

## **A LIFE LOST; MANY LIVES POTENTIALLY SAVED**

**Mooreville**—Their wish was that Ben Elo would be on the Mooreville High School Soccer Team as they held their first game of the 2009 season on September 28, but unfortunately their wish didn't come true. Ben died on July 21, 2008. But instead of their grief consuming them, Ben's parents, Brian and Melanie, began the Benjamin Elo Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation of Morgan County. At the first home soccer game The Reviving Hearts Program presented on their behalf an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the Mooreville High School Athletic Director Mike Mossburger and Chuck Muston, Principal.

SCA kills over 400,000 people a year and can affect young athletes. SCA occurs abruptly and without warning and in many people without any prior indications of heart disease. To have a chance of survival, victims of SCA must receive a life-saving defibrillation within the first 4 - 6 minutes when brain damage and death can occur. AEDs can be used by anyone to save a life.

The Benjamin Elo Memorial Fund was created as a legacy to Ben's love of sports, his character and faith in God. The AED's were purchased with proceeds from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ben Elo Memorial Soccer Camp and the family feels that if they save even one life then it is money well spent. It is the hope of the BEMF to keep his name and memory alive and to grow and spread his love of God and life. With that in mind, the goals of the fund include: a college scholarship beginning in 2012 (Ben's year of graduation), a Character in Leadership Award, an annual Ben Elo Memorial Soccer camp and the Ben Elo Grief Ministry and Outreach program. The camp will serve not only to raise funds but will help young athletes achieve their goals on the field, while reminding them it takes community and faith in God to bring them to their full potential in life.

Donations to the Benjamin Elo Memorial Fund (BEMF) are tax deductible and can be made to the Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC-Ben Elo) at 250 N. Monroe St. Mooreville, IN 46158. For specific questions about

the fundraising endeavors or the Benjamin Elo Memorial Foundation itself, please contact Melanie Elo at 317-727-8190 or [melo@benelo16.org](mailto:melo@benelo16.org).

The Reviving Hearts Program is a program created by the Cardiovascular Research and Education Foundation of Indiana and has placed over 32 AED's in local area high schools throughout central Indiana. For more information on how to make a donation or for an application for a high school please go to [cardiofoundation.org](http://cardiofoundation.org) or please contact Rita DeKlyen at 317 459-7593 or Margie Fougerson at [mfougerson@CardioFoundation.org](mailto:mfougerson@CardioFoundation.org) or 317-338-6080 for more information.

