

Thanks to supporters of 'Bike & Hike for Mike'

On Sept. 9, 2006, the fifth annual "Bike & Hike for Mike" fundraiser was held at Cypress Cove, Woodridge. This event is held each year to support the "Michael David Samel Spirit of Music Fund," a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation established in 2001, after we lost our 16-year-old son, Michael, in a fatal traffic accident. He had a special love and passion for music.

The fund has provided more than \$40,000 in music equipment, seminars, scholarships and music lessons to our local high school music programs over the past few years. This year's event has raised an additional \$5,500 with donations still coming in!

We want to thank all the volunteers, participants, friends, family and sponsors who have supported us and helped make this event successful.

Among those were many local businesses who generously donated gifts and merchandise:

A & E Technology, A Chocolate Affair, AMW Clothing & Sports, Best Buy, Bridgeview Bank Group, Boll Weevil, Buntrock Chiropractic, Cantigny Golf & Banquets, Carrabba's, Consider It Done, Cub Foods, Dalia's Café, Dariusz Jewelers, Dominick's, Emmett's Ale House, Herbert's Clothing, Heritage House Florists, Hollywood Boulevard, Homestyle & Garden LTD, Let It Shine, Lisle Wyndham Hotel, Mulberry Street, NTB, Rocco & Rocco, She's Boutique, Target, TCBY and The Cellar Door.

And a big thank-you to Pete Cushion and Home Run Inn Pizza for providing the delicious pizza at the Celebration Party for all the volunteers, participants and families.

An additional thank you to Bob Pinelli of PS Signs & Apparel, Downers Grove, who provided the wonderful signs and banners that were used throughout the event, and John Anderson of The Anderson Advertising Agency, Downer Grove, who created the "Spirit of Music" logo and promotional materials.

And finally, a very special thank you to Woodridge Village Trustee Robert Brandt for his emotional opening remarks, and to Woodridge Mayor William Murphy and the Board of Trustees, the village of Woodridge, the Woodridge Park District, the Woodridge Police Department, the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, and Downers Grove North and South high schools for their continued support of this event.

We look forward to supporting more high school music programs next year and beyond with the "Michael David Samel Spirit of Music Fund." If you would like information on the fund, or to be a volunteer, participant or donate for the next event, please contact Mark or Pat Samel at (630) 985-7939 or e-mail to msamel@ameritech.net.

Mark and Pat Samel

Woodridge