



By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

It couldn't have been sweeter—an evening of pie, ice cream, socializing—all for a successful fundraising event last week with proceeds going to Jake Lee who lost both of his hands and part of each arm in a farm accident in rural Perkins County on July 8.

Jake and his wife, Violet, were present Sept. 22 at the Perkins County Fairgrounds, greeting many of the nearly 325 who showed up for a piece of the best baked pies around.

The benefit was organized by Bruce and Gloria Peaster for Jake as a community pay back, or pay it forward as the case might be, because their infant grandson, who required a heart transplant back in January, was the target of a benefit hosted by the Grant Lions Club.

"It's rewarding," said Gloria Peaster. In a such a small community, everyone helps each other, she said, and it's our way of saying thank you for what was done for us.

All of the pies were baked and donated by ladies of the Mennonite Church, of which Peasters are members, and Hatch's Super Foods donated the ice cream.

Jake said he and Violet enjoyed the good pie and the opportunity to greet several people who attended.

Fourteen helpers served 100 pies, ice cream and a drink for a free will donation.

Fifty leftover pies were then taken to Hatch's the next day and placed on a table with a donation jar. All of the pies disappeared that day, said Peaster.

Jake, 32, was working at a bin site on a farm owned by Jantzen Farms, Inc., when the auger he was working on was accidentally turned on.

Jake was airlifted to Denver and treated at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center. He returned to his home in Grant several days later with a prosthetic hook on his right arm. His left arm had to heal further before a prosthesis could be attached to the stub of his upper arm left by the attack of the powerful machine.

On Oct. 7, he will go to Denver to get a replacement hook for his right arm. The one in place now is made of cast material and he's unable to get it wet. The new hook will match the one on his left made of fiberglass.

Jake continues to learn to use the hooks replacing his hands and said he is adjusting and getting his stamina back. The young couple recently moved into a house in Grant and continue to get settled. They are so very appreciative of the community for the support they've received since his accident and for the contributions made.