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2024 World Hemophilia Day

Do you know about Christmas Disease?

How Stephen Christmas, a five-year-old boy from Canada, gave his name, voice and life to the fight against a specific type of blood disease.



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Born in 1952, from the age of 20 months, it became clear that Stephen's blood didn't clot properly. He bled and bruised easily, often injuring himself with his toys.

Medical analyses revealed Stephen's blood lacked a important protein.

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Stephen's ailment became known as *Christmas Disease* and the missing protein factor was named *Christmas Factor.*

By 1958, *Christmas Factor* was officially renamed *Factor IX*, and the disease later became known as *Hemophilia B*.



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Stephen spent his life campaigning for blood safety with the Canadian Hemophilia Society and advocating for patients who suffered from blood transfusion complications.

In 1993, a few days before Christmas, Stephen passed away. But his legacy lives on.

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EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR ALL

Recognizing all Bleeding Disorders

