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who has a form of colitis or Crohn's disease, which are both inflammatory bowel diseases that strike people of all ages.

"I talked to him and said, 'You already have a lot of presents,'" recalled Sharon about how the no-toys party concept originated. "Would you consider giving to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and you get the gift of health?" He said, "That's great, I want to do that."

Concerning about the Wooddale Elementary School first grader's enthusiastic sacrifice of toys was Marty. "It's all for it. He wants to get better. He doesn't want colitis his whole life."

Linda Lange, of the Farmington Hills office of CCFCA, attended the

party and presented Jacob with a birthday plaque, thanking him for helping the cause.

"This is very rare, it's a rare and special thing," said Lange, about Jacob's unselfishness.

She said Jacob's party, and request for donations to the CCFCA, is something that can help promote public awareness of both the disease and charity.

"We need a lot of awareness for our cause," Lange said. "It's a relatively unknown cause. Two million people have ... inflammatory bowel disease."

Compounding matters is that some people are embarrassed to talk about the ailment, or decide to donate to more-high profile charities such as the American Heart Association.

Sharon McGladdery's father, Bloomfield Hills physician Dr. Howard Parvan, agreed about how the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation isn't usually the charity that comes to mind when people feel the need to donate.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMMONY

Family: Marty, Sharon and Jacob McGladdery share a moment at the birthday party.

"Maybe (the party) will give people the idea they can donate to deserving causes other than the well-known ones," Parvan said. "Not too many people think of donating to colitis, and many, many people suffer from it."

Parvan, like CCFCA's Lange, said he could not recall any other occasion where parents threw a similar benefit birthday party.

Jacob's parents, meanwhile, are hopeful that the research money raised through the birthday party will help de-mystify the disease, and take away whatever stigma is connected with it.

"Unless you know somebody with it, you don't donate," Sharon McGladdery said. "So we're letting people know there are pediatric cases and child cases and we need a lot of help."

Actually, Jacob was just 2½ years old when his case was diagnosed.

The boy's pediatrician labeled his disorder "toddler constipation, toddler diarrhea," she continued. "But it was colitis and they missed it."

Whether or not Jacob's colitis ever will be cured is something Marty and Sharon McGladdery just don't know. But, with the CCFCA, they have a chance.

"With money for research, and a breakthrough, he could be better in a year," Sharon said. "If not, he could have it for the rest of his



A winner: Jason takes his turn on a lane during the party, designed to raise money and awareness. His shirt reads, "This is now."

life." Anyone interested in donating to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America should send checks to 31313 Northwestern Highway, Suite No. 209, Farmington Hills, Mich., 48334. For more information, call (248) 737-0901.

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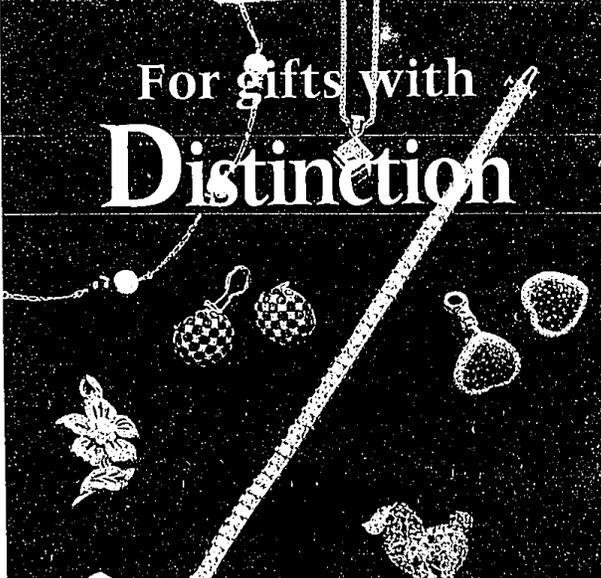
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