

# Arm: 'My goal is to really involve the community'

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he's wearing. The elbows have full range of motion, along with a rotating wrist.

After being fitted for an improved harness on his closed hand and cupping a can of San Pellegrino Thursday, Jude shook the hands of older brother Sawyer, father Mike, doctor's assistant Isaac Womack and Chi.

## A hand up

Jude, who practices about an hour a day with his new arms, is short on words about how the prosthetics will affect his life. He used one of the prosthetics last week to ride a scooter gifted by OHSU down the hall.

"This has helped me with writing," Jude said, adding his new arm helps hold papers while he writes with his left hand. Asked what the hands might now enable him to do, Jude answered excitedly, "Wrap presents."

Jude is the youngest child of Alivia and Mike Rochon, along with Sawyer and sister Mia. The couple adopted Jude from a special needs group in Shanghai when he was a year old.

Alivia said she initially wondered what she should do to accommodate Jude's disability, but he has always found a way to get things done; be it riding a bike and playing on his youth baseball team to writing and tying his shoes. But Jude recently was bullied by another child, she said, which sapped his confidence and led them to start looking into prosthetics.

"It's hard to see your child lose that confidence," she said. "In addition to Dr. Chi giving this to Jude to help him physically, what we've already seen in him emotionally and in his confidence, it's already helped him so much."

Alivia's sister, who works at OHSU, connected the family with Chi, a trauma surgeon, professor and nationally renowned expert in prosthetics, who relocated last year from Johns Hopkins University. By the time Jude received his first prosthetic last week, he and his family were being interviewed

## MORE INFO

**Need help or want to help?** Dr. Albert Chi is asking anyone who needs an upper body prosthetic or anyone who wants to help make them to contact him at chia@ohsu.edu

by at least two television stations and The Oregonian.

"We don't like the interviews, and the TV, and the hoopla," Mike said. "It's for Jude. But it's sure comforting when you go up there and you realize this guy (Chi) is all about Jude and this tool."

## Enabling the Future

Chi is a member of Enabling the Future, a global network of volunteers using 3-D printers to create free prosthetic tools.

"There's this huge need for children who have congenital limb loss," Chi said. "It doesn't make sense to build them an expensive device they'll grow out of in one to two years."

Chi said the budget prosthetics are meant more as tools than fully functional limbs, which can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. He is developing more advanced 3-D-printed prosthetics incorporating electronics, and hopes to have a new one available for Jude in the coming year.

At Johns Hopkins, Chi was the medical director of the targeted muscle reinnervation program, where doctors have reassigned nerves so amputees can move prosthetics by merely thinking about which actions they want to perform. At OHSU, he focuses on improved motor control of prosthetics, including by eyesight.

Chi said his work in advanced and budget prosthetics is equally important to him.

"My goal is to really involve the community," he said. "Anyone in need, I can build them something. I'm hoping we can create a volunteer group, to provide this to anyone in need. We can have printing clubs in schools."

He said anyone needing an upper body prosthetic or wanting to help make them can contact him directly at chia@ohsu.edu



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jude Rochon, center wearing No. 34, plays baseball with his team in Astoria Tuesday. Rochon is the first recipient in the state of a 3-D-printed prosthetic arm made at an Oregon hospital. He practices using his new arm about an hour a day.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jude's mother, Alivia Rochon, helps adjust the new 3-D-printed prosthetic arm that works in conjunction with a harness that helps him control the hand.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Jude Rochon, left, shows off his new grip Thursday to father Mike Rochon after being fitted for a new harness on his 3-D-printed prosthetic, provided for free by Oregon Health & Science University's Dr. Albert Chi, in the background.

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SATURDAY, JULY 8

8AM-4PM

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6-17 YEARS OF AGE\*

\*Accompanied by their adult supervisor

- Shotgun Skills/Skeet Shooting Station
- 22 Rifle Range
- Muzzleloader Shooting
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- BB Gun Range
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- Wildlife Pelt Display
- Trapping Presentation
- Youth Hunting & Outdoor Education Information
- Firearm Safety Discussion
- Public Agency Displays
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- Novices Welcome

•SAFETY FIRST!  
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