



■ WITH THANKS: Sarah Challacombe, Margy Kerlin (back), and Donna Saunders, CHRS's Kay Becker and Kylee Matthews celebrate the \$20,000 donation last week.

kh-250310-001

Working for change in Ryan Saunders' name

By KRISTAL HANSEN

DONNA and Terry Saunders took another step in the healing process last week, donating \$20,000 to a service that was there to help their son Ryan.

Donna presented a \$20,000 cheque to Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service executive officer Kay Becker in Emerald last week, and said it was the first of many donations to come.

"We had earmarked money for the helicopter rescue service because they do a lot of work here and they transported Ryan," explained Donna.

"We can't live out here without them."

The memory of the flight

from Emerald to Rockhampton is a bittersweet memory for the Saunders family.

"I think it helps the healing process we are going

"I think it helps the healing process we are going through,"

Donna Saunders

through," she said.

"The Helicopter Rescue Service has always been an organisation we wanted to help.

"With Ryan being so little, even when he was in a lot of pain, when we landed in Rocky he said 'more mummy?'

"It was something he enjoyed."

The Ryan Saunders Foundation will also donate \$20,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and \$10,000 to

helping the rescue service.

"It's a donation that comes with mixed feelings," she said.

"We were glad to be of assistance to the Saunders family but were disappointed by the outcome."

Kay said the CHRS flew to the Central Highlands once a week, and to Emerald once a fortnight,

with each trip costing between \$8000 to \$10,000.

The foundation will be fundraising this year, with plans currently under development.

Ryan Saunders died on September 26, 2007, in Rockhampton from a rare streptococcus bacteria infection.

the Queensland Medical Research Institute for the research and development of a vaccine for Streptococcal A infections.

CHRS executive officer Kay Becker said she was amazed by the size of the donation from the foundation and said it would go a long way to