

Softball for the softhearted

Local charity tournament has become a community event

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Greenfield Park residents are once again gearing up for the 17th annual Mike Reid Charity Softball Tournament, which benefits the Montreal Mackay Center. Thirty two teams from the South Shore (Saint-Lambert, Brossard and Greenfield Park among them), and as far away as Toronto and Ottawa will be gathering for four days of friendly competition, all in the name of charity.

Originally formed to honour the memory of Greenfield Park resident Mike Reid, who died at the age of 21 from Muscular Dystrophy, the association has grown to a core of 60 volunteers who dedicate their time, year after year, to ensuring the tournament's success.

Tournament benefits Mackay Center

"We raise an average of \$20,000 each year for the Mackay Centre, a school Michael went to all his life. He passed away a few days before his graduation and we wanted to give something back to a

centre that gave so much to him," states Frank Reid, Michael's father. "With proceeds from the tournament we've created the Michael Reid Resource Center, a lounge room for kids and their parents to spend time; it's something we're very proud of," he adds. Mr. Reid was also quick to acknowledge that the event is a real community affair, with the support of the local Provigo on Victoria Avenue, the Town of Greenfield Park and the support of countless volunteers from the Royal Canadian Legion who help with the sale of food.

The competing teams pay to register and while there are no monetary prizes, there are trophies involved. Either way, win or lose, nothing could be more rewarding than knowing that your registration fees are used to provide deaf and physically disabled children with outings, trips and extracurricular activities.

The Mike Reid Charity Softball Tournament takes place on August 9, 10, 11 and 12 at Pierre Laporte Park in Greenfield Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ■