



◀ JD Dudek (center), along with his sister, Sharon, and friend and pastor Mike Quinn.

Former patient provides generous support for Helford Hospital rehab gym

By Lisa Lyons

Former City of Hope patient **JD Dudek** has surpassed many expectations during the past few years of his life. In addition to competing in triathalons, managing a successful San Diego consulting firm and cycling in a major charity event with Tour de France champion **Lance Armstrong**, he won the ultimate battle.

He beat cancer.

And in recognition of Dudek's experiences, his family members have made a generous gift to City of Hope — one that will make a difference in the recovery of patients treated for cancer at the institution.

Dudek's health crisis began when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a form of cancer that affects the lymphocytes (white blood cells) and lymphocyte-producing cells in the bone marrow. On Aug. 25, 2003, Dudek started receiving radiation in preparation for the bone marrow transplant that held hope for his cure. Dudek's brother, **Dave**, happened to be a perfect match and served as his bone marrow donor. He underwent the transplant nine days later.

During his treatment, Dudek received an e-mail from world-renowned champion cyclist and cancer survivor Armstrong, who offered his encouragement. Armstrong also invited him to ride in the Ride for the Roses, an annual cycling event that raises funds for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which benefits cancer research and awareness. This e-mail, along with a photo of Armstrong and Dudek, can now be seen hanging in Helford Clinical Research Hospital at City of Hope.

After completing radiation therapy and transplantation, Dudek left the hospital to stay in isolation in a bungalow on campus where he could receive outpatient treatment. Dudek soon left isolation and was out of Hope and Parsons Village in record time.

To show gratitude for the extraordinary care he received at City of Hope, Dudek, along with his sister and brother-in-law, **Sharon** and **John Van de Grift**, donated \$250,000 for the rehabilitation gym on the sixth floor of Helford Hospital.