

Funds needed for diabetes research

By SHIRLEE IDEN

When Stephen Gordon was 17 months old, he was diagnosed as a juvenile diabetic.

His mother, Marsha, was one of a group of parents who organized the Michigan Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation three years ago.

JDF is a non-profit corporation, whose goals are to administer to the needs of the diabetic child and his parents, to further educational services and to raise funds to support and initiate research to find the cause and cure of juvenile diabetes.

About 90 percent of Michigan JDF's funds go to research.

"DIABETES affects almost everyone," Mrs. Gordon said. "Nearly every family can find someone who has or had it."

"There's so much we don't yet know about it, as why one person

develops diabetes at 17 months and another at 40.

"People seem to think diagnosis and treatment with insulin or orinase alleviates the problem. "They don't realize insulin is only a treatment, and there is no cure."

MRS. GORDON said it has been predicted by 1980 one of every five Americans will have diabetes. "Juvenile diabetes is the third largest major chronic disease among children and the fifth largest killer," she said.

The average life span of a juvenile diabetic after onset of the disease is 27 to 35 years.

One out of every two will develop complications which include kidney failure, heart disease, blind-

ness, and circulatory problems leading to amputation of external limbs.

STEPHEN, now 11, injects himself with insulin each day.

"He had to learn because he wanted to go to camp last summer," his mother said.

He also has to be constantly on guard as to how he feels and carry candy or fruit in case of insulin shock.

Mrs. Gordon said most people know very little about diabetes.

"Amongst all major chronic diseases, it gets the smallest allotted amount for research," she said.

"And recently, even these amounts have been cut."

SHE EXPLAINED scientists

are looking into the feasibility of transplanting insulin-producing cells into diabetes victims.

"Some researchers believe that diabetes has viral origins," she said.

The week of May 11 to May 18 has been designated as "Juvenile Diabetes Week."

On Wednesday, May 15, the Michigan Juvenile Diabetes Foundation will hold a public meeting at Mercy College of Detroit.

DR. ARNOLD LAZEROW, noted expert on the disease from the University of Minnesota will be the feature speaker.

"These are the kinds of educational meetings we wish everyone would attend," Mrs. Gordon said.

"But meanwhile, it has been 50



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