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They'll roll the dice to help dysautonomia

By SHIRLEE IDEN

A baby born with dysautonomia comes into life's barriers box with two strikes against him.

His problem is usually apparent in the first few hours of life for he has a fixed pupil from stateness though aware of the [illegible]

Dysautonomia reflexes for a baby swallowing and vomiting are difficult to [illegible] in the dysautonomia victim [illegible] learning abilities are [illegible] impaired.

Breathing environment for an infant who [illegible] is a struggle and the [illegible] for defecation [illegible] and [illegible] in the aspira[illegible] [illegible] the lungs.

The dysautonomic child may develop pneumonia as many as ten times in a [illegible] year. With all these hazards [illegible] many of them do not [illegible] their 10 years.

[illegible] cannot [illegible] pain and cannot [illegible] between hot and cold. Such [illegible] may be unaware of being burned or even breaking a bone.

At a recent examination the Dysautonomia Foundation Michigan Chapter was [illegible] by concerned parents and have [illegible] Southfield's Town Center Building.

Dr. Robert Wolfe, a resident of Huntington Woods and currently the chapter's president and the group's planning its second annual Millionaire Party at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at Temple Israel, 5400 Maidstone, Detroit.

We have no set goals in terms of money to be raised because basically our funds go for research so any amount we can raise is helpful," he said.

We forward our monies to the New York office of the Dysautonomia Foundation. They have a medical advisory committee which decides where the grants will go.

Dr. Wolfe said that Dr. Ralph Cash of Oak Park is a member of that national committee.

Plans for the Millionaire's Party call for Las Vegas-style games, bingo for non-gambling dinner and other refreshments. Prizes to be awarded include a trip to Las Vegas for two including air fare and accomodations at the MGM Grand Hotel, a diamond and sapphire ring, a black and white TV set and many others.

"WE HAVE BEEN SUPER busy on the plans and are meeting every week," Dr. Wolfe explained. "We have to put the finishing touches on the event."

Harvey Rosenberg and Tom Sullivan, both of Southfield, have served as co-chairman for the fundraiser.

Tickets for the party are $35 per couple and may be charged to Michigan Bank Americard. For tickets or information, call the foundation's office at 444-4348.

Dysautonomia means disturbed function of the autonomic nervous system which functions as the protector and regulator of vital automatic body processes such as heart and lung action, digestion, blood pressure and body temperature. It also controls responses to pain, heat and cold as well as reflexes such as perspiration, tearing and salivating.

The disease affects the central nervous system which controls the voluntary actions of the body but to a lesser degree.

Dysautonomia afflicts both boys and girls and almost always strikes Jews of eastern European extraction. It is transmitted by a recessive gene.

No known method can determine whether an individual is a carrier of dysautonomia at this time. The disease may skip generations.

A growing theory amoung researchers holds that the missing link in the dysautonome child's nervous system is the lack of an enzyme that synthesizes a compound that activates muscles or glands to function in response to a nervous stimulus.

Recently, scientists have been able to reproduce key symptoms of the ailment in experimental animals and eventually the missing enzyme may be synthesized and administered to the dysautonomic child in the way insulin is given to a diabetic.

These approaches to solving the mysteries of dysautonomia and perhaps someday being able to prevent or treat are all financed by volunteer efforts like the Millionaire's Party being planned by the Michigan chapter.

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Family gives land to city

By JACKIE KLEIN

Robbie Gage died Nov. 23, 1974. He was six years old.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Gage of Southfield, have conveyed 17 acres in Inkster between Ten and Eleven Mile to the city for a public park, preferably for children. It is to be called Robbie Gage Memorial Park.

The Gages want to make the gift effective on the second anniversary of Robbie's death. He was a victim of the dread disease, dysautonomia.

Before their tragic loss, the Gages had given an option to developer Bernard Sobel to purchase the property for a mobile home court. The City of Southfield lacked an ordinance permitting trailer courts and Sobel sued the city for that reason, he claimed was discrimination.

During the litigation, Sobel's option expired and Gage declined to renew it, according to Southfield City Attorney Sammond Boras. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

PART OF the property was purchased from Southfield School Board to which $63,970 is still owed. The city will absorb that debt with funds from unappropriated surplus.

Southfield City Councilman John Marcinkowski voted against accepting the Gages' dedication of land. He said the situation is delicate, in light of the family's loss, but he maintained he couldn't in good conscience approve of spending taxpayers money.

We've been informed by city administrator Peter Cristiano that Southfield's state equalized valuation will be reduced in 1977-78," Marcinkowski said. The city has been hit hard by the single business tax knocking down personal property value.

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