

News paper article by DAUPHINE Libéré (France)

Mountain town locals show their solidarity with Romain...

The path leading up to The Planards (luge and adventure park for children) was bordered with multi-colored ballons, as though to show the way to a child's birthday party. Though it wasn't his birthday, people were there to celebrate and support Romain Charlet, a little boy two and a half years of age.

Everybody had seen the posters, put up all over town that explained the origin and goal of this day, hosted by The Planards. Little Romain was there, in his mother's arms, while all around them, a festive crowd enjoyed the activities, and made the most of the exceptional offers of this Sunday afternoon: unlimited riding of the summer luge all day long for just 8 euros per adult, 5 and 3 euros for children. According to The Planards, about 2,000 people showed up that day, contributing a total profit of 30,000 euros (donations included).

The profits go to the "Romain's Ascension" Association, who will give it to research efforts for the illness, which is called a, "decarboxylase deficit of aromatic aminic acids."

And the climax of this beautiful day: the always-marvelous balloon drop. At four o'clock, Planards staff and Guy Cachat (Romain's grandfather) handed out a myriad of white ballons. At the end of each balloon was a message: " I'm two and a half years old and I suffer from a rare genetic illness...you can make a donation..." with the association's address. The parents, Nicolas and Lise, carried their child through the crowd.

And then everyone let go of their ballons at the same time, letting the wind take where it will their message of hope.

Today, Romain's family would like to thank every part of the unprecedented chain of solidarity that has formed around their son.