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West Bloomfield Diabetes Research Crusader Nominated in 'Heroes' Program

Peri Kramer, patient's mother and active fund-raiser, is part of online balloting.

By [Alan Stamm](#) [Email the author](#) | October 25, 2011

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Peri Kramer of West Bloomfield, co-founder of a medical charity motivated by parental concern, is among nine Michigan nominees in the third annual Jewish Community Heroes program sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America. Public [voting online](#) through Nov. 10 will select 20 semi-finalists.

- **Background:** The local nominee and her husband, Evan Kramer, created a nonprofit fund-raising group in 2009, four years after their son Tyler was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 10. Now 16, Tyler attends Walled Lake Central High School, plays soccer and has cycled in an annual Tour de Cure fund-raiser for the American Diabetes Association. He uses an insulin pump to control his condition.

Peri Kramer, who has a Michigan State University business degree, is an account manager for American Express and serves as administrator of the family charity — taking care of marketing, communications and arranging events that include family support groups.

- **Achievements:** The Kramers' charity — Diabetes Research and Education Advocates of Michigan, or D.R.E.A.M. — has given \$40,000 to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan and pledges to contribute another \$60,000 by 2014. Donations have been raised at a card tournament, concert and battle of the bands events. Another Concert for the Cure is planned next year at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township.

D.R.E.A.M. also participates in family discussion groups led by both parents and Tyler, drawing up to 50 participants. The next is Nov. 19 at the Ann Arbor hospital. Other activities include youth mentoring, a joint program with high school students and diabetes awareness campaigns. Its [website](#) has diabetes education information, including a fact sheet, patient resources and scholarship information. The charity also has a [Facebook page](#) with nearly 400 fans.

- **Nominator says:** "D.R.E.A.M. was created from the deep desire of a mother yearning for her son's utmost well-being. Peri Kramer took the love and passion she has for her family to help build a worthy foundation, not only to benefit her own family, but the millions of other families affected by diabetes. When there is a cure for diabetes, it will be because of people like Peri Kramer who never gave up." — Evan Kramer, who nominated his wife in the volunteer category.

- **'Hero' awards:** Online ballots, which can be cast daily, will narrow the publicly nominated field from 137 volunteer nominees and 98 professionals to 10 top vote-getters in each category. Judges then select five Jewish Community Heroes who'll receive grants to support their cause. The intent is "to celebrate the individuals who dedicate their lives to helping others," as stated by the group representing the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and 156 counterparts nationwide and in Canada. Nominees are described as showing "exceptional qualities and commitment in line with the mission of the Jewish Federations of North America, strengthening the Jewish community and the ideals of *tikkun olam*." (That phrase, pronounced tee-KOON oh-LUYHM, means "world repair" or "world restoration" and refers to contributions benefitting others.)

State nominees also include Yisrael Pinson of West Bloomfield, Micah Fialka-Feldman of Huntington Woods, Joshua Levinson of Royal Oak and Janet Berman of Farmington Hills.

To vote through midnight Nov. 10, visit [this page](#). Votes can be cast daily. Email address and Zip code are requested.

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10:44am on Tuesday, October 25, 2011

I will certainly vote of Peri Kramer!

She has worked very hard and contributed her efforts for her DREAM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ADVOCATES OF MICHIGAN Foundation.to help find a cure for Diabetes

Tikkun Olam.

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