

The Wee One Foundation, Smoothing out a Rough Road by Dave Kazmeirczak CGCS



The road to recovery from cancer can be a long and lonely one, but on October 8, 2012 Dale Ledstrom, owner of Tim's Tree Service, got a little help from his industry brothers. Ledstrom is this year's Wee One recipient.

Ledstrom related in an acceptance speech at the Wee One Foundation event at North Oaks Country Club that while his road to recovery has already been trod upon, there are many more steps to take.

Ledstrom has owned and operated Tim's tree service for the last seven years and has serviced close to a dozen golf courses in the greater Twin Cities area. He started experiencing neck and shoulder pain earlier in the year and tried chiropractic care and physical therapy to correct the pain he was experiencing. When that did not help, he decided to seek another opinion. On June 6, 2012 he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

The devastating news was a blow not only to Ledstrom, but to his wife, Denise,

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their daughter, Annika and the rest of his family as well. Tim's tree service would also take a major hit, as Ledstrom was owner and operator, and his dawn to dusk schedule would be reduced to next to nothing. Clearly Ledstrom and his family needed some help, and that is what they got in a variety of ways.

In order to keep the business afloat, Denise has stepped in to run the business side while the former owner, Tim Hagen, returned to help with the tree service

end of the business. Ledstrom also did landscaping and demolition work, but that part of the business has been halted until Ledstrom recovers. While this plan has kept the business alive, it has not kept the business profitable, and some equipment has had to be sold in order to sustain the operation. Also, Denise has not been able to return to a regular job in order to concentrate on the business matters, further burdening the home budget.

Having heard of Ledstrom's illness, Mike Manthey, superintendent Midland Hills and Jeff Ische, superintendent Golden Valley Country Club wondered if the Wee One Foundation would be able to help Ledstrom. Some investigation



Dale and Denise Ledstrom, cancer in remission, share a good moment with Kerry Anderson, Wee One beneficiary four years ago.

from Ische confirmed that Ledstrom was eligible to receive help from the foundation. Now all Ledstrom had to do was accept that help, which was not easy.

When Ische first approached Ledstrom about the Wee One

donation he was hesitant. Ledstrom had always been the giver, the one who went above and beyond the normal service and provided his customers what they needed. Now he was the one in need. After about four weeks, Ische was contacted by Denise, and the application was quickly submitted and approved. All proceeds from the October 8 event, plus \$2,500 more from the Wee One Foundation would go to Ledstrom and his family.

Perhaps the greatest gift of all, however, will come from his older brother.

When Ledstrom was first diagnosed, he started four cycles of in-patient chemotherapy at the University of Minnesota Fairview hospital. An MRI in last September showed that the cancer was in remission, which allows Ledstrom to proceed in the next step to recovery- a bone marrow transplant that will be donated from his older brother. After the surgery, Ledstrom will spend 30 days in an isolated situation due to a lack of immune system, and then another couple months at Hope Lodge, a short-

term recovery facility.

Ledstrom expressed gratitude to the Wee One and the MGCSA for supporting him, and thanked Ische for his support in getting it accomplished. His road to recovery will take time to travel, but he is looking forward to getting around this detour, and providing the strong service his customers have come to appreciate from him in the spring of 2013.

If you are interested in helping support the Wee One Foundation visit WeeOne.Org for more information. Your contributions make a difference and are greatly appreciated by many including Dale Ledstrom, Mike Smith, Tom Fuller and Kerry Anderson.

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