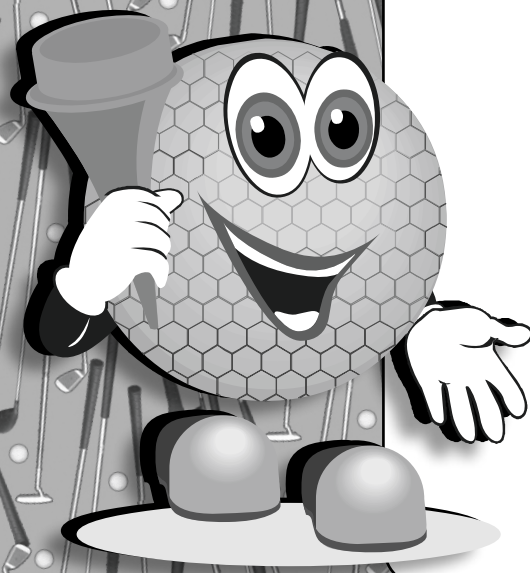


# Thumbuddy Special's Golf Outing

Friday, July 22nd



**Maple Meadows  
Golf Course**  
in Woodale, IL  
(just north of Lake street on Addison  
272 Addison Rd. 630-616-8424)

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**  
**1:00 shotgun start**  
**6:30pm Dinner**

Fee for golf and dinner is  
**\$130 per person**  
Dinner only: \$40

For more information contact  
**Bob Judge at 630-834-1707 or**  
**rmjudge@sbcglobal.net**

**Looking for Hole Sponsors  
and Raffle Prize donations...**  
Contact **Mary Ellen Connelly**  
**630-212-3419 or**  
**jmeconnelly6@comcast.net**

It is with generous hearts and great love that we are able to carry on our mission to assist children with special needs and their families. We could not do this without your unwavering support. Thank you in advance for your generosity. God Bless

All proceeds will benefit the children and families of Thumbuddy Special. Thumbuddy Special raises funds to purchase essential equipment such as wheelchairs, adaptive computer equipment, communication devices, and bikes. Additionally, we offer scholarships for children to attend camp through special recreation programs.



Thank you for caring;  
you truly are Thumbuddy  
Special. Enclosed is my  
tax-deductible contribution  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to

**Thumbuddy Special**  
P. O. Box 145  
Downers Grove, IL  
60515

# Thumbuddy Special

NEWSLETTER ~ SPRING ~ 2011

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” ~Mother Teresa

Your great love and giving spirit has helped us make these small wishes come true. We acknowledge your choice to support Thumbuddy Special's mission. Entering in to our 18th year, we are proud that our small organization continues to change the quality of life for children with special needs and their families.

God Bless  
Mary Ellen Connelly

On March 5, our “Winter Is Almost Over Party” was a great success. We had our largest turnout ever! Thank you to all who donated silent auction items and raffle prizes. Our friends at Carlucci Restaurant were more than generous

with fabulous food and spirits. The super-stars of the night were Suraj and Angel. Both boys received their new adapted bikes and charmed the crowd with their slick new wheels. Here are the thank you's from the families.

*Hello Everyone at Thumbuddy Special!*

We had the pleasure of meeting all you wonderful people on Saturday. Our son Suraj is one of the lucky kids you picked to receive the adapted bike!

Thank you! Suraj is excited and so thrilled that for the last few days he has spent the entire time either on his bike or checking the weather so he can go outside and ride!! He wants to be out and about on his new wheels. Wheels that your efforts have given him.

As his family, we cannot tell you how thankful we are for your gift to our little boy. Born at 26 weeks of gestational age, weighing one pound and 4 oz, Suraj suffered an IVH on the third day of his life in the NICU. Our lives changed forever. It has been a long, tedious but a fun journey especially when we get to meet people like you who care and show their love to complete strangers like our son!

God Bless you all and once again thank you

*Suraj's family*



*Dear Thumbuddy Special,*

Please accept my heartfelt thank you for funding Angel's adaptive bike. This is Angel's very first bicycle. Your gift means so much to me and even more to Angel. Your gift will make his life more mobile and healthier. He can't walk for long periods of time due to the braces he wears. This bike will get him where he needs to go and further than he would have ever thought he could go. Angel is so happy with his “awesome” bike that he can go so fast on. Thank you so much to everyone at Thumbuddy Special who made a little boy and his family so happy. Without your generosity this would have never been possible.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth and Angel*



Check us out at [thumbuddyspecial.org](http://thumbuddyspecial.org)... we are also on Facebook.



## Mom Deserves a Day Off!

On November 21st Thumbuddy Special sponsored its 3rd annual Mom's Day Out. Nine moms of special needs children went out for a day of pampering, shopping and a delightful dinner at Carlucci Restaurant. It was a day to relax, share stories and unite. The moms were overwhelmed with the generosity of complete strangers. It truly was a day to remember. Here are 2 of the thank you notes that we received....



"I have never spent that much time without the kids nor have I ever pampered myself. I had a great day with all the moms. I thank everyone that was involved for making this day happen. I met a lot of moms that I hope we continue to communicate and get together again. There are not the words that can explain how I feel. Thank you to all the great people."

Thank you Thumbuddy Special, Beatriz

*May God give you countless blessings!*

It's been years since I have been able to enjoy a day like today. Some little angels that were sent by God have done this for me. For me! They have dedicated to me a day for special moms. I am infinitely thankful for all the people that have contributed to make this one of the most special days in my life, for the little angels that have in some form helped during part of this day and given their time or financial contributions so that I could feel like a queen. And not just any queen, but a very special one! Thank you so very much to everyone that made this day in my life and the lives of all the moms who were blessed by today possible. May God continue to bless you and multiply all you give so unselfishly—even all the love you've given us without even knowing us.

I thank God for allowing me to be in this special group and thank you to my son Bruno, my little angel who had chosen me to be his mom before I was even alive.

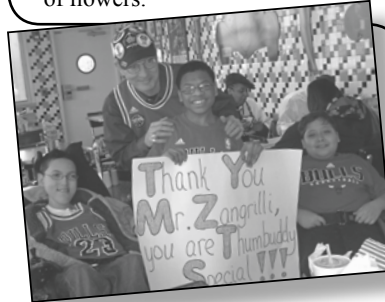
Maria, Bruno's mom



## This past year donations were made in loving memory of: Last year donations were made in honor of:

June Carlson  
Rosemary Rozich  
Trish Quane  
Lauren Scheffler  
Lorraine Arrigo  
Jim McCann Joan McCann  
Larry Zinder  
Mary Becker  
David Jandris  
Zachary Lesnik  
Pat Atlas  
Joseph Zielinski  
Bette Williams  
Nellie Madden  
Evelon and Russell Hare  
Annette McAndrew  
Jim Madden  
James Ryan  
Tom Fielding  
Jack Fielding  
Jack LeClair  
Maggie Kirkpatrick  
Tommy McEnery  
Lorraine Studin  
Dick Perrault  
Connie Thompson  
Florence Zielinski  
Brian McGarry  
Marge Zuchowski  
Reba Chaplinsky  
Dorothy Malinowski  
John Spartz

Thumbuddy Special would like to thank the families of Florence Zielinski, Reba Chaplinsky and Dick Perrault who honored their loved ones by requesting donations made to Thumbuddy Special in lieu of flowers.



## BULLS FEVER

This past March, our friend Jim Zangrilli sponsored 5 of our Buddies to go to the Bulls Game. We had a fabulous time. Thumbuddy Special treated the boys and their family to dinner at Portillos. The West Suburban Special Recreation helped with the lift bus and off we went. Of Course, the Bulls won! And the Boys had a Blast! Thanks Jim and to all who make these simple wishes come true.

*Dear Thumbuddy Special*  
Thanks for the tickets. That was a fun basketball game. I had faith when the Bulls and Hornets tied. It was fun to see the Bulls score the winning basket. The beginning of the game was spectacular. I loved the light show, the halftime show was awesome.

Until Next time,  
Ricardo

*Dear Thumbuddy Special*

Thank you for the game. I had a great time. It was so awesome. I really enjoyed when D. Rose made a 3 pointer. It was really fun to be with my friends. I will remember this for the rest of my life.

Curtis



## Our Special Santa, Dick Perrault

Thumbuddy Special honors the memory of our "Real" Santa, Dick Perrault. Dick served as our Santa for many years. He was the real deal. Dick had a special gift to connect with each and every child he saw. He had a talent to listen with a sense of true sincerity.

I would tell Dick that our friend Horacio was at home today. And off we would go to make the home visit. We would even call on him to give a little lecture to the boys on the naughty list!

Dick and Ida have been long time supporters of Thumbuddy Special. Attending numerous events throughout the years, initiating the cash raffle program and reaching out to community and church alike. They define what Thumbuddy Special is all about; giving with open hearts and generous spirit.

We will miss our friend, Santa...but we will always honor him by continuing our efforts to listen with an open heart, give with a generous spirit and live like you are on the "nice" list!

We love you Dick!  
Thanks for all you have given this world...  
You truly are Thumbuddy Special!

Mary Ellen Connelly  
President of Thumbuddy Special



## CHRISTMAS CHEER

We are proud of our Christmas Tradition here at Thumbuddy Special. Every year our list grows of families that are in need. It truly takes a collaboration of hard work to pull off what we accomplish. We are grateful for all of those involved in collecting toys, especially our friends at Scheck and Siress, BCD Meetings and Incentives, Kohls in Downers Grove and the Butterfield Gang. Our wrapping elves were able to assist over 80 families this past season. And Santa visited another 250 children in the Berwyn North and South Early Childhood Programs. We received thank you notes from numerous families that were simply overwhelmed with gratitude.

...Thank You for the gifts for my children and I. This past year has been very hard on my children. My mom passed away in April from Cervical Cancer and they miss her dearly. We have also been homeless for the past eight months. All my children worried about was having a home so Santa could find them to deliver gifts. You are my children's Santa. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know if my mom was still here she would say, "God Bless You All"....

I am really thankful for all the gifts for our family. Our tree was empty until the social worker came to my house with all the gifts. We thought that this year we would not have any gifts for my children. I believe that all of you are our angels for helping us when we need it.

Thank you for giving me presents because I've never had any better gifts in my life. I like the way you wrapped the presents so secretly. You are such a great friend because last time I didn't get any presents hardly.

