

YOUTH & EDUCATION

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Patrick McGlynn, left, of Monarch Dunes Realty presents a symbolic check for \$5,000 from The Gilbert golf tournament to Bridget Ready, co-founder of Jack's Helping Hand.

Golf tournament raises \$5,000

The Gilbert donates funds to Jack Ready Imagination Park

By TPR STAFF

An annual golf tournament in August raised \$5,000 for the nonprofit Jack's Helping Hand to support construction of Jack Ready Imagination Park on the Nipomo Mesa, a tournament spokesman said.

The event began in 2010 as a grass-roots community effort to support Josh and Jennie Gilbert after their 1-year-old son, Jake, was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, the spokesman said.

The Gilberts were residents of Nipomo but recently moved to Santa Cruz to be near Stanford University Medical Center for Jake's treatment.

The first tournament Oct. 16, 2010, drew more than 220 participants and raised \$37,500 for the Gilbert family.

Organized by Patrick McGlynn of Monarch Dunes Realty, the second event Aug. 6 drew more than 100 people to Monarch Dunes in Nipomo and raised just over \$13,500.

The Gilberts chose to donate \$5,000 of those funds

to Jack's Helping Hand.

"As a tribute to Jake Gilbert, we are contributing \$5,000 to Jack's Helping Hand and look forward to seeing Jake playing and enjoying the Jack Ready Imagination Park," McGlynn said.

Jack's Helping Hand was founded by Paul and Bridget Ready of San Luis Obispo in memory of their 3-year-old son Jack, who died in November 2004 after battling a rare form of brain cancer.

The organization is currently building the Jack Ready Imagination Park on 33 acres overlooking the Oceano Dunes.

Jack's aunt and uncle, Nick and Kathleen Tompkins of Nipomo, donated the land to the county in 2005 for a park site in honor of their nephew.

Geared toward children with special needs, the park also will be open to children without disabilities.

Park features will include themed play structures, a sand play area, soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts and a therapeutic riding center, all accessible by foot, bike, stroller, wheelchair and walker.

Completion is projected for the end of 2012.

In addition to building the park, Jack's Helping Hand has created programs for families of special needs children under age 21.

For more information, call 547-1914 or visit www.jackshelpinghand.org.