

Donations recoup theft from tourney
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Two organizations have donated a total of \$3,500 to English for Action, which lost contributions

of \$1,000 when a thief swiped the money.
01:00 AM EDT on Thursday, May 12, 2005

BY GREGORY SMITH
Journal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE -- A thief darkened the mood of a soccer tournament at Donigian Park on Sunday

afternoon, stealing a box containing fundraising proceeds for the nonprofit group English for

Action.

A youth grabbed the box, containing about \$700 in cash and about \$300 in checks, which was on a

registration table beneath a tent, and fled.

The money came from the sale of raffle tickets and registration fees for the group's annual

spring tournament, according to Jessica Ratey, executive director of English for Action.

The park is in the Valley neighborhood, near Atwells Avenue and Valley Street.

But the people at English for Action are feeling better now, because the Katie DeCubellis

Memorial Foundation and the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation are more than making up the

loss. Together, they are contributing \$3,500 to English for Action.

"When I learned of EFA's misfortune, I immediately felt that we needed to help," said John E.

DeCubellis, executive director of the DeCubellis Memorial Foundation and a Municipal Court judge

in Narragansett. "Since Katie was killed by a drunk driver 5 1/2 years ago, we have been blessed

and inspired by the overwhelming support from the community."

As a result, DeCubellis said in a statement, the foundation tries to help others, especially in

difficult times and especially education enterprises.

Kaitlyn DeCubellis, 13, of Narragansett, and Marsha Bowman, the mother of a friend of Kaitlyn's,

were killed in a drunken driving accident in October 1999. Kaitlyn's death spurred her parents,

John and Meg DeCubellis, to crusade against drunken driving and substance abuse.

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Ratey said yesterday that the offers of help from the foundations and others are "an incredible

show of support from the greater Providence community."

Among the others offering aid, she said, was Ernie Ricci, president of the Wickford Little

League.

DeCubellis and Alan Perlman of the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation will present their

donations at English for Action's student graduation ceremony, La Fiesta del Sol, at 6 p.m.

Saturday at Church of the Messiah, 10 Troy St., Olneyville.

English for Action provides low-cost English-language classes and children's programs to 120

immigrant families in Olneyville.