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Achievers and Exemplars

Education in Action

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BAR MITZVAH WITH A CAUSE

When Nathan Evans returned home from summer camp at the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in 2003, he received devastating news: Jack Marston, his Little League coach and the father of one of his friends, had passed away. The cause was melanoma.

Nathan's family took action, becoming one of the founding members of the Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Research Fund.

And when it came time for Nathan's bar mitzvah at Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, Illinois, he decided to take action too, with his own melanoma awareness and prevention project.

Learning that melanoma affects men in larger numbers than women and that it often begins on men's heads and necks, Evans realized that men's barbers could be helpful in the fight against the disease.

Contacting his family doctor, Dr. Kenneth Lee, he arranged a melanoma information session in which Dr. Lee taught the barbers at the local Busy Bee barber shop how to recognize the warning signs on customers' skin.

Amazingly, only one hour after Dr. Lee's presentation, barber Joe Etheridge noticed a suspicious mark on the back of a customer's neck and suggested he visit his doctor to have it checked. The customer did, and was diagnosed with melanoma—but because it was caught early, the man made a full recovery after treatment.

"Melanoma is a terrible disease," Evans says. "Everyone needs to look out for it, and we all need to help those who have it. Hopefully, I made a lasting contribution to that cause."

Source: Reform Judaism, winter 2005, edition (5766)

This is one of many instances that the JHM Fund has made a difference. The Jack H. Marston Foundation was formed

For more information about the Fund

Since May is National Melanoma find involved tips on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from this disease out how to become more involved and out how to become more involved tips on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from this disease at: www.jacksfund.org.

And as a result of the foundations effort the community is already more aware of the dangers of the sun'