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## **Council praises patient's efforts**

**By Michael Cronk**

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The dedication of 16-year-old cancer patient Jan-Willem ``J.W." Knapen and his supporters toward building a house where families can stay with their loved ones during long hospital stays has been recognized by the Santa Clara City Council.

A proclamation honoring the J.W. Foundation and its fundraising efforts for a house near a Kaiser facility under construction in Santa Clara was adopted by the council at its Jan. 11 meeting. The proclamation, read by an emotional Mayor Patricia Mahan, was presented to J.W. and foundation members.

``J.W. is fighting a virulent form of inoperable brain cancer, but in spite of his own fight, he is unselfishly dedicating himself to raising funds to help others in similar situations," the proclamation read. ``The J.W. House will organize and support a network of volunteers that will provide meals, rides, babysitting, errands and networking groups, in support of families of patients undergoing treatment away from home."

Dr. Bernadette Loftus, Kaiser's physician in chief, praised J.W. ``for the inspiration he has provided to so many of us; to our staff and the community."

So far, the J.W. Foundation has raised \$210,000 toward a goal of \$1.2 million to build the house on the Kaiser-Santa Clara campus at Homestead Road and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. The center's medical offices are scheduled to open in June. A cancer treatment center will open early next year, with the new Kaiser hospital set to begin operation in mid-2007.

Approval for the J.W. House is expected from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation Board in March.

``Everyone at the hospital loves J.W. and will do everything they can to make sure his dream comes true," said Rick Ginley, an area spokesman for Kaiser Permanente.

Fundraising activities have been spearheaded by the foundation's volunteers and Dr. Alan F. Wong, J.W.'s oncologist at Kaiser-Santa Clara. They have included an auction of J.W.'s artwork that raised \$12,000 in November, and a concert held Dec. 19 at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, where J.W. was a student and played in the band.

There is also the sale of blue J.W. bracelets with the inscription ``Never Ever Give Up!" and a Santa Clara Medical Center 2005 Physician Calendar. Future events include a golf tournament in May, and dinners, a fashion show and wine tasting at restaurants in downtown Saratoga.