have fun, and if this is my last Christmas I want it to be the best Christmas for me and my family," said William

In the spirit of the Christmas Season we are asking that your department and any individuals that would like to participate send a card in Williams name to our department. Feel free to include a token from your department as well if you would like. Somewhere near Christmas Eve we are planning to load up the trucks along with the help of Santa of course and deliver these cards personally to William and his family to show him our support, and the support of our larger family in Emergency Services. We need to move quickly on this project as Christmas is quickly approaching.

William Sidebottom
c/o Westside Fire and Rescue Department
PO BOX 3217
Asheboro, NC 27204

William was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) and had his first open-heart surgery at 10 days old. He survived and had two more open-heart surgeries before the age of four. HLHS is a rare congenital heart defect in which the left side of the heart is severely underdeveloped. At six years old William received a heart transplant. However, 3 years later the donor-heart appears to be failing and William's mom fears this could be the last Christmas.

"There is nothing else they can do to help William. His new heart is rejecting. A new one will just reject because his immune system is so strong. All of his arteries are blocked and he's even grown new ones to compensate. His amazing team is still exhausting all options, calling every hospital and doctor because no one could ever give up on such an amazing kid," – Williams Mother

"William's body is rejecting his heart and is only given months to live. William is just 9 years old. He is at 80% heart failure. He is not a candidate for a new heart because his immune system is too strong and it would just reject a new one," -WFMY News 2.

Sincerely Yours,

Matthew Hunt
Westside Fire and Rescue Department
336-736-9457

