

Jason's Friends ups last year's haul

By Star-Tribune staff

Organizers of Saturday's "Bowl for Jason's Friends Foundation" at El Mark-O Lanes in Casper estimated 1,000 bowlers, along with sponsors, raised more than last year's total of \$118,000.

Lisa and Rocky Eades started the foundation after their son Jason died in 1995, at age 9, from a brain-stem tumor. The organization helps families of kids with cancer to pay bills, keep the house clean and do whatever needs to be done.

"Families have to leave Wyoming to get treatment," said Lisa Eades. "We make sure that they have the ability to concentrate on their sick child."

Karel Loraas cannot estimate the amount of assistance she has gotten from the foundation since her son Clayton, 6, was first diagnosed with leukemia at age 2.

"I would hate to add it up because it would probably scare me to death," Loraas

said against the backdrop of falling pins.

Recently, Clayton has relapsed and the family has been in Minnesota for his bone marrow transplant. The family spent almost a year out of state with Clayton.

"We haven't lost our house and it's basically because of Jason's Friends," she said.

Other than the surgical mask he wore because his immune system is still suppressed, Clayton gave no signs of illness and looked happy playing video game bowling in the El Mark-O arcade.

"I won two prizes," he declared. A pop and a Scooby-Doo Puzzle for the curly red-haired boy.

Meanwhile down at the lanes, KTWO News sportscaster Frank Gambino got his hands dirty by throwing a few rocks for charity. His team raised about \$5,000 in total.

"This is a blast," he said. "It's been years since I bowled."

How to help

■ SEND

DONATIONS TO:

Jason's Friends
Foundation

111 South Durbin
Street, Suite 300
Casper, WY, 82601

■ PHONE:

(307)235-3421