

My son, Philip, was 18 and a senior at Southwestern Academy in Flint, when he suffered a traumatic brain injury.

On the evening of March 10, 1990, he and several friends traveled a few miles to a home in Flint Township where a party supposedly was taking place.

Sometime after arriving, the young man who drove said he wished to leave. My son and one of the other boys told him they would get a ride from someone else at the party.

When the party was breaking up, a 20-year-old man whom they did not know offered to drop off Philip and his friend.

The driver had an S-10 pickup in which he had installed a 350 hp, V-8 engine with a stick shift. Philip's friend got into the middle with Phil sitting next to the door.

The driver drove a short distance on the residential street and crashed into a tree. He was dead at the scene. My son's friend suffered leg injuries, but has recovered.

Philip was a patient at McLaren Regional Medical Center for three months, then was moved to Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids. He was there for four months before being transferred to an inpatient facility in Howell.

He was there until February 1991, when he was moved into his mother's home. He received outpatient therapy for approximately two years.

Other therapists treated him in his mother's home for another three years before he was relocated to Eisenhower Center in Ann Arbor, where he lives today and continues to receive physical and occupational therapy.

Philip requires assistance with all activities of daily living.