



# Strangers rally to visit housebound 3-year-old recovering from cancer

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.11.19

Word Count 714

Level 840L



Image 1. Kevin Ruchard (left) and Jeff Morse (right) of the Southern New England Brotherhood Ride receive "Mighty Quinn" bracelets from Quinn Waters (center) while visiting him in Weymouth, Massachusetts, August 24, 2019. Photo courtesy: Kristi Weigel

First, Quinn Waters' two uncles had a water balloon fight in front of his window to cheer him up.

After the water balloon fight, a family friend played his guitar while singing to Quinn from the front lawn. Then a couple of police officers roared up on their motorcycles, sounding their sirens and airhorns.

All of this was to help cheer up Quinn, who is sick.

Quinn is 3 years old. He lives in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

He had a cancerous tumor in his brain stem. Cancer forms when cells in the body grow together faster than they are supposed to. They can clump together to cause tumors, which can be deadly. He received treatment and is now recovering.

Quinn's immune system is also severely compromised. That means his immune system is very weak. Your immune system helps defend your body against sickness and germs. If your immune system is weak, you can get sick more easily.

### **People Come By To Perform For Quinn**

Since June, hundreds of strangers have stopped by Quinn's house to turn his front lawn into a stage of sorts.

People come to sing, dance, play instruments, read stories, perform card tricks and more. They hope it makes Quinn feel better until he is healthy enough to leave the house again.

Police officers and firefighters also came to flash their lights for Quinn. Recently, a group of traveling cyclists stopped by to see Quinn.



The Southern New England Brotherhood Ride is the group that rides to honor police officers and firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty.

The bikers rode with a parade escort down Quinn's street. They surprised him with a police balance bike for him to ride when he gets better.

Quinn was excited to see the bike and even gave the riders bracelets with "Mighty Quinn" on them.

Tara Waters is Quinn's mom. She is 42 years old. She is a police officer.

"It touches us daily that so many strangers have gone out of their way to make the day a little brighter for Quinn," she said.

### **Brain Tumor The Size Of A Lime**

Quinn was diagnosed with medulloblastoma in February. That is the name of the tumor on his brain stem.

Quinn has a sister who is 6 years old. Her name is Maggie. She noticed that her brother could not walk correctly and kept falling.

Quinn's mom realized that it could be something serious and took him to the doctor.

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine showed that Quinn had a tumor just above his brain stem. It was the size of a lime. An MRI machine measures brain activity.

After surgery, Quinn also had chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. A stem cell transplant replaces damaged cells. It is often used to treat cancers such as leukemia.

Quinn came home to stay in isolation until October. That means he cannot leave the house. In October, doctors hope another MRI will show that Quinn's immune system is healthy again.

Quinn's mom and dad took months off work to take care of him at home. They knew that staying home all day would be hard for the active boy who had been looking forward to his first year of preschool.

### **It Began With Quinn Watching Trucks Drive By**

Quinn enjoyed sitting by the front window to watch the trucks drive past his house. That is how this parade of strangers on his lawn started.

So far, Quinn has seen a carnival, Irish dancing, dog tricks and more all from his seat at the front window. A state trooper even dropped by with his police dog.

A couple of weeks ago, more than 200 trucks that were part of a truck rally nearby rode by the window for Quinn. Most of these people have never met him, but they still want to help.

Quinn's dad Jarlath Waters is a union carpenter. He is 42 years old. He said the family did not expect the huge support from the community.

"It's heartwarming to realize how many good people are out there," he said.

## Quiz

- 1 How did visits to Quinn's front lawn get started? How do you know?
- (A) Quinn's uncles had a water balloon fight. "First, Quinn Waters' two uncles had a water balloon fight in front of his window to cheer him up."
  - (B) A family friend played guitar for him. "After the water balloon fight, a family friend played his guitar while singing to Quinn from the front lawn."
  - (C) Police officers on motorcycles visited him. "Then a couple of police officers roared up on their motorcycles, sounding their sirens and airhorns."
  - (D) A cycling group passed by his house. "The Southern New England Brotherhood Ride is the group that rides to honor police officers and firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty."
- 2 Read the section "It Began With Quinn Watching Trucks Drive By."
- Which sentence from this section supports the conclusion that Quinn's family appreciates the visitors?
- (A) Quinn enjoyed sitting by the front window to watch the trucks drive past his house.
  - (B) Most of these people have never met him, but they still want to help.
  - (C) He said the family did not expect the huge support from the community.
  - (D) "It's heartwarming to realize how many good people are out there," he said.
- 3 According to the section "Brain Tumor The Size Of A Lime," how did Quinn's family know something was wrong with him?
- (A) Quinn's family accidentally found out when they took him to a regular checkup.
  - (B) Quinn's family took him to get chemotherapy and found out he had a brain tumor.
  - (C) Quinn's sister saw that he was having trouble walking and staying on his feet.
  - (D) Quinn's sister saw that his immune system was very weak and she told her mother.
- 4 What caused Quinn to be stuck in his house?
- (A) He has an immune system that is fighting the germs in his body.
  - (B) He has a tumor that he has not received treatment for yet.
  - (C) He has an immune system that is not strong enough to protect him.
  - (D) He has a tumor that makes him fall down when he is walking.