

Family raises money to keep memories alive

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up to financially help families in the development of their children by giving them resources for educational, medical, childcare and extra-curricular needs of their kids, according to the mission statement.

"We wanted to keep it so we can do things that have immediate consequences. We want to try to see the impact of what we're doing," Linda said.

They want to award scholarships each year to children in Watertown and Avon to attend the Watertown Integrated Preschool and the Avon Preschool. They would like to use the police departments and churches to locate families who might be having trouble making ends meet during the holidays. In Watertown, they plan to give money to the DARE program, and to the Fire Department's fire safety officer for fire safety education.

Many of the foundation's goals are geared toward activities or programs that help toddlers, children who are Elizabeth's age when she died. Other aims are directed in areas that meant something to Kimberly or Chip Miller. The Tracy's have contacted the Randolph dentist for whom Kimberly worked, and may possibly work with him on projects in area schools. Some of the money will

go toward youth sports programs, which Chip Miller, with his parks and recreation background, would have supported.

Hardiman, who continues to make plates to raise money for the foundation, said the charity work has kept the Tracys going. Linda had told her that explaining to people the idea behind the plates gave her a way to talk to people with less awkwardness in the days following the accident, she said.

"I think, out of this tragedy, something's happened they can do, something to be positive about," Hardiman said.

The first two official fund-raising events are coming up in the next two months. Bags of stuff from attics across town are piled high in the Tracys' Marshall Street dining room, waiting for a yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., tentatively scheduled for the Phillips School at 30 Common St. Residents (and anyone else) can do a little treasure hunting for a good cause, and kids get a free coloring book and crayons.

On Monday, Oct. 22, starting at 10 a.m., the Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation Inc. Golf Tournament will be held at the Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland. The tournament, organized by

Tim's brother, Town Auditor Tom Tracy, costs \$125 per player and includes dinner. Sponsorships are also available from \$150 to \$4,000.

It will be up to Kaitlin and Kristen whether or not they get involved in the foundation when they get older. Tim said, but he hopes it will serve his daughters as an example of how to help others.

"This is a big thing off our checklist as far as what we want to instill in our kids," he said.

Kaitlin was 12 weeks old and Kristen not yet born when their big sister died. But next to the couch, a large framed snapshot of Elizabeth Tracy and Kimberly Miller taken at a Father's Day celebration last year will forever capture their sister's sparkle and their aunt's warmth.

The Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation will forever capture their memory and the ability of two small towns to keep it alive.

For more information about the foundation or the fundraising activities, call Tom or Linda Tracy at 617-924-2770. Donations can be sent to The Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation, Inc., PO. Box 541002, Waltham, Mass., 02454-1002.

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