



Dear Hockey Community:

Derek Zike, a 1992 birth year player on the Chicago Fury minor midget team was seriously injured in a tournament game in Ann Arbor, Michigan on January 16, 2009.

Derek and the team were playing their game and Derek was forechecking into the corner of the offensive zone and lost an edge. The result of losing his edge caused Derek to propel head first into the boards at a high rate of speed and Derek suffered a burst fracture of the 5th cervical vertebrae in his neck. Bone fragments from the fracture penetrated Derek's spinal cord.

Derek was taken to the University of Michigan Medical Center and into surgery to remove the bone fragments from his spinal cord. Derek was placed on medications to reduce and control the swelling associated with this type of an injury and also given pain medications.

After surgery, Derek regained more motion to the forearms and some sensation in his arms to the fingers. He still does not have sensation or movement from his waist down.

Derek will remain in the hospital for quite some time. Derek's parents, Mike and Robin, will be rotating in Ann Arbor while Derek remains in the hospital. When Derek is released from the hospital in a month or two he will require extensive physical and rehabilitative therapy. The family's expenses will continue to grow and our help is needed.

Both the hockey and non-hockey communities have an unbelievable capacity to come together to help a family in need. As part of that need, a special trust was established for Derek. The trust follows Illinois law and all funds received by the trust will 1) benefit Derek Zike, 2) pay the medical or living expenses of Derek Zike, or 3) be used to assist in family expenses for Derek Zike. The trust will be registered with the Illinois Attorney General's Office as required by Illinois law.

Here is what we can do.

Founders Bank is opening an account to receive donations on behalf of Derek Zike's trust. Founders will receive the donations and deposit them into the trust account and will also provide the necessary statements, etc., for the account.

To make a deposit to Derek's trust, simply mail a check payable to:

**Derek Zike Special Needs Trust  
c/o Founders Bank  
14497 John Humphrey Drive  
Orland Park, IL 60462**

The donations are considered gifts and therefore are not tax deductible to the donator. Any amount is accepted by the trust for Derek's benefit.

On behalf of the Zike family, thank you for your thoughts and concerns and please keep your prayers coming.

The Chicago Fury  
Arctic Ice Arena