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Girls to play in memorial tourney

By Sarah Hardee
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EDGEWOOD - Fourth-grade girls from schools throughout the region will gather next weekend at St. Pius X School for the school's annual Elana Brophy Memorial Volleyball Tournament.

The event, which will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, benefits the Elana Brophy Scholarship Fund. The fund honors the memory of Elana Brophy, who was a student at St. Pius X when she died after a long battle with cancer.

Elana's death in 2002 came just before her fourth-grade year. She had joined the school's volleyball team and practiced that summer, but died before she could play in her first game.

The school teamed up with Elana's parents, Amy and Paul Brophy, to coordinate the tournament.

"This is the sixth year of the tournament," said Amy Brophy. "It's strictly for fourth-grade girls...and it's a lot of fun.

"It's more about the love of the game than it is about competition."

There will be 14 teams competing in this year's tournament. The event also features vendors with various items for sale and a raffle. Paul Brophy's book that was inspired by Elana, "Zero to Sixty in Nine Years: An Inspirational Guide to Living with Purpose," will also be available for purchase at the event.

All proceeds benefit the Elana Brophy Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to St. Pius X School eighth-graders who are moving on to a Catholic high school.

The fund has also made donations to the National Childhood Cancer Foundation.

The annual tournament is a positive experience, St. Pius Principal Betty Trenkamp said, and it supports a worthy cause.

"It's something we all look forward to every year," she said.

Though it's a bittersweet experience for the Brophy family, the tournament is a perfect tribute to Elana, according to Amy.

"Elana would have loved it," she said.

The event begins Friday and continues throughout the weekend through Sunday afternoon. Tickets for the event are \$5. For details about the event or donating to the scholarship fund, call the school at 859-341-4900.