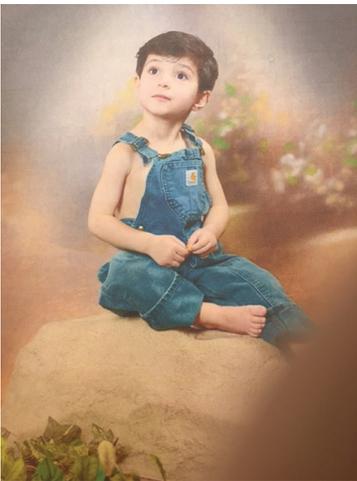


Eli Creekmore Statue Commissioned for the Park at Morrow Manor

April 22, 2016

Eli Creekmore's story was tragic. But thanks to the generosity of local donors, a statue in his honor will bring joy to countless children for years to come.

In 1986, Eli Creekmore was kicked to death by his father. He was three years old. Eli's brutal and unnecessary death compelled his great-grandaunt, Poulsbo resident Ardis Morrow, to turn her grief into action. Eli's death spurred Morrow to become a tireless advocate for domestic violence victims and their families. Thanks to her inspiration, Morrow Manor, a partnership project of the Poulsbo Rotary Club and the YWCA of Kitsap County to construct eight housing units for domestic violence survivors and their families, is currently in the fundraising phase.



This image serves as an inspiration-piece and model for Jeff Oens, the sculptor.

An important part of the Morrow Manor project is a Poulsbo city park that will be constructed on Noll Road. A central feature of the park will be a sculpture of Eli seated on a stone large enough for a child to scamper up beside Eli and give him a hug.

Thanks to a surprise gift from Kingston Rotarian Gale Kirsopp, fundraising for the Eli sculpture is now complete. With Kirsopp's commitment of

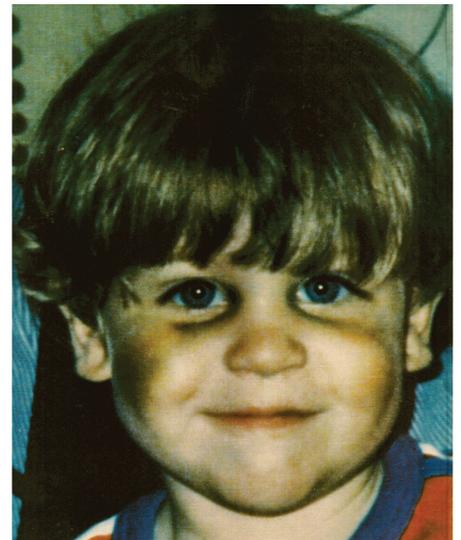
\$17,500, the Poulsbo-North Kitsap Rotary Foundation is pleased to announce that the funds are in place to move forward on creating the statue. Committee members are grateful to all those who helped raise the estimated price tag of \$22,000.

"I am thrilled," said Ardis Morrow, "that a donor stepped up to complete the

funds needed for the sculpture, and that the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Department is willing to work with us to find an appropriate site for the sculpture at Morrow Manor Park."

The sculpture will be donated to the City of Poulsbo for placement in Morrow Manor Park, next to Morrow Manor. Once the land for the park has been deeded to the City, the Poulsbo Parks & Recreation Board will be consulted for their final blessing on including the sculpture as part of the park design.

Local artist Jeff Oens will create the sculpture. Oens has already begun, working with an "inspiration" photo of a 3-year-old sitting on a rock as well as photos of Eli and descriptions from



Eli Creekmore in 1986, age 3.

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Morrow's memory. He created a small clay maquette that will serve as the model for the final design. Shine Quarry donated the beautiful boulder that will support the statue.

Both of these pieces will now go to the Form 3D Foundry in Portland where, using state of the art technology, the maquette will be transformed into a 3D life-sized wax image. From there, Oens will take the wax image and boulder back to his studio where he will refine the piece. It will take several months for this process to be completed. Morrow and Oens will be working closely to ensure that the statue really depicts 3-year-old Eli.

The refined wax image and boulder then go to the 2 Ravens Studio Foundry in Tacoma to be cast in bronze. All of the donors to the Eli sculpture project will be invited to tour both sites as the process moves forward.



*Sculptor Jeff Oens is a renowned local talent.
friedmanoengallery.com/artists/jeff-oens/*

