

Irvine boy gives birthday gifts to young cancer patients

Jet Charter, 6, wheeled presents into St. Joseph Hospital in Orange.

Story and photos by ELLYN PAK

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IRVINE • Most 6-year-old kids would begrudgingly give up their Barbie dolls and Hot Wheels cars, but Jet Charter had no such protest about donating his toys.

The Turtle Rock Elementary School kindergartener recently amassed more than 100 birthday gifts during a huge bash held a few weeks ago. But the little philanthropist decided those gifts would better suit kids coping with cancer.

Ron Charter said his son Jet gained compassion for other people after watching coverage of the earthquake in Haiti. He then used the Internet to show Jet the effects of cancer on young children and took him to St. Joseph Hospital in Orange for a tour.

After Jet's birthday party on May 22 at Tustin Lanes, the family decided to donate much of the boy's gifts to young cancer patients. They plan to extend the lesson of giving back to the community on future



Jet Charter, 6, of Irvine, carts toys he donated to young cancer patients.

birthdays.

On Friday afternoon, Jet and his 7-year-old friend Shane Meeker pushed carts filled with toys - from blocks to dolls to remote-control cars - to a treasure chest kept at The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment at St. Joseph Hospital.

The chest keeps toys for nearly 50 children who endure bouts with cancer and grueling treatment, said Sharon Armet, manager of cancer services.



Valarie and Ron Charter, with son Jet, talk to staff at The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment at St. Joseph Hospital, where they donated Jet's birthday gifts.

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