

TO: Editorial Page Editor

FROM: Linda Wilk, Hands of Hope Director, a division of Family Service Society, Inc.

RE: Guest editorial

DATE: June 8, 2011

“If we can just keep one family from experiencing what we have experienced,” said Steve and Linda Lowe whose son Shannon was murdered in a domestic violence incident Aug. 7, 2009.

Steve and Linda Lowe graciously agreed to be interviewed for a domestic violence video the Mayor's Commission Against Domestic Violence is producing. As part of the couple's healing process, they are hosting a golf scramble in their son's memory on June 25.

Their son Shannon died at the hands of a family friend's estranged husband, after the man killed his wife, Shannon and then himself.

Linda told about how Heidi had come to the Lowe home the week before the fatal shooting with a black eye. When Linda asked her about it, Heidi dismissed it and refused to report it to the police.

Now looking back, Linda Lowe wonders if she could have done more to prevent the death of her son, and the families friends' Heidi and Heidi's estranged husband.

While Steve and Linda can't change the past, they are hoping through the First Annual Shannon Michael Lowe Memorial Golf Scramble to benefit Hands of Hope's education programs that they can impact the lives of children. Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, Inc. provides prevention programming on domestic violence, sexual violence and bullying to students in each of the Grant County Schools.

The golf scramble is scheduled for a 1 p.m. shotgun start on Saturday, June 25 at Shady Hills Golf Course. The cost is \$50 per player or \$200 per team. There are also hole sponsors available for \$100.

As incentives, the Lowe family will be awarding longest putt, closest to the pin and first, second and third place prizes. There will also be food and drinks and a 50/50 drawing.

To register for the event or for additional information please either call Steve Lowe at 765-674-2965 or email him at [slowe2@indy.rr.com](mailto:slowe2@indy.rr.com) or Sarah Schrader at 765-668-8256 or email her at [sschrader@shadyhillsgolf.com](mailto:sschrader@shadyhillsgolf.com) Golfers must be registered by June 18th.

As Steve and Linda Lowe tragically learned, domestic violence can be far reaching and the devastation it leaves behind can be monumental. The Lowe's believe by hosting the golf scramble they can bring awareness to the issue, as well as raise funds for Hands of Hope's prevention programs.

The death of their son Shannon has left a permanent hole in their lives, they said. But they believe by reaching out to help others their son's memory and the good he did in his short life will live on.

Please help Steve and Linda Lowe raise funds to educate the youth of our community by sponsoring a hole, playing a round of golf or donating towards the event. The money you donate will go towards educating the children of Grant County about healthy relationships and respect - a lesson all children should learn.