Anaheim Angels Commentator Donates $1,000 to Local Inclusive Education Conference
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DAYTON, Ohio — A teacher without sufficient funds to attend a conference this fall designed to help kids with disabilities attend Catholic schools will be helped by a scholarship made possible by a former Major League baseball player who has a son with Down syndrome.

Rex Hudler, former Philadelphia Phillies infielder and current color analyst for the Anaheim Angels, and his wife, Jennifer, made a $1,000 donation to the University of Dayton via Team Up for Down Syndrome, an organization they founded to help make the public aware of the positive contributions made by people with Down syndrome. They provided the money for an educator scholarship to the Inclusive Catholic Education Conference sponsored by UD’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives.

The couple’s son, Cade Allan, is two years old. “We struggled as everyone does, but our faith in God reassured us that Cade is a gift,” the couple wrote in the letter accompanying the donation. “Like your organization, we want to help others who are committed to the Down syndrome community.”

More than 700 parents of children with disabilities and the teachers and school administrators who struggle to include them in Catholic schools and religious education programs have attended one of UD’s Inclusive Catholic Education Conferences, to be held this year from Oct. 21 to 23 in Dayton. Some workshop sessions focus on practical tips such as establishing peer tutoring programs and altering classroom techniques and materials to suit children with different needs and educational goals. Other sessions offer reinforcement and networking opportunities.

“I get calls every year from people who want to attend the conference but can’t afford it,” said Pat Carter, conference organizer and assistant director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives. “So to be able to offer a full scholarship is awesome.” The Hudlers found out about the conference from another parent of a child with Down syndrome who had attended the conference, Carter said.

Donations are welcome and may be directed to the Inclusive Catholic Education Conference, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio, 45469-1681. For a brochure for this fall’s conference, call (937) 229-3126. Details about the conference can be found online at http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice/ice.htm.

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