



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Fundraiser Exceeds Previous Goals for Special Needs Children
Jack's Helping Hand raised \$145,000 at this year's "An Evening With ..."

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—This year's fundraising efforts for special needs children has topped the previous three thanks to the generosity of those attending a sold-out event this past weekend. \$145,000 was raised at an Evening with Jack's Helping Hand (JHH), which was held at the Santa Margarita Ranch on Saturday, July 11th. Guests were treated to a barbecue feast, dancing to live music, a spirited auction, and the company of all those who care about the needs of children with physical and mental disabilities.

Volunteer auctioneer Jim Settle was honored this year by JHH co-founder, Bridget Ready. And special appearances by children and their parents who have been helped by Jack's Helping Hand gave guests a chance to meet the "success" stories that their generous donations have made possible.

Cancer survivor Owen Beck spoke about his life with the prosthetic leg he received from the organization and assured the crowd that he and Jack's Helping Hand would be there for his new friend, nine-year-old David Cruz from Creston, California who recently lost his leg to bone cancer.

"It's always a delight to watch the faces of our generous supporters when they meet these courageous children and hear their stories," said Ready.

Since 2004, Jack's Helping Hand has been providing help in the way of specialized equipment, transportation to out-of-town specialists, innovative treatments and therapies, plus toys and other devices that help children with all manner of injury and illness to live happier, healthier, fuller lives.

In addition to the many other achievements of Jack's Helping Hand, which includes a special adaptive toy lending library, a club for kids who hold birthday parties to support the organization, and a support group for parents of children with cancer, the concept for Jack's Imagination Park is taking shape. This spacious outdoor park will be built especially for special needs children—with wheelchair access, adaptive playground equipment and safer play areas so that all children can enjoy being outside.

"The funds we raised at the event this weekend brings us that much closer to seeing this park become a reality," said Mary Illingworth, Charitable Donations Administrator. "Considering how much this will mean to so many children, we are really thankful."

To donate to Jack's Helping Hand, call 547-1914 or log onto www.jackshelpinghand.org.

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Caption for photos:

Jack's Helping Hand #1: Gail Brochtrup, Katie Brochtrup, Gary Brochtrup

Jack's Helping Hand #2: Paul & Bridget Ready, John Summer, Jim Settle

Jack's Helping Hand #3: Hunter Whitson