



CHRISTINE COTTER / Los Angeles Times
Jordan Presley, left, opens a card—with a check—from friends Sean Wheeler, center, and Adam Morgan.

10-Year-Old Winning the Fight of His Life

■ **Health:** Family and friends help Jordan Presley celebrate last chemotherapy treatment for leukemia that is now in remission.

By TINA NGUYEN
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GARDEN GROVE—No more needles, no more hospital visits and, best of all, no more pain for 10-year-old Jordan Presley. The leukemia that began to invade his body three years ago has gone in remission.

After recently receiving his last chemotherapy treatment, the Huntington Beach boy celebrated life Saturday with a houseful of friends and family.

"I feel good," Jordan said, after smiling and waving with class-

mates and try to fight off the doctor during extensive treatments, said his mother, Yolanda, 31.

"I hated staying in the hospital," Jordan said, brushing his bangs from his eyes.

But all that is behind him. Jordan no longer needs chemotherapy. Periodic medical checkups are still required because there is a chance the leukemia will flare up again.

"The worst is over," said his mother. "I have faith he will stay healthy. I keep a positive outlook because death is not an option."

Relatives and friends describe the Presley family as survivors. Before Jordan fell ill, his younger brother, Jared, received a diagnosis of pelvic cancer when he was 17 months old. Jared's cancer

has been in remission for several years, but the 8-year-old also needs regular checkups.

The boys' medical expenses have drained their parents' finances. At one point, they lost their home, cars, furniture and other belongings.

The overwhelming pressures have also strained their marriage. The Presleys are separated, and the boys live with their mother. Michael Presley said he tries to see his sons daily, and keeps abreast of their health by regularly talking to his wife.

Presley, a professional guitarist, performed with his band at Saturday's party. "It's been really hard," he said. "We've gone through a lot, but things look hopeful. Jared's been well, and now Jordan's body is healing."



