

Dear Hockey Mom: Support for Grzech comes in from around continent

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Dear Readers,

Have you ever noticed how close hockey families become? We spend so much time together, playing hockey, eating, traveling and just hanging out. We really become close. The thing that has recently struck me is something I have actually always known: Hockey families all come together to help each other.

Recently, one of our players on the Little Caesars '90 team, Jeremy Grzech, was injured in a very serious auto accident. Since that time he has been fighting for his life and we in the hockey community have been supporting him and fighting with him.

It reminds me of how we came together recently for the late Cranbrook coach Lance Wissmueller and helped his family raise money and support. Or when Alex Nannoshi lost his life on a four-wheeler and we were able to minister to his family with an outpouring of love and support. Look at Hockey has Heart and the wonderful job that group has done helping numerous hockey families through their trials and tragedies. This year I feel proud that they have chosen to honor Scotty Bowman, along with my mom and dad, and will once again raise money to help hockey families.

What a fantastic outreach.

Hockey families are special people.

They are people with deep concern and commitment. To all of you I want to say thanks for always caring and for reaching out to those in need. It's truly something we can all be proud of.

There's nothing like the Hockey Family anywhere

Dear Hockey Mom,

I just wanted to take a few moments to share with the hockey community.

For those of you who know us or have at least heard by now, our son, Jeremy Grzech was involved in a critical car accident on Feb. 13, 2006. We just wanted to reach out and thank each and every person that has helped support Jeremy and our family during these difficult and trying times.

For those who have sons, daughters, coach's, ref's, etc. in the hockey world, I need not tell you just how far, long and deep the hockey family runs, filled with a love and care that is never ending. Cards, prayers, team jerseys, and contributions have been coming in from teams or individuals from as far away as Quebec to Vancouver as well as from coast to coast.

For those not in the hockey world, they might not ever understand just how special our "circle" truly is, so I'd like to try and give them an example.

Jeremy plays for Little Caesars Hockey and just last week was blessed with a most unexpected visit by some very special people. Mike Ilitch, his daughter Lisa and their minister Jean all came to spend some time with Jeremy. We visited and all prayed very hard for his complete recovery. At the time of his accident, Jeremy was in critical condition, unconscious, in a coma and unresponsive. He had to be airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. The next 72 hours were life or death. Jeremy being tough both mentally and physically overcame this time frame. One month later Jeremy has since left the ICU and has been moved to the rehab and recovery floor where the next phase of recovery will be very time consuming and long.

Jeremy has touched the lives of many people wherever he has gone or played hockey. I asked for this space to once again reach out to as many of you as possible to thank each and every one of you. You have all truly touched the life of Jeremy and our family deeply.

Sincerely, The Family of Jeremy Grzech

I'd like to leave you with a poem that was written by one of Jeremy's former coaches and friend:

Youth, is his Ally, Strength, is his edge;
Persistence to accomplish, has kept him on life's ledge.
A drive to be the best, never settling for good enough;
Has molded this young man's life, so caring, yet so tough.
His smile so enlightening, his laugh, a youthful joy;
If you've met him, you can't help, but to love this young Man, this boy.
Hockey is his passion, on the ice, he feels his best;
His teammates feel comfort, his opponents unrest.
He now must face, his hardest challenge yet;
He'll beat the odds. Against him, I would not bet.
God has watched over him, and soon you will see;
That boy on the ice, over there, is Jeremy!!!

– **Paul E. DeGrandis**

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Dear Grezch Family,

You are amazing! What unbelievable courage you all have. Thank you for your touching letter and the opportunity to minister to you and your family. Your son Jeremy is an inspiration to all of us and we will continue to pray for his full recovery. All of us in the hockey world are pulling for him. Thanks again for sharing your story.

We will stay in touch. Go, Jeremy!

Sincerely, Hockey Mom