

In Michael's memory, a heartfelt gift



■ Bobbi Potts, Lenny Conroy, stepdad of Michael Quinn and pupils from the school



■ Michael Quinn

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CARING teenager Bobbi Potts has donated life saving equipment in memory of her best friend who died from a massive asthma attack.

The 14-year-old was left devastated by the death of Michael Quinn who collapsed and died at his Newcastle home last year.

The friends used to walk home from Walbottle Campus together and lived directly over the road from each other in Lemington.

Following Michael's death, Bobbi decided she wanted to help prevent a similar tragedy happening and began fundraising to buy a defibrillator that could be placed in their school.

Bobbi's mum Joanne, 40, Bobbi's, said: "She just wanted to help."

"They were very close and we have known each others family for a long time."

Michael was just 14 when a

massive asthma attack sparked a cardiac arrest that killed him.

The sudden death of the popular teenager left his family, and hundreds of school friends, in a state of shock.

After getting in touch with charity Hearts with Goals, which installs life-saving defibrillators in schools across the region, Bobbi took part in the Junior Great North Run to raise money for a machine.

Joanne said: "At first she wanted in put in Walbottle school, but they already had one so she decided it should go in the local primary school, Lemington Riverside."

Bobbi is now hoping to continue her work to get machines placed in every school in the area, all in memory of Michael.

Michael's family, including his stepdad Lenny Conroy, attended the ceremony where the defibrillator was handed over to the school.

On the day of his death last October, Michael had spent

the day at Walbottle Campus.

When he got home, he took his dog, Lilly, out for a walk before returning to the house he shared with mum Linda Walker, 33, to have tea.

Ten minutes later, he came to the top of the stairs and asked stepdad, Lenny, to call an ambulance because he was struggling to breathe.

Michael's sudden death devastated his schoolfriends and hundreds turned out at West Road Cemetery in Newcastle for his funeral.

As well as mum Linda and dad Michael Quinn, 34, Michael also left behind six brothers and sisters.

Michael's schoolfriends have raised hundreds of pounds after starting an online collection in aid of Asthma UK.

Joanne said: "Bobbi has stayed close to Michael's family and we can only hope that these machines will help make a difference and perhaps prevent another tragedy like this from happening again."



■ Bobbi Potts, raised money to buy a defibrillator for her school