



Event for Sharon and Grzech not your average Skate-a-thon

Port Huron's Glacier Pointe Ice Arena hosts day of remembrance, support and healing

By Brian DeWagner

A devastating car crash last February took the life of one Lexington teenager and left another one struggling to survive. Three months later Jeremy Grzech, a Little Caesars '90 defenseman, bears the burden of a difficult recovery and the loss of a friend, David Sharon. It's a burden no teenager should ever have to bare.

The kind of healing such a tragedy so desperately needs was given a boost on May 20 when local organizers, together with Hockey

an opportunity to raise money and awareness for the David Sharon Memorial and the Jeremy Grzech Assistance Fund, but behind all of the event posters and pledge sheets it was much more than that. The day was a chance to offer support to the Sharon family, and also to welcome a recovering Grzech home from the hospital. Aside from the generous effort to raise funds, the event was an opportunity for David and Jeremy's friends and families to heal wounds that are still fresh.

"This isn't about the money at all," event organizer Debbie Speck insisted. "It's about giving these kids and all of their families a chance to help each other through this tragedy."

The event was defined by the smiles and laughter of David and Jeremy's classmates, and also by the warmth of a community coming together. The lives of both the Sharon and Grzech families have been tragically altered, and the day was a chance for the whole community to help comfort and support them.

David's father, Mike Sharon, was grateful for the chance to surround himself with so many of the people that miss his son and who are praying for Jeremy.

"I just think it's wonderful that everyone still remembers the kids and that they're thinking of them," Sharon offered. "We're so thankful for all of the support that we've had from everybody."



Little Caesars players (from left) Jack Sklarski, Tim Opie, Phil Webb, Daniel Refice, Douglas Clifford, Todd Cricelli and Alec Thieda attended the May 20 Skate-a-thon in support of teammates David Sharon and Jeremy Grzech.

Everybody included Lisa Ilitch, the daughter of Detroit Red Wings owner Mike Ilitch, and one of only eight women to have their name etched into the Stanley Cup (1997 and '98). Many of David and Jeremy's high school friends may have been having too much fun to even notice Ilitch helping out with the event. The support offered by the Ilitch family, the Detroit Red Wings, and the Little Caesars organization was just another bright spot in the celebration of both David Sharon and Jeremy Grzech's lives but one that humbly took a backseat to the day's heart felt focus.

"This is a reminder of how precious life is," Ilitch said. "For the Sharon's that lost their son and for Jeremy who's fighting for his life everyday. It's a

reminder that nothing can be taken for granted." As event volunteers and participants skated the afternoon away into the evening two families found solace in a community's love and support. It would have been difficult for parents to be more proud of the kind of influence their sons have had under any circumstances. On this day they had plenty of company.

"I'm proud of the kids from this high school who are able to take their Saturday and come here and do something for such a good cause," Ilitch said. "To give up their time and their money, it shows a lot. I hope that his will help to inspire Jeremy in his recovery and give some comfort to the Sharon family."



Howard Oishi (from left) and Myra Zolynsky of Hockey Has Heart, Chris Sharon and Mike Sharon (David's Sharon's parents), Lisa Ilitch-Murray, Debbie Speck (local organizer), Tim Opie (Little Caesars '90 head coach), and Dan Grzech (Jeremy's brother) helped organize a Skate-a-thon in support of David Sharon and Jeremy Grzech on May 20 at Glacier Pointe in Port Huron.

Has Heart, put together a Skate-a-thon at Glacier Pointe Ice Complex in Port Huron. Event promotions suggested that the day was

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