

**PARENTS COMMIT TO RAISING DIABETES FUNDS AND AWARENESS**

**TREVOR W COLEMAN FREE PRESS COLUMNIST.**

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Scott Grodman is particularly intrigued at the potential for islet therapy, which involves transplanting insulin-producing islets from a healthy pancreas into diabetic patients, with less toxic drug therapy than in traditional transplants. With financial advice and planning from Mark Lipstiz, a certified financial planner in Farmington Hills, and marketing help from Bruce Clayton, a senior vice president with the Pentamark Worldwide Inc. advertising agency in Troy, he has been able to successfully raise more money each year.

Don't tell Scott Grodman one man can't make a difference. The Taylor podiatrist and surgeon, who specializes in diabetic foot care, is on a mission to make a difference in the lives of people who have diabetes. For him it's not just professional; it's personal. And he is putting his money where his heart is.

Grodman's sons -- Jared, 9, and Adam, 6 -- were diagnosed with juvenile diabetes as infants. Ever since, he and his wife, Karyn, have been determined to save them and all other diabetics from the ravages of the disease.

"It's just not enough to take care of them and give them their medication,"

Grodman said. So he and Karyn founded the Grodman Cure Foundation in 1999 to raise money to fight juvenile diabetes. Today, he will present Children's Hospital in Detroit with a check for \$10,000, the first payment on a pledge of \$200,000 for research on general childhood diseases.

The Grodmans decided to make such a large commitment to Children's Hospital because they are particularly intrigued by islet and stem cell research. Both sciences hold the potential for a cure for diabetes, which is what the West Bloomfield couple want more than anything. "My children motivate me," he said. "Obviously, working with this stuff every day I see the beginning of the disease with my kids and the end result of it with my patients. "I have to do more." he said. Scott Grodman is particularly intrigued at the potential for islet therapy, which involves transplanting insulin-producing islets from a healthy pancreas into diabetic patients, with less toxic drug therapy than in traditional transplants.

He knows well the toll diabetes will take without a scientific revolution. An estimated 16 million Americans have diabetes, a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputation. Diabetes dramatically increases the risk of heart attack. It kills 180,000 Americans a year. The Grodmans started their crusade with a small foundation funded largely by neighborhood walk-a-thons and raffle

ticket sales. With financial advice and planning from Mark Lipstiz, a certified financial planner in Farmington Hills, and marketing help from Bruce Clayton, a senior vice president with the Pentamark Worldwide Inc. advertising agency in Troy, he has been able to successfully raise more money each year. Most of the money comes from annual fund-raisers, as well as large donations from Leo's Coney Island of West Bloomfield, Fox Productions Inc. of Rochester, and Gordinier and Associates of Wixom. Through the foundation, the Grodmans have given away thousands of dollars to help diabetic and other sick children, but the \$200,000 pledge is its largest single commitment so far. "There is not a lot of awareness of all the children who need help," said

Karyn Grodman. "We are constantly getting grant proposals from people to fund their research." Scott Grodman said they want to raise \$125,000 for the foundation this year, nearly tripling the \$50,000 it raised its first year.

The Grodmans are pleased to do their part to fight for cures to childhood diseases. Every day, two boys remind them how potentially debilitating diabetes can be. "I feel bad that my children are diabetic," said Karyn Grodman. "I want them to live like everyone else, but I can get hung up on that. "So I let them live and play right now like other kids right now, while we try to find them a cure."

The Grodman Cure Foundation will hold its eighth annual Run for the Fun at Drake Park in West Bloomfield on June 9 at 9:30 a.m. For information about this and the foundation, call 248-360-6425 anytime or e-mail