

Never forget

Trust keeps Jennifer Kane's memory alive

By Rich Harbert

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Girls Scouts test their limits on a new challenge course at Camp Wind in the Pines.

YMCA swimmers plunge into the water from new docks at Camp Clark.

And local baseball and softball players and their fans dig into refreshments at a new concession stand at Forges Field.

Elsewhere, critically ill children see dreams come true, horribly disabled veterans forge new lives in specially equipped homes, and students pursue college educations.

It's all thanks to a group dedicated to keeping a memory alive.

The donors are the friends and relatives of Jennifer Lynn Kane, the 26-year-old West Plymouth native who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Every year for the last eight, the Kane family has held a golf tournament in Jennifer's memory. The tournament is considered the gold standard for benefit events, even in hard economic times. Restaurants, hotels and businesses throughout the region donate prizes to the silent auction. Local shops and international corporations sponsor holes. The shotgun tournament sells out a year in advance.

Proceeds from the first two tournaments established an endowed scholarship for female accounting students at Kane's alma mater, Villanova University.

The Jennifer Kane Scholarship and Charitable Trust has since looked locally to help in causes that touched Jennifer as she grew up in Plymouth.

The Trust funded camperships and improvements at Camp Clark, where Kane worked as a lifeguard, and at Camp Wind in the Pines, where she summered as a child.

The Trust will also donate money to groups that build homes for injured veterans and make sick children's wishes come true.

Over the years, some of the projects have taken longer to come to fruition than others.

The Kane Trust raised money for a concession stand at Forges Field back in 2003. Jennifer played softball in the town league as a child. After years of delays, the stand finally opened to the public earlier this summer, just in time for last weekend's annual Jennifer Kane Softball Tournament.

Last year's project may also take time. Despite a funding commitment, the Japanese Bell Tower planned for somewhere in Brewster Garden is still in the design stage.

George Kane, Jennifer's father, said his daughter would have approved of having her name attached to so many causes. "She always thought about helping others," he said.

This year's golf tournament will be held Monday, Aug. 24, at Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to four charities: Homes For Our Troops, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts and Plymouth YMCA Camp Clark.