

COUNTRYSIDE

Fund now ready for children of murdered parents

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His mother's murder was senseless and defeating. But Kevin Doyle, creator of the Sheilah A. Doyle Scholarship Foundation, made sure her death had a greater purpose.

Seventeen years ago, on July 3, 1993, Sheilah Doyle had just finished her night shift as a nurse at Little Company of Mary Hospital when she was beaten and murdered by two men looking to steal parts from her car.

Kevin Doyle, only 17 at the time, not only had to cope with her death, but he also had to face his future.

Before his mother's death, Doyle shared his plans for college with her — complete a degree in journalism at the University of Iowa. Despite losing the emotional and financial support of his mother, he did exactly what he set out to do.

Once he graduated, Doyle started on his career path at CNC Professional Services as a salesman, where he met his future business partner, Steve Banke.

Aiming to provide IT services to small

Scholarship details

WHAT The Sheilah A. Doyle Scholarship **FOR** Young people who have had a parent murdered, looking to further their education

APPLY At www.SADFund.org

NEED Two letters of recommendation and a personal essay about their tragedy, and how the scholarship would benefit their future

NOTE Finalists will be interviewed

businesses, they created 3-Points LLC nine years ago. Doyle applied his talents and motivation toward building up the company from a tiny basement office in Palos Hills to serving more than 200 active clients.

The company is now located on W. 55th Street in Countryside.

Though it was difficult, Doyle had done everything he told his mother he would do — he had put himself through the college of his choice and had even gone further to start a new business. Still, Doyle did not stop there.

Doyle realized that what he most wanted to do was give a helping hand to teenagers dealing with the murder of a parent.

"I had done everything I told my mom I would do on my own without stopping to think about what I really wanted to do," he said.

Doyle made it his mission to create an organization that would provide aid to teenagers with murdered parents. In September of last year, with help from his sisters Kristin Doyle and Kelly Paroubek as well as his wife, Kelly, he launched www.SADFund.org.

He hopes that the Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation will soon become the leading provider of scholarships for students pursuing a vocational school or college education who have been victimized by the murder of a parent.

The foundation's first candidates have already applied. Doyle wants to get the word out and encourages students to look into the foundation for help. Any teenager who has lost a parent or guardian to murder and is planning to go to vocational school or college, or who is already in school, can apply.

Future plans for the Sheilah A. Doyle

Foundation include a benefit next February. Set to be an informal event, Doyle plans to use it to spread the word about the scholarship program and raise funds. There will be entertainment and a drawing, and guests are encouraged to make donations.

Doyle is also preparing to join forces with Comfort Zone Camp, the largest bereavement camp in the United States. Though he is still in talks with the organization, he hopes that they will work together and bring the camp to Chicago. Comfort Zone Camp is a weekend camp for children and young adults who have lost a parent or guardian.

"No one tells you what to do when a loved one is murdered, but you're not the only one out there," he said. "This is why I want to be able to work with Comfort Zone and show young adults that they are not alone."

Because not every person who applies can win the scholarship, Doyle hopes that the collaboration with Comfort Zone Camp will benefit all who apply.

"I know my mom is watching out for me, and because of her, I want to help out as many kids as I can achieve their goals," he said.