

Memorial from page A1

school employee. Through Power Middle School fundraising, the legacy of the McKennetts touched remains with a boulder plaque, a bird house and a Japanese cherry tree.

Bob Kovar, the school's assistant principal, organized the memorial service, a team effort, he said.

"What we keep in memory is our unchanged forever," the plaque reads.

Lindsay grabbed a shovel and helped Girl Scout Troop 3037 plant the Japanese cherry tree. Megan had been a member.

The community helps

Farmington Superintendent Bob Maxfield called the service "a wonderful expression of love and concern from the Power Family."

The school is still collecting money for a scholarship fund. More than \$3,500 has been raised, according to Power Principal Don Hammond.

There's an ongoing sweatshirt sale; a portion of the proceeds will be donated. Call Lisa Clancy at (248) 212-6449 for more information.

Megan's Scout troop gave \$300. Members of the Power

YES Club under teacher Nancy Morris' direction worked to raise part of the money to purchase the plaque, tree and birdhouse.

Custodian Ross Bandy helped prepare the area in front of the school.

"We are proud of our staff response to assist students during this difficult loss," Hammond said. "We trust all of you like us held our own a little closer as we shared in the pain of our extended family. This ceremony symbolizes the importance of community, the gift of life itself, and the blessing of hope and love."

Robert McFarling, Judy's father and the children's grandfather, recalled images of the family, one at a Kissimmee, Fla. condominium where Megan worked on a story about how Dalmatians got their spots and Judy determinedly finished a jigsaw puzzle.

The next image was at University Hospital in Kentucky, where Lindsey and family friend Jeff Godre were flown by helicopter for treatment. Godre also survived.

"The skill of the people there was unbelievable," McFarling said.

The third was the return to the family home in Farmington

Hills. "My car was a little further back and when I pulled up, the house was full of people, he said. "Neighbors and friends gathered together. We got support from the churches and schools and this community."

Memories shared

Donnie McFarling, his wife, said they were asked during a class on grief to write a letter to their loved ones. In her letter to Megan, she wrote, "I hope they have a piano and a violin for you to play."

She recalled how she sat on the piano bench with Megan and praised her every effort as she practiced. "You were my inspiration," Donnie said. "One time when we were at the piano you said, 'You teach me and when I get good, I will teach you.'"

Cassie Mills, a cousin who was the same age as Megan, wrote a poem. "The hearts of many are shattered and broken in two," she read, in part. "The soul is

empty and red and filled with madness."

Lindsey's aunt Jeannette Mills wrote a letter to Mike. "I remember you as athletic and daring," she said. "You always had the kids' latest mode of transportation whether it was a bike, scooter, roller blades or a skateboard."

Megan was in James Ragland's advanced math class

at Power. His students remember Megan's smile.

Every day Ragland tells his students to be nice to someone because each can make a difference. "Megan really did make a difference with a simple smile," Ragland said.

Ellen Pietka, Megan's best friend since age four said Megan was typically very quiet until she came to her house. "Then her

whole personality changed," Pietka said. "She slept over at my house, spent the summer at my house and we did a lot of fun things."

Amid sobs, friend Mandy Pepper said Megan was special. "She played the piano like an angel," Pepper said. "Some people can be there beside you, talk to you, and make you feel better. Some people you can just think about."

CRITTENTON HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER Community Education CLASSES

Diabetic Self-Management Series: 7-9 p.m. June 4, June 11, June 18 and July 2
Taught by health professionals, this four-part program provides diabetics with all the information they need to manage their disorder. Fee: \$50/series

The Art of Relaxation: 6-7:15 p.m. June 12, June 19 and June 26
During this three-part program, Internist Dr. Gurdev Singh and other health professionals provide practical guidance and medical insights to help you understand what "stresses you out" and how to undo the negative affects of stress. Fee: \$40/series

Community First Aid & Safety: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. June 15
This course meets the new state requirements for day care workers and other related fields. You'll learn CPR for adults, children and infants as well as first aid techniques. Written and skills examination is required. Fee: \$75/person

Introduction to Yoga: 5:30-6:30 p.m. June 19
Learn what Yoga is all about in this class, which meets the third Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$10/class or \$70/10 classes

Grandparents To Be: 7:30-9 p.m. June 19
Future grandparents will find out how they can be helpful and supportive during the expectant mother's pregnancy and after the baby is born. A special tour of The Birthplace is included. Fee: \$5/family

**CRITTENTON HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

1101 West University, Rochester, Michigan 48307



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BEEZER
Help from a friend: Ellen Pietka comforts her friend Mandy Pepper. Both girls, friends of Megan McKennett, spoke at the memorial.



Sharing memories: Deanie McKennett, Megan and Michael's grandmother, scatters rose petals on the site of the memorial.

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