

Little Hands – Big Hearts Foundation Makes Major Contribution



Nicholas Cook, an OI (brittle bone) patient, presents a gift of \$10,000 to Administrator Mark Niederpruem (photo, left), from Little Hands – Big Hearts Children’s Foundation, an organization created by Nicholas’ parents, Julie and Andrew, to assist in needs of other children with a wide variety of issues, and to provide our specialists with added resources in treating OI.

The Foundation, based on one of God’s commandments, “that we love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12), serves children in hunger, health care, education, and a host of other needs. Through the foundation, the family, who live in Morris, IL, assists other parents of children with OI, provides funds for the OI Foundation, makes grants to our hospital, and carries on a wide-ranging program of child-assistance around the world.



Sister Emma, an 8th grader at immaculate Conception School, is a dancer whose performances took her and the family to Europe last year. She’ll be in Coal City High School next year. Nicholas, 11 and a 6th grader at Immaculate Conception, is a long-distance runner, and lives a fully-normal life--except for an occasional broken bone, as seen in the photo right--they stopped counting at 40! (Nick insisted on competing in spite of a broken arm!) He makes occasional visits to see Dr. Peter Smith, his physician here, for both routine and emergency needs.

The Cooks, active in the real estate profession in Morris, hold annual fundraisers, participate in community activities, and cultivate gifts through Little Hands – Big Hearts Children’s Foundation. We are grateful to this delightful family, their many friends, and their community, for their generosity--their big-heartedness--demonstrated toward others, including our marvelous pediatric center. Thank you, Nicholas and family!

United States Adaptive Golf Alliance Affiliates with SHC . . .



When EQ Sylvester became a triple-amputee late in life, he considered his circumstances just another turn in the road, and he put the pedal to the metal. Today he spearheads the United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA) “to advance human potential and promote equality through the game of golf.” The heart of his program is to “Demonstrate the powers of golf as a remedial, social, and life-changing sport.” Now, with 17 chapters in cities across America, EQ has met with both our local SHC Board and Imperial members with the intent of using USAGA chapters in cities where SHC are located to encourage patients to become involved in the redemptive nature of golf and to create affiliations with like-minded golfers across the country. This is a “natural fit” for many of our patients. The photo left was made of a SHC - Chicago patient learning golf at an area course this past summer.

For information or to make inquiry regarding the USAGA, call 630/455-6018, or go to www.usaga.org. This is a great opportunity to help kids find fulfillment through the sport of golf.