

Fund keeps his goal alive

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Her son, Mike LeGrand, has been dead for more than two months.

But if Elizabeth LeGrand has her way, his presence will be felt for years to come.

She hopes — no, expects — to keep his memory alive by establishing scholarships for students like her son who, despite a learning disability, planned to attend a community college.

After graduating from Groves High School in 1993, Mike attended Oakland Community College — as best he could — until his death April 28, that was caused by an infection complicated by progressive multiple sclerosis. But attendance was sporadic, and he didn't complete a single course.

"He'd get sick," said his mother, "and he couldn't continue."

Taxes, roads are primary issues for Republicans

The Oakland County Republicans released the results of their two-month study concerning the issues their membership deems most important for the 1998 election cycle.

The current condition of Michigan's roads and the financial avenues to remedy the situation, garnered nearly 18 percent of the 117 responses received.

The belief that Michigan citizens are overtaxed at the federal level, finished second with just under 14 percent. "What we can derive from this survey is that we all have issues which are of importance to us, as individuals, such as abortion and term limits," said Karl King, director of communications. "There are those four or five issues, though, which unite us as a party."



Choosing life: Mike LeGrand, who had progressive multiple sclerosis, loved life and wanted to live.

Even so, he had his dreams and goals... he wanted to be a teacher. He knew he had learning problems, he was proud to achieve average grades.

"But he thought having learning difficulties might enable him

to help other kids with the same problem."

She misses her son deeply. Instead of mourning, however, LeGrand decided the best way to commemorate Mike's courage was to set up a scholarship for youngsters with similar problems.

"I was happy to pay Mike's tuition and book fees," she said. "But it might be different for other kids. So, I want to remember Mike by helping them out."

At first, she envisioned a single scholarship at Groves. Mike's classmates there etched a place in her heart forever, LeGrand said, when they gave him a standing ovation during commencement exercises.

But as LeGrand thought about Mike — and the students like him who could use a little help — she raised her goals. She wants as many scholarships for youngsters who might be considered "slow learners" as possible.

"They won't go to waste," she said.

An initial step is a benefit Monday at Shield's, Mike's favorite pizza place.



Spirit remembered: Elizabeth LeGrand plans to keep the memory of her son Mike alive by funding scholarships for students with learning disabilities at community colleges or trade schools.

Staff Photo By Larry McKeo

Shield's in Troy and Southfield will be closed to normal clientele Monday to host a benefit for the Michael Allen LeGrand Memorial Scholarship & Neuroscience Research Foundation from 5 p.m. until midnight. The suggested donation is \$10 per person for the salad and pizza buffet and soft drinks.

Among the attractions are the singer Shawna; pianist Larry Larson; and the Tangorine Trousers, which is releasing its first CD.

With public skepticism perhaps at an all-time high, LeGrand is quick to note donations are held by METLife Securities that will allocate scholarship and research funds from accrued interest. The principal

will remain in tact, growing with each donation.

"I don't take a salary," said LeGrand, a single mother who took leave from her hospital job to be with her dying son.

"And we don't spend money," she said. "We don't even buy paper clips. We got them from office supply companies that agree we have a worthy cause."

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