

Dimensions of living

Teens remembered at DS Shanahan's

Motorcycle run, concert this Sunday to benefit memorial scholarship fund

By URSULA MOORE

It has been less than a year since the deaths of Daniel Distefano, 17, of Nesconset and Michael Western, 17, of Smithtown.

Although the pain of their loss will live on forever, Daniel and Michael's death will be more than a sad memory. A memorial scholarship fundraiser is planned for Sunday, July 20 at DS Shanahans.

Hundreds of supporters are expected to attend this fundraiser, which includes a Motorcycle Run. The proceeds from the scholarship fund will be used to help Smithtown high school seniors offset the cost of taking college-level courses while still attending high school.

"These were good kids. This memorial fundraiser will help to keep their lives going somewhat," said Ray Marchand, coordinator of the fundraiser and longtime family friend of the Westerns.

There will be free food and music by The Stripped Down Band and the Curbdogs. "The boys loved this kind of music," said Mr. Marchand.

These teenage boys were a huge part of their communities, and their deaths left a lasting impact on everyone they knew. "This is very emotional for me. I have known Michael since he was born. His father and I worked together at the Town of Smithtown," said Ray Marchand.

"The response is overwhelming," said Lisa Platti-Florentine, a fellow fundraiser coordinator. "Everyone is very positive and wants to contribute."

The Motorcycle Run is expected to attract a huge crowd. "They are going to start at Oak Beach Inn and ride down the Parkway. The run will end at DS Shanahans," Mr. Marchand said. "There will be firefighters, police officers and bikers riding. We are expecting a large turnout."

This fundraiser has brought out the humanitarian in everyone with the support being overwhelmingly uplifting. "So far, I have gotten donations from Allstate and UPS, to name a few," said Ms. Platti-Florentine. Businesses have promised everything from free golf lessons to free printing services. "Landing Country Club donated, which we really appreciated. Also, the memorial t-shirts being printed are paid for. The response is great," said Mr. Marchand.

So far, a total of \$25,000 has been raised. Friends and families are closely working together to honor these two teenagers that died in a head-on collision on Jericho Turnpike in Smithtown. Recently, the tremendous loss of Michael and Daniel's death resurfaced at their graduation. What should have been a day filled with smiles, congratulations and thunderous applause ended up being another reminder of the two young lives that were taken too soon.

"At graduation, it was very difficult to see all the kids graduate. Michael and Daniel should have been there," Mr. Marchand said. "Their parents had to accept their diplomas. It just didn't seem right, graduation was a very somber day."

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER

IN HONOR OF

MICHAEL WESTERN &
DANIEL DISTEFANO

CHINESE AUCTION
50/50
DOOR PRIZES

LIVE MUSIC

STARTS
3:00PM



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
1. CARPIT SPONSOR \$1,000.00
2. BIKE RUN SPONSOR \$750.00
3. BAND SPONSOR \$500.00
4. FOOD SPONSOR \$300.00
5. RAFFLE SPONSOR \$250.00
6. CHINESE AUCTION \$250.00
7. PAINTING SPONSOR \$100.00
TIME OF EVENT: 1PM-5PM

\$5.00 Cover Charge **SUNDAY JULY 20, 2008** CHILDREN WELCOME

DS SHANAHANS, 515 OLD DOCK RD. KINGS PARK, NY

FREE HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS

MUSIC BY
THE STRIPPED DOWN BAND &

THE
CURB DOGS
-HEAVIER BLUES-



MOTORCYCLE RUN

MOTORCYCLE RUN STARTS AT 1:00PM

ENTRANCE FEE \$15.00 INCLUDES FREE MEMORIAL T-SHIRT

MOTORCYCLE RUN STARTING AT OAK BEACH PARK, FORMALLY "OAK BEACH INN"

SPECIAL THANKS
JEANNE MARCHAND
RAY MARCHAND



SPECIAL THANKS
LISA PLATTI
JOHN FLORENTINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT RAY MARCHAND AT 631-544-6909

Event Designed By David Productions 631-879-8281 David@jrock.com

All are encouraged to share a few kind words during this memorial. "Parents and friends are welcomed to speak only if they feel comfortable," Mr. Marchand said. "It is still a very emotional time for everyone."

For those who would like to attend the memorial scholarship fundraiser, there is a \$5 cover charge for DS Shanahans, 515 Old Dock Road, Kings Park. The Motorcycle Run entrance fee

is \$15, which includes a free memorial t-shirt. The Run begins at 1 p.m., starting at Oak Beach Park on Ocean Parkway, formally the Oak Beach Inn.

For more information, call (631) 544-6909. To make a donation to the Michael Western Daniel Distefano Memorial Fund, make a check payable to Michael Western Daniel Distefano Fund and mail to: 155 Fifth Avenue, Kings Park, NY 11754.