

Good Things Come to Those Who Plunge

A plunge into the Jul Gernes Pool on the Campus of Saint Mary's University may not seem like an unusual act; it is certainly routine for the many swimmers and divers on campus. What is unusual, is what that plunge stood for on Sunday, Feb. 12. The plunging that took place served as a gesture of support with the aim of raising money for Jack Cassidy, the young son of Saint Mary's women's head soccer coach, Neil Cassidy. Jack is currently being treated at Mayo Clinic for Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH).

The eighth annual cardinal plunge and silent auction was once again hosted by the Future Alumni Committee at Saint Mary's University.

Marissa Carlyle, a committee member, greeted guests upon arrival. She said that preparing for the event involved "a lot of meetings, planning and set-up."

Many would deem that effort on the part of the committee worthwhile, for not only was the event hoping to raise money for Jack, the family aimed to be able to pay it forward with gifts for the pediatric floor at Mayo Clinic.

"There are child life specialists at Mayo Clinic and we're gonna meet with them and see what their needs are for the children, whatever they would like, we'll donate," said Neil Cassidy.

The Cassidy family should be able to do just that, as the Future Alumni Committee reports the event reached its goal of raising \$2,000.

Jack, a rather shy young man, was on the receiving end of a large outpouring of support, many of whom were members of the Saint Mary's Women's soccer team.

"The purpose and foundation of our team is family," said Neil.

When it was time for his plunge, Jack was flanked by family members-all of whom were decked out in SuperMan gear from head-to-toe.

"Whenever Jack went for chemo he wore a superman cape," said Neil. "He became Super Jack."

The family shared in the moment together and were cheered by fellow jumpers and spectators alike.

Jack and his family were not the only ones who took a light-hearted approach to their diving attire. Nikki Richmond, a staff member at Saint Mary's, took on the appearance of a giant bar of soap, dressed in a homemade outfit.

Nikki was eager to get out and plunge for a good cause, she was there for "Jack and his family, they're a part of the SMU community," she said. She also said that the plunge made her feel "happy," and the best part was, "knowing you're helping someone in need."