

## Kevin from page A1

he'd received glucose via an intravenous line.

All the while, Kevin helped to keep his younger brothers calm. When firefighters arrived, they distracted Kyle and Nathan, who'll be 3 years old on Jan. 31, who are both crazy about firemen and fire trucks.

They were each given a job to do. Nathan got his father a pillow; Kyle led the family dog, Scout, out of the house.

"I just can't say enough about how pleased I was with the professional care we received," Jeanette said. "A couple of the guys took the boys into the front of the house and talked to them. They really calmed the whole situation down."

### Dad argued

At first, Mark argued about going to the hospital. But after he tried to eat something and became ill, he decided it might not be a bad idea. He stayed at Beaumont Hospital for about a day. His doctor believes a new, faster-acting insulin might be to blame; now Mark makes sure he has a meal in front of him after he's taken his shot.

His own health, however, wasn't his main concern.

"The effect it would have on the kids was what bothered me the most," he said. "This was a reminder how serious diabetes is and a reminder to do a better job of managing my condition."

When Jeanette got home from the hospital, she was faced with three frightened little boys. As a professional counselor, she knew it was important for them to talk a lot about what happened.

They talked about how, even though Dad was fine, the boys might have feelings of sadness or fear or even anger. Jeanette told them it was OK to cry and to talk about how they felt.

She'd like to see a program of volunteer counseling in the community, to work with kids who've had to deal with family traumas. Jeanette is talking with officials at the Fire Department about her idea, which she envisions as "neighbor helping neighbor."

Though he remembers being worried about his father, Kevin hasn't held onto the memories of that morning. He has other things to think about — like playing outside in the snow during his vacation and going back to school, where his favorite classes are gym and art.

### Career choice?

Asked whether he'd like to be a firefighter some day, Kevin thought for a moment and said, "Maybe." But he's still undecided about what the future holds, which is not surprising for a first-grader.

Jeanette believes her son will shine no matter what he decides to do. And Mark thinks of his

Grateful: Kevin Penny (foreground) will receive an award for his quick actions when his father, Mark collapsed. Dad, brothers Kyle and Nathan, and his mom Jeanette are pretty proud.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEERLER

oldest boy as a real hero.

"Both Kev's mom and his Aunt Joy told me how helpful he was that morning and how he acted pretty grown up for a six-year-old," Mark said. "I want to be

just like him when I grow up."

Seated across the dining room table from his father, Kevin laughed.

"Dad, you're already grown up, though," he said.

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