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RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Parent group serves as student's guardian angel



THOMAS R. CORDOVA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lindsey Logay was preparing to graduate from Renaissance High School for the Arts this year when her mother, a single parent, was killed by a hit-and-run driver in May. The 18-year-old Compton resident received support from Parents Acting for Renaissance Teachers and Students, which has raised \$4,000 to help with college expenses.

After teen's mother is killed by a hit-and-run driver, volunteers jump in to help save her college dream

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When a hit-and-run driver killed Lindsey Logay's mother in May, the 18-year-old's life irrevocably changed. Then a 12th-grader at Renaissance High School for the Arts, Logay performed in the senior recital without her mother cheering her on as she always had.

To boot, Logay and her sister left Long Beach to live with relatives in Compton because her mother was a single parent.

"It's a different world," Logay said. "I'm still trying to adjust."

Despite the upheaval she's experienced, one thing in Logay's life has remained constant: her desire to go to college. It's a goal that her alma mater's parent group, Parents Acting for Renaissance Teachers and Students (PARTS), has made easier for Logay by raising \$4,000 for her mother's memorial fund to help the teen pay for her books, transportation and other needs as a Long Beach City College student.

PARTS President Nanette Davis said the group sprang into action to support Logay after the death of her mother, Elane Logay, a parent volunteer herself, because the Renaissance community is so close-knit. Just 500 students attend the high school.

of us very deeply —parents, teachers, students," Davis explained. "Lindsey [was] a senior. I knew her mom. It hit us very hard. We decided to set up a fund and help her any way we could."

A number of people from outside the Renaissance community also contributed to the fund because word spread about Elane Logay's hit-and-run death in the media, Davis said. On average, contributors to the Logay Memorial Fund donated \$100 each.

Logay explained that some of the money will also benefit her 15-year-old sister, Lydia, as she enters high school for the first time and requires clothes and supplies.

"I really was surprised by the amount of money raised," said Logay, who recently received a check from PARTS. "It was amazing. There were kind people who actually cared. I was really grateful for that."

Logay would like to be an actress and plans to major in theater. Still mourning her mother's death, Logay said it would be easy to curl up into a ball and withdraw into herself. Her mother's memory motivates her to pursue her dreams, however.

She recalled being a little girl and watching her mother earn a master's degree at the University of La Verne. She remembers her mother saying: "I want you and your sister to do better

want you to get a doctorate in something."

Elane Logay helped to organize rehearsal dinners for theatrical productions at Renaissance. Davis described her as a fun-loving person who loved the arts.

"I think she really adored her daughter," Davis said.

In addition to serving as a parent volunteer at Renaissance, Elane Logay taught math part-time at Santa Ana College and worked as an aide for special needs students at Stevenson Middle School.

Christine Whipp, Renaissance High's school arts coordinator, said that losing her mother has been challenging for Logay, but that the Renaissance community expects her to have a bright future.

"Lindsey is a great student and a fantastic, wonderful actress," Whipp said. "Many of the underclassmen looked up to her. Her mom's crash happened in May, and she had some doubts about what the future held, but she's a really resilient kid. I know this was super painful for her."

Logay said the sudden loss of her mother has taught her to express gratitude for all she has.

"This situation makes me aware of my life and how precious it is," she said.