



By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Andy and Karla Bauman said they've always had so much support from the Chase County area that they wanted to bring the fifth annual Logan Bauman Memorial Golf Tournament back home.

The Baumans started the memorial tournament in 2009 after their son, Logan, 14, was struck by a car and later died in early December 2008.

For the first four years, the tournament was played in Parker, Colo., home of the Bauman family.

Andy and Karla are both former Imperial residents and continue to have strong family ties here. Logan, an avid golfer, was a member at Enders Lake Golf Course and considered it his "home" course.

So, the fifth annual tournament came back to Chase County this past weekend.

With a full field of 72 two-person teams, golfers played 18-hole rounds at both the Enders Lake Golf Course and Imperial Country Club.

Golfers alternated courses, playing Enders one day and Imperial the other. There were morning and afternoon tee times at both courses to accommodate the full field.

"We've always had so much support from the area and Logan was a member at Enders," Andy said this week.

Bringing the fifth annual tournament back was "a way to show our gratitude and appreciation," Karla added.

Funds support youth activities

The Logan Bauman Memorial Fund is a foundation that supports youth activities and educational opportunities in Logan's memory.

Logan's goal was to attend Regis Jesuit High School in the Denver area. That dream was cut short but his family has helped other students realize that dream.

This year marked the graduation of a Regis High School student who received an annual scholarship of \$2,500 from the Logan Bauman Memorial Fund (LBMF).

Next year, they will award a scholarship to another incoming freshman to help with expenses at the highly regarded private school.

Once an all-boys school, Regis now has girls enrolled, as well. One lucky girl, already a junior, is the recipient of another annual scholarship from the fund.

Since the inception of the tournament, LBMF has awarded more than \$100,000 to support youth and educational activities.

As part of this year's tournament, LBMF has committed \$10,000 to Chase County Schools to be used in the junior high for athletic equipment needs.

The Baumans also announced a \$2,500 donation Saturday night to the Amanda Johnson Memorial Fund.

The Fund has also underwritten a \$20,000 outdoor lab classroom at the middle school Logan,

and his sister, Alyse, attended.

They have also designated money to another effort, LAB 21. It provides money for the Parker Hawks youth football team including money to help kids obtain equipment they normally wouldn't be able to afford.

Hopes of raising \$2,500

After Logan's death, the Baumans wanted to do something in Logan's memory to help a Regis student.

Andy said they met with a friend who had run professional golf tournaments. They decided on a memorial golf tournament because of Logan's love of the game.

"Our goal was to raise \$2,500. That was it," Andy said. His friend told them a golf tournament was a lot of hard work just to raise \$2,500.

Undaunted, the Baumans took on the challenge. They were blown away with the support from people, raising \$32,000 that first year.

The Baumans expect this year's tournament to be one of the best ever. The silent and live auction raised more than \$20,000. A total of 37 hole sponsorships at \$150 were sold, along with various other fun activities, such as the "Buy-A-Drive" option.

Instead of having to hit a drive for a donation of any kind, golfers could place their ball 80 yards out on Imperial's hole #3 and 100 yards out on Enders' hole #5. Baumans said that alone raised around \$4,000.

On Saturday night, golfers enjoyed dinner at the Imperial Eagles, which was followed by the silent and live auctions and a performance from the Gary Bragg Band of Denver.

Bragg is a native of Imperial and offered to bring his band out for the occasion. He is joined in the band by his sister, Roxanne Fromm, also of Denver.

Source of therapy

The Baumans are among parents who've suffered the pain beyond comprehension of losing a child.

For the Bauman family, the tournament has served as part of the healing process in dealing with the loss of Logan, as well as keeping the memory of Logan alive.

"It's been our biggest source of therapy," Karla said.

Andy said the tournament, which is the only fundraiser for the LBMF, has been "a blessing."