



The Kevin Kitchnefsky Foundation for Spinal Cord Research recently provided financial help to Dallas resident Jeffrey Hockenbury, who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident on May 23, 2007 with a spinal cord injury that left him a paraplegic. From left, seated, are Jeffrey Hockenbury and Kevin Kitchnefsky. Standing, Susan Hockenbury and Yvonne Kitchnefsky.

Reaching to an injured comrade

The Kevin Kitchnefsky Foundation for Spinal Cord Research recently provided financial help to Dallas resident Jeffrey Hockenbury, who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident on May 23, 2007 with a spinal cord injury that left him a paraplegic.

Kevin Kitchnefsky, president of the foundation that bears his name, wanted to do what he could to help Hockenbury, his wife, Susan, and their 8-month old son, Tyler, because he remembers all too well the financial burdens that befall victims of spinal cord injury.

The Kitchnefsky Foundation provided funds that allowed the Hockenbury family to make their home handicapped-accessible - building two ramps allowing Jeffrey access and modifying their bathroom, making it possible for Hockenbury to be able to shower and use bathroom facilities without assistance.

Kitchnefsky suffered a devastating spinal cord injury in a workplace accident. With the help of his family and friends, he founded the Kevin Kitchnefsky Foundation for Spinal Cord Research in order to raise funds that will help pay for medical research that will someday allow all victims of spinal cord injury to walk again.

"I was a victim of spinal cord injury, but I would not allow a spinal cord injury to defeat me," Kitchnefsky said.

While the funds raised by his foundation are predominantly used to support medical research, a portion of the funds are donated locally to individuals when appropriate. Hockenbury, said Kitchnefsky, is one of those situations.

"My hope is to assist the doctors and scientists in their spinal cord research by raising whatever funds I can," he added. "My other goal is to help spinal cord injury victims as best I can with some of the financial hardships they confront."

The Hockenburys quickly learned that, while the medical challenges confronting a spinal cord injury victim are the most obvious problems, there are many other issues that do not immediately spring to mind.

For example, doorways at home need to be widened to allow a wheelchair to be maneuvered around the home and bathrooms need to be made handicapped accessible.

"We thank God for people like Kevin who have refused to allow a spinal cord injury to defeat his spirit," said Susan Hockenbury. "I guess it's like the old saying that you can't keep a good man down."

The Kevin Kitchnefsky Foundation for Spinal Cord Research conducts various fundraisers throughout Northeast Pennsylvania to raise funds, including an annual golf tournament, a children's carnival called KidsFest at the Mall at Steamtown in Scranton, an autumn HarvestFest for children at Shadowbrook Inn & Resort in Tunkhannock, among others.

For further information, or to become involved with the Kevin Kitchnefsky Foundation for Spinal Cord Research, please call 836-1240 or browse Kitchnefsky's website at www.HelpKevinWalk.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Taking time out from rehearsing their roles in the Music Box Dinner Theatre's production of "The Marvelous Misadventures of Little Red Riding Hood" are, from left, Jeff Kelly, Dana Feigenblatt, Cindy Brandreth and Jonathan Wallace.

Little Red's misadventures come to life

Three residents of the Back Mountain Area will appear in the Music Box Dinner Playhouse children's show, "The Marvelous Misadventures of Little Red Riding Hood," an original show for children written by local playwright, Kevin Costley.

Geared especially for children ages 4 and above, "Little Red" will be presented today, April 27, and May 2 to 4 at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St, Swoyersville. Friday performances are at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 1 and 5 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. There

are school day performances at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, and Friday, May 2.

Evelyn Kersey of Shavertown, recently retired from the King's College Development Office, has appeared in several shows at the Music Box, including "The Sound of Music," "Carousel," "Nunsense II" and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." She plays the roles of Jack's Mother and Mama Bear.

Jeff Kelly is a 2007 graduate of Dallas Area High School and is now a freshman at College Misericordia where he is a pre-law

psychology major and is a member of the college chorus and the Wind and Jazz Ensemble. He plays the roles of the White Rabbit and Papa Bear. Kelly recently played the role of Ambrose Kemper in "Hello, Dolly!"

Jonathan Wallace of Dallas is a freshman at Dallas Area High School where he is active in the Theater Club, the school band and chorus. He has appeared in community theatre productions of "Children of Eden," "The Kind and I," "Nuncrackers" and "Cabaret." He Jonathan plays the roles of Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk) and Baby Bear.

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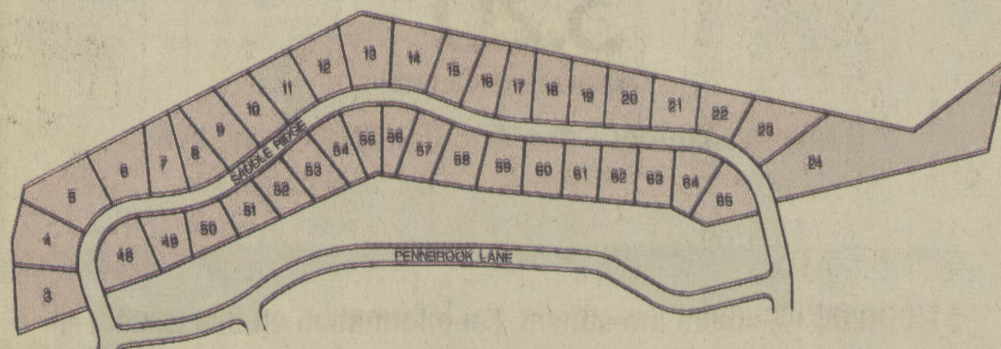
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