

TROY

Roadside warning sign a reminder of son killed

A Troy couple have sponsored the first site outside Oakland County for a warning sign developed by the county to replace roadside shrines to the dead.

Last month, Joe and Marie Feko stood at a roadside in Antrim County in northwest lower Michigan -- the site where their son was killed by a drunken driver last year -- as workers put up a sign saying "Drunk Driving -- You Can't Afford It."

The Fekos paid \$160 to install the sign, developed last year by the Oakland County manager of community corrections, George Miller, with help from Troy residents David and Gail Easterbrook. The Easterbrooks' daughter Ashley was killed by a drunken driver in 1997.

About two dozen of the signs have been placed in Oakland County, county officials said Thursday.

The Fekos' son Matt, a 1990 graduate of Troy High School, died in May 1998 when a drunken driver swerved off the road and struck him as he pedaled a mountain bike beside the pavement, according to police.

Matt Feko moved to northern Michigan in 1995, becoming a charter pilot and flying instructor. In September, construction will start at Antrim County Airport on a pilot resource library, funded by donations and dedicated to Matt Feko, his father said.