

# Golf Tourney Brings in Big Bucks

BY ERIN LIPOSKY

After raising more than \$50,000 to benefit the National Niemann-Pick Disease Foundation, it is safe to say it that the First Annual Dillon Papier Charity Golf Tournament was a smashing success.

Held at the Hollow Creek Golf Club in Middletown on September 17, the event far exceeded the planning committee's expectations.

Michael Hayden, Michael Gilligan, Erik Scheidhauer, Richie Bresee and Doug Stone planned the tournament, which sold out before they even started advertising. A sit-down dinner, several raffles and a silent auction also contributed to the amount they raised.

Dillon Papier, the 5-year-old child who inspired the event, was diagnosed with Niemann-Pick Type C when he was just 3 years old. Symptoms of the disease include an enlarged liver, loss of muscle control, speech deterioration, seizures, and progressive neurological and intellectual decline. Many Niemann-Pick kids die before the age of 10.

The event's proceeds will help fund research for the rare, fatal disease that has afflicted Dillon and only 500 other children worldwide. Because Niemann-Pick is so uncommon, funding for research is a challenge.

"Because it is so rare, research to find a cure is badly under-funded," says Dillon's mother, Darrile Papier. "We believe this is newsworthy because the government and private drug companies too often look at such numbers [of patients diagnosed] and say no to the funding required to finding treatments and cures."

"Our goal was \$6,000 - \$10,000 when



**Golf event organizers Doug Stone, Michael Gilligan, Richie Bresee, Eric Scheidhauer and Mike Hayden. Mark, Darrile and Dillon Papier are front and center.**

Photo: Submitted

we started planning this event. When we completed our silent auction and calculated the earnings, we were just speechless," said Michael Hayden. "The generosity of the participants, sponsors and volunteers was absolutely amazing."

The Papier family was equally overwhelmed at the success of the event and the support of the community.

"Words are inadequate when we attempt to express our gratitude," says Darrile Papier. "We are astounded at the benevolence of our neighbors, friends, family and community. Their dedication and commitment

in Dillon's fight for a cure gives us encouragement and strength, and tells us that we are not alone in our struggle."

"The Papier family's reaction made all the work we put into the event worth it," Hayden said. "We have already started planning for next year and hope to gain even more support from local businesses and the communities of Urbana."

For information about next year's event, contact: Michael Hayden at 240.463.0928; e-mail: mbh512@comcast.net. For more information on the National Niemann-Pick Foundation, Inc., visit [www.nnpdf.org](http://www.nnpdf.org).