

Memorial: Elizabeth LeGrand wants to better educate those who have learning delays, as her late son Michael did. She founded a scholarship fund in his name.

## Scholarship remembers learning-delayed son

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Returns Memorias Scholarship
& Neuroscience Research Foundation.
They went to work on assembling the first annual "Change the World of a Child Week," taking place now through Saturday in Michigan and 37 other states.
On a desktop in her condominium are proclamations from Michigan Gov. John Engler and other state leaders.
Thy son was a very special kid, "LeGrard said, recalling the conversation that sparked what has become her personnal sisaion. He lowed and the personnal sisaion. He lowed and the sparked what has been her personnal sisaion. He lowed and the sparked what has been her personnal sisaion. He lowed and the sparked what has been her personnal sisaion. He lowed and the sparked what has been her personnal sisaion. He lowed her personnal sisaion will be seen the sparked what has been the person of the sparked what he was the sparked when the sparked what he was the sparked when the spar

were going to do it, but I told him We're not going to let them forget you."

This will help him accomplish his goal on a scale he never dreamed possible.

A learning-delayed child is one who is afflicted with "any delay that makes a part of the learning process difficult - speech, fine motor, gross motor, the ability to read, write, do mathematics." LeGrand said.
Often they are labeled in preschool as slow learners. Many never fit into the mainstream, some drop out with their sellon, making them easy targets for recruitment into city and subraban gongs, accling to a foundational experience of these kids," she said. "Even learning-delays to Lible gouver it house."

## Hills council hosts community talks

Community talks

Farmington Hills City Council
will hoat the first in its second
series of community meetings 7
m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the
Fire Station No. 4, 28711 Drake
Road, north of 12 Milo.

The agenda includes: A review
of the Multicultural/Multiracial
Community Council endeavors,
an update on the Public Safety
Millage and plans for police and
information on the Parks and
information on the Parks and
Recreation Millage and Woodland Hills Nature Park ballot
question.

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"The first round of meetings was so well received, we're doing it again," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. This second round of meetings will help us be more specific in responding to issues of special interest to people in particular geographic areas with the city."

The open meeting includes question and answer time.

If residente have an item or issue for the agenda, they can call 473-9502.

kids have dreams.

The foundation's three primary goals are: providing scholarships to learning delayed children and adults; promoting research that seeks effective treatments for people with learning delays; and providing training to educators about new technologies for helping learning delayed children in the classroom.

Funds will help pay for tuition and books to community colleges for those who qualify. After just five months, about \$7.500 has been raised for the Michigan scholarship fund.

We're establishing an application process' to determine who can get the scholarships, explained LeGrand, adding she has high hopes for the foundation nationally. . . . It is my goal, within the next two years, to be giving scholarships to every state in the country.

Besides donations to the tax-exempt 501 (e) 3 non-profit foundation, proceeds from the sale of the Tangerine Trousers debut CD, Talking with E4, are being dedicated to the cause. The CD is available at Harmony House locations.

Meanwhile, local entertainer

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Meanwhile, local entertainer Shawna wrote and recorded a song about learning delayed children, appropriately titled Change the World of a Child.

All of the efforts are hoped to make a difference in the way these youngsters are taught and perceived, which could only improve their chances of success after they leave school.

"You can give a kid Rittalin for four hours and he can concentrate and get his work done LeGrand said." But in four hours he'll need more Ritalin. "We want to teach teachers how to address these students in the

classroom."
Some children might need to sit on the floor, instead of in chairs, to best learn, for exam-

chairs, to best learn, for example. They all learn differently. They all learn differently. LeGrand eaid, adding that educators need to find out how each child learns and 'teach them along those pathways."

According to LeGrand, the foundation refers to learning disabilities as learning delays 'because the word disability implies that a child may be unable to learn, when this is not the case."

Her son was proof of that. She took Mike out of the Rochester school district in the sixth grade because he was struggling to grasp the material and carolled him into St. John Lutheran Church.

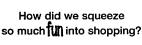
Mike left after the eighth grade with an award for academic excellence and went on to Groves High School, where he graduated (with a 2.9 gradepoint averago) in 1993.

But his success in overcoming the learning delay obstacle was followed by an insurmountable one. While in 10th grade at Groves, he found out he had MS. That didn't stop him from finishing high school and taking some classes at Oakland Community College, which he unfortunately could not complete due to his worsening illness.

Despite the prognosist that he'd nover walk ngain, and would probably die young, Mike kept battling and kept a positive utitude, his mortice ballday was April Tools Day, "she said," He was good natured. He accepted this erummy deal he got in life."

For more information call (200) 991-9328. For an application, call (248) 471-2126.







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