

# Young family, friends hold charity concert

By **MICHAEL GANNON**  
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**THOMPSON** — Jack Young Jr. committed suicide in May on his 27th birthday, after being unable to get help for the depression he recently had admitted to his family.

Saturday, the musician and artist's family and friends gathered for a day-long concert to help people in similar straits.

Particle Accelerator, a title taken from one of his songs, was a 12-hour concert at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club, featuring food, raffles and 19 bands, all in an effort to raise money for those who cannot afford treatment

for mental illness.

"Jack was a wonderful musician and a talented artist," said Grace Young, his mother. "He played guitar and piano. He was a multimedia artist, using (different) paints and collages. He had just come to us and told us he was depressed and that he drank too much. And he went to get help and was turned away for help because he didn't have insurance."

Young grew up in Putnam. He played in a half dozen bands, wrote poetry, and traveled extensively in the United States and Europe. He was living in Pittsburgh at the time of his death.

Jack Young Sr. said they hope to raise \$5,000 through

tickets, raffles and food sales for United Services Inc., to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention.

"Maybe we can save other parents from this," he said.

Ben Young said one of his brother's musician friends suggested the name of the event.

"We're hoping to do this every year," he said. "We hope that there's word of mouth and next year is a little bigger. And the next year is a little bigger than that."

They were hoping for 200 people Saturday and achieved that before 5 p.m.

"We're going to 11 p.m.," Grace Young said. "A lot of people should be coming

with the bands that are playing later, and a lot of people have things scheduled today and will be here tonight."

She said the bands, from as far away as Massachusetts and Old Saybrook, included several of Jack's former bandmates.

"And they all volunteered their time," she said.

Jack Young said numerous merchants donated services and raffle prizes to the cause.

"I can't believe how generous the community has been," he said.

Adam Chizen of Putnam said he did not know the family, but was happy to come

## Young

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out in support.

"I came because I know a few of the bands playing," he said.

Kat Woodis of Putnam is a family friend.

"My brother was Jack's friend," she said. Her friend, Garrett Beltis of Putnam, said he heard of the concert through her.

"And it's all good if it's going for a cause like this," he said.

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Family and friends of Jack Young Jr. are hoping to raise money for people with mental illness who can't afford help. Young committed suicide in May.