

Leah Catherine McClellan

August 8, 2011 ~ March 4, 2022

Leah Catherine McClellan was born on August 08, 2011. Leah passed away on March 4, 2022.

Leah came into the world with a special twinkle in her eye. She had an incredibly sweet spirit from the moment she was born. She was so adorable and loving. She had the cutest smile that we will cherish forever. Her spirit was so strong, pure and beautiful. Too pure for this world. God wanted to keep her pure, so he protected her spirit from the world, locking her in her body, like a princess in a tower. At 5 months, Leah developed a mysterious disease that took her away overnight. She was no longer able to interact and share her sweet spirit as easily as before. She learned to express herself through her beautiful big brown eyes. She was so lucky to have a mother with the best mother's-intuition. She could interpret all her needs. We were told that she would have a short life. We adopted the cherry blossom as her symbol. It represents a brief and beautiful life. Leah fought so hard. She reminded us of the value of having an indomitable spirit. She never gave up. We searched diligently for years to find the best help for her.

Our family was determined to find the cause of Leah's disease and to make sure that her life would impact the world. Leah became one of the poster children for the legalization of CBD in Utah and in the United States. She was featured in the "Faces of Cannabis" campaign nationwide. She was able to attend congressional debates and silently represent other children with rare diseases. Leah smiled a beautiful smile on the day that the bill was passed. Because of her beautiful face and spirit, thousands of people can use CBD for many different ailments. She did change the world!

Soon after, Leah was so lucky to have been given the gift of whole genome sequencing. What an incredible gift for her! They discovered that she had a rare gene variant affecting the SCN8A gene, causing a rare epilepsy disease. The gift of a diagnosis was both thrilling and devastating. We learned that she really would have a brief, beautiful and difficult life. Yet, we would be able to find targeted medicines and therapies that could make her life more comfortable.

Leah's indomitable spirit helped so many people get through their tough times. Like ripples in a pond, her legacy will be felt forever. Her example gave people the courage to never give up.

Leah's sweet, fighting spirit affected everyone around her. Anyone who had the chance to meet her was forever changed. She can now run and play with the butterflies and wildflowers and the other angels in heaven. She was an angel on this earth. She will continue to help people from above.

We are so thankful to have had Leah with us on earth. She taught us so many lessons to make us better parents, brothers & sisters. She had the most wonderful caregivers. Our family will be forever thankful for everyone who helped her on her amazing journey.

Survived by- April McClellan – Mother, Chad McClellan- Father, Lauryn McClellan – Sister, Trent

McClellan-Brother, Tyler McClellan- brother. Grandparents, David and Nancy McClellan & Orin and Cathy Bagley.
Special thanks: Leah’s wonderful and devoted brothers and sister for their unwavering love and support. She was blessed to have you.
Special thanks: Leah’s loving grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, cousins and close friends. Always willing to help her and our family at a moments notice.

Special thanks: Dr Shane Dangerfield, Dr Francis Filloux, Dr Ried Robinson, Dr Galina Hornyik, Natalie Brown her beloved hospice nurse. Jenn E, Jenn O, Danielle & Brooke, her loving and devoted homecare nurses. Primary Children’s hospice doctors, - These are the professionals that changed Leah’s life.
Special thanks: Jeff and Christy. Real angels on earth. Thank you for giving her the most special love and care that we could have ever dreamed of.
Special thanks: Kauri Sue school therapists, nurses and staff.

Service Details:

Viewing:
Friday, March 11, 2022, 6:00-8:00PM
Larkin Mortuary
3688 W 12600 S
Riverton, UT 84065

Graveside Service:
Saturday, March 12, 2022, 11:00 AM
Larkin Sunset Gardens
1950 E 10600 S
Sandy, UT 84092

Open House Life Celebration:
Saturday, March 12, 2022, 1:00-4:00PM
The McClellan Residence
6532 W Davin View Dr
Herriman, UT 84096