

342,000 tell Lane goodbye

By Rich Suwanski and Megan Harris
Messenger-Inquirer

Lane Goodwin, 13, of Beech Grove died at 7:53 p.m. Wednesday after a long battle with cancer.

The family confirmed his death by phone after alerting more than 342,000 online followers of their Facebook page “Prayers for Lane.”

“Our hearts are broken but God has performed a World Wide Miracle through Lane over the past few weeks,” wrote his mother, Angela Goodwin. “Please continue to pray for our family, especially Lane’s little brother, Landen.”

In 2010, Lane was diagnosed with alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma Stage IV, a rare and aggressive childhood cancer that is only diagnosed in one out of 1 million children. In 2010, he underwent 54 weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. In 2011, 13 tumors were found in his bones.

Since returning home to Hospice care from a Nashville hospital about a month ago, the youngster’s alertness and activity level initially improved as family and friends visited, Angela Goodwin said. But in recent days, he’d been experiencing mouth bleeding, according to the family’s Facebook posts.

Late Wednesday afternoon, the family penned the message, “Please pray. Lane is not good.”

The Facebook page helped spread the word on Lane and childhood cancer. The family regularly updated followers on Facebook with his condition. Almost half a million people worldwide “liked,” posted words of encouragement or started fundraisers to help the family with medical expenses.

Followers included celebrities, college and professional athletes and social media friends who were inspired by his fight against the deadly disease.

The Goodwins were comforted by people’s interest, generosity and prayers. A “Thumbs Up” campaign became a signature phrase as photos were posted with the upbeat gesture.

Lane also received items from St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Matt Holiday, Dallas Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware, rapper Kasper from the K and country singers Colton Ford, Dustin Lynch and Craig Morgan. The fans attending a recent Western Kentucky University football game were photographed with “Thumbs Up” and posted on his Facebook page.

“We never expected this,” his mother said last month. “We knew there was some good support and prayers for Lane the last couple of years, but this has been unbelievable.”