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Non profit gives cash to students

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By ERICA SHEN
The Press-Enterprise

For Matt Parker, founder a nonprofit that raises money to help needy students, handing out the group's first batch of scholarships will be a bittersweet experience.

The 37-year-old from Murrieta founded 2K4Kids The Kari and KeiraLyn Parker Foundation in memory of his wife, Kari, and daughter, Keira Lyn, who died of a car crash on June 20, 2007. Kari was an English teacher who taught at various high schools in the Temecula Valley.

"It's a way to remember them," Parker said. "It's also a way to reach out to the kids my wife would have helped."

[Story continues below](#)**Special to The Press-Enterprise**

Matt Parker started 2K4Kids The Kari and KeiraLyn Parker Foundation in memory of his wife, Kari, left and daughter, Keira Lyn Parker. Both died in a car accident in 2007.

Parker is a health teacher at Fallbrook High School in San Diego County. He said he probably wouldn't have started the organization if it wasn't for the deaths of his wife and daughter. But he is glad to turn his grief into a source of help for students who need it.

2K4Kids gives scholarships to local students graduating from high school and attending college full-time. The organization also helps day care facilities and preschool classrooms with projects such as starting a new program or building a new classroom.

Eight students will receive a total of \$16,000 in scholarships at a sold-out fundraising dinner on July 31 at Wien's Winery in Temecula. Students who receive a scholarship this year are eligible to reapply next year.

"We want to see them finish," Parker said.

The group is also giving \$10,000 to daycare centers and Head Start programs in the region.

Parker said he has been amazed by all the support from the community especially during the tough economy. Individuals have donated money for scholarships and businesses have donated items for a silent auction at the fundraising dinner.

The group will host its first 2K Community Walk at 9:15 a.m. Aug. 1 at Great Oak High School in Temecula, 32555 Deer Hollow Way. Registration is set from 8:30 to 9 a.m. The walk will cost \$25, which includes a t-shirt and a small gift bag. Proceeds will go to 2K4Kids.

The group is taking donations and sponsorships for next year's dinner and scholarships. Information: www.2k4kids.org, 951-894-1959.

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