



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Boy Receives Life-Saving Angel Service Dog**  
*Funds for allergy detection dog to be presented by Jack's Helping Hand*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—This Friday, a four-year-old boy named Cooper Giron will be presented with funds from Jack's Helping Hand, Inc. in collaboration with Bishop's Peak Elementary School that will allow his parents to purchase a specially trained service dog. The press is invited to attend this special event to raise public awareness of children like Cooper, the extraordinary animals who protect them, and where help can be found.

Cooper has life-threatening allergies to tree nuts and peanuts that are so acute that even the slightest contact can produce anaphylactic shock and subsequent death. To maximize his chances for survival and to increase his independence, Cooper's physician has prescribed an allergy-detection dog that would prevent his exposure to these allergens, and provide instant access to his medications in an emergency.

A nonprofit company in Colorado called Angel Service Dogs, Inc. raises and trains Allergy Alert dogs and have accepted Cooper and his parents into their program. In addition to the price of the dog, additional costs include training for both dog and family, plus transportation and extended stay costs. The Girones have raised some of the funds themselves and have appealed to Jack's Helping Hand to help them with the rest.

On Friday, **December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m. at Bishop's Peak Elementary School**, Jack's Helping Hand, Inc. along with the school will present a check to Cooper and his parents for \$5,000 so they can make the trip to Colorado, receive their dog, and undergo training with him. Bishop's Peak Elementary and Jack's helping Hand have recently collaborated together to instill in the local youth, the importance of community service. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Bishop's Peak have been collecting and recycling items all school year to raise funds to donate to a child with special needs, Cooper was chosen for this year's donation.

"Despite our repeated appeals, our insurance will not cover the costs of a service dog for Cooper," said Christina Giron. "We are sure that when Cooper's story is heard, there will be greater public understanding of this need. We are so grateful to Jack's Helping Hand, Inc. for their generous support."

Founded in 2004, Jack's Helping Hand, Inc. is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the families of children with disabilities, injuries, or illness who need special equipment, treatments, or therapies not covered by insurance. For more information, please call 547-1914 or log onto [www.jackshelpinghand.org](http://www.jackshelpinghand.org).

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