

It's been over 5 years since the tragic passing of BJ Stupak, but his memory will live on for generations through the BJ Fund. Bart, Laurie & Ken Stupak set up the BJ Fund with the M&M Area Community Foundation in 2001 as a way to support the things that were important to their son & brother.

The major fundraiser that perpetuates this fund is the "BJ Birdie Hunt" golf outing, organized by friends of the Stupaks and the M&M Area Community Foundation. Honorary Co-Chairmen are Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pennsylvania) and Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tennessee).

2005 marked the fifth year of the BJ Birdie Hunt, held September 19 at the picturesque Whiskey Creek Golf Club, 35 miles north of Washington DC. A sold out field of 130 Congressional representatives, lobbyists and friends of the Stupaks attended the event, which included lunch, golf, dinner, prizes and an auction. Approximately \$124,000 was raised for the BJ Fund.

M&M Area Community Foundation board member John MacIntyre attended on behalf of the Foundation. "It was an impressive event," remarked MacIntyre. "Legislators and business executives came out in force to show generous support for the Stupaks and this cause that is so dear to them. The youth in our area will benefit from their generosity."

The BJ Fund is used to continue BJ's legacy of leadership in academics and sports. To date the fund has awarded over \$120,000 in scholarships, contributed to the Spies Field renovation project and sponsored Menominee High School's Student Leadership Class to host the statewide Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies' annual conference. The BJ Fund also helped cover costs of entry fees for four students from each school in the Upper Peninsula to attend the 2005 Fall Michigan Association of Student Councils leadership training institute.

For more information about starting a fund with the M&M Community Foundation, call (906) 864-3599.