

St. Mary School, Gilroy students help make dream come true for stricken youth

When St. Mary School, Gilroy students heard there was a boy with a dream, they wanted to help.

After a two week fundraising drive as a part of the school's Advent Project, J.W. Knapen was given a check (through the Community Foundation of San José) for \$3,100 to help to build a home for parents whose children are being treated at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center, much like the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford.

For a \$5 donation students were given a blue wristband to wear bearing the words "Never Ever Give Up" and the image of the house.

Donations could be made in honor of a loved one. After

the first three days of the collection, the school had received \$1,900.

J.W., a 16-year-old Bellarmine College Preparatory student, has been battling four tumors in his brain for the past year. This past April another inoperable tumor was discovered.

In an assembly before Christmas break, J.W., his mother and his doctor traveled to St. Mary School to accept the check.

Reading a prepared statement, J.W. gave the students some advice: "I would encourage every family to make time for each other. I would like to tell people to enjoy life and make the best out of every situation. God is with us in every step we take."



Rachele Caserza, Student Council President at St. Mary School, Gilroy, presents check for \$3,100 to J.W. Knapen. Looking on (l to r) are Principal Christa Hanson, J.W.'s Doctor Alan Wong and J.W.'s mom Anne Marie Knapen-Asnong.