

Judy Harr Shane didn't hear the whole story. She just heard enough to know it was something she cared about . . . something her son would care about.

"I was listening to a radio program with a woman talking about her son in Iraq," Mrs. Shane said. "I missed part of it, so I didn't hear her name or where she was from. The woman said someone had given her son a phone card so he could call home. He was apprehensive about upcoming weekend maneuvers. He never came back from those weekend maneuvers. The woman was saying how important it was to her to have gotten that phone call. My heart went out to her. I knew this was something Joshua would want to do something about."

Joshua Harr Shane, the third of four children to Mark and Judy Shane, was a 1999 graduate of Hightstown High School. He played golf at the school and volunteered at Princeton Hospital in his free time. At Rutgers University in his freshman year, his fraternity helped raise money for children stricken with cancer.

"He wanted to be a doctor," Mrs. Shane said. "He wanted to be one of those Patch Adams type of doctors that really cared about people. Joshua was bright and had a heart of gold. He was a great, great kid."

On June 21, 2000, Joshua was coming home to change his clothes. He was scheduled later that day to do a volunteer shift at Princeton Hospital.

"He died in a car accident," Mrs. Shane said. "The worse thing that will ever happen is to lose a child. I hope it never happens to anyone. It changes your whole life."

Judy and Mark Shane grieved for their child. Bree, Jessica and Brett grieved for their brother. Out of that grief the Shane family found themselves asking the same question over and over: What would Joshua want to do if he was still alive?

Joshua would want soldiers to have phone cards so they could call their families. Joshua would want families going through medical emergencies to get some help paying the monthly mortgage or utility bills. Joshua would want families with special needs children to just have a day where they could put aside their troubles and have some fun at a baseball game or the circus.

Those are just a few of the things Joshua would want. Those are just a few of the things the Joshua Harr Foundation provides.

The organization started with a golf outing. The 9th Annual Joshua Harr Shane Foundation golf outing will be held at Mercer Oaks on August 10. It had previously been held at Cranbury Golf Club, but needed a bigger facility to accommodate the close to 200 people attending.

The organization will hold its annual dinner dance in November. Just last week, it gave away tickets so special needs children and their families could see the Harlem Globetrotters at the Sun National Bank Arena in Trenton. The foundation also plans to put a team together to again take part in the Susan G. Kolmen Foundation Race For The Cure to raise money to help fund breast cancer research.

Money raised by the Joshua Harr Foundation has also gone to an annual scholarship given out by Hightstown High School. Clothes and toys were donated to area hospitals. And because it was an organization Joshua was involved with personally, the Embrace Children's Fund is the leading recipient of money, having received over \$150,000. This organization allows critically ill children that are brought home to keep the same nurses they had come to love and trust in the hospital.

"We do what we think Joshua would want to do," Mrs. Shane said.

The Joshua Harr Shane Foundation is, basically, a lot of his family and friends. Mrs. Shane would love to see that grow, stressing the fact donations of money and time are always very welcomed.

"People want to help, but a lot of the time they just don't know how," Mrs. Shane said. "If I hadn't heard that woman on the radio, I never would have known about the need for the phone cards. I never thought about how the soldiers called home.

"When we did it last time (in 2005 when 6,500 phone cards were distributed), in addition to donations, we got such wonderful cards from people. We had cards from individuals that said they were in World War II and didn't have a way to call home. They knew how important a phone call could be. They were very touching. How horrible is it to have a son or another family member in a war and not be able to talk to them. How great is it to just say hello and hear their voice."

Donations for the phone cards, which will be distributed directly to the soldiers by McQuire Air Force Base can be made online at www.joshuaharrshane.org or via mail to: Joshua Harr Shane Foundation, 5 Hidden Springs Lane, East Windsor, NJ 08520. Since the organization is run by volunteers from Joshua's family and friends, all of the money goes directly to charitable causes.

"If Joshua knew about this, I think he'd smile," Mrs. Shane said. "He'd smile and say, 'Wow! This is for me?'"

"This organization takes a lot of work from his family and friends. I put in a lot of time, but it keeps him with me. I don't think of him as gone. I just think of him as not being here with me. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of him one hundred times."

There's also not a day that goes by when the members of the Shane family don't ask themselves: What would Joshua want to do? They then make sure it gets done.