



Max on his new bike

Dear Thumbuddy Special,
I can't thank you enough for the new bike you gave to Max this spring. He LOVES it. It means so much to him to be able to get out and ride with his sister and the other kids in the neighborhood. He likes to race, and this bike is really well made and doesn't inhibit any motion or slow him down at all, so he can go as fast as he can pedal. Good thing it came with a helmet! Another benefit he gets from the bike is the exercise and interaction with the other kids, both of which are very important to me. It's just great to see him out having fun and enjoying himself, so thank you for making it possible.

Sincerely, Jennie, Max's Mom

**Beep...Beep...
Clear the Way...
New Sets of Wheels
Zipping Through!**

Not only did 4 great kids have the thrill of receiving their adaptive bikes this year, but we, as donors, are blessed to be able to witness their joy and fun as these well deserving special children expressed their thanks with the smiles on their faces.



Our 2 Special Friends Corny and Luaey enjoying a ride on their new bikes at Alden Village.



Corny (left) and Luaey (right)



Ethan and his dad on his new bike

"The day after we received our new bike, we were able to take a family bike ride! Due to Ethan's medical issues and deaf-blindness, this bike allows him the ability to participate in our family activity. In addition, because he has the option to pedal while biking, he will continue to get stronger and gain better balance by using the bike".

*Truly Yours
Ethan's Family*

**REMINDER
Thumbuddy Special's
GOLF OUTING -**

FRIDAY, JULY 20th

At 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



Without the generosity of so many, we would not be able to share in the joy of Thumbuddy Special families that now have the wheels to allow their kids to move forward. Thanks for your continued support!

God Bless, Mary Ellen Connelly !

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 keeping us in a positive and progressive direction. 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 ~ 2012



"The best way to cheer yourself up, is to try to cheer "thumbuddy" else up." ~ Mark Twain

Thumbuddy Special (TS) certainly does have goals. And yet, it is the journey toward such goals that hallmarks TS. What better way to carry on any journey than with wheels. We have been privileged to deliver wheels in wheelchairs, in adapted strollers, adaptive bicycles, in wheelchairs, in adapted strollers, accessible vans, and even in the limo that ushered in 11 special moms who give care 24/7 every week throughout the year. We proudly announce the launching of "Kids on the Go" program, where 2 of our friends, Horacio and Clarissa received gently used vans with a lift presented at the Carlucci Spring event. The best journeys need not only motion, but direction. We are thrilled to be among so many wonderful people who share in such positive and progressive direction. Enjoy the thank you notes within this Spring newsletter and witness the thanks woven throughout the photos.



Joan, Jesus and Maria by van.

My family and I would like to thank everyone at the Thumbuddy Special organization for your donation of our van. We don't know what we would have done without your generosity. We will never forget that. With this van it will be easier to take Clarissa to her doctor's appointments and anywhere we need to go. May God Bless you all.

*Sincerely,
The Constantino Family*



Clarissa & Maria

Thank you so much for buying us a new van with a ramp. We really needed it because our old car was getting old and was not working well. I've always



John Connelly delivering the van to Horacio and his dad, Horacio.

wanted to go to Texas to visit my aunt but we didn't trust our old car because we were afraid it would leave us in the middle of nowhere. Thanks to this new van we will be able to go to Texas. I will also feel safer because the new van will have a seat belt for my wheelchair.

The Serrano Family



Check us out at thumbuddyspecial.org... we are also on Facebook.

Mom's Day Out: A Day for Re-energizing and bonding of 11 caring moms

For the 4th year running, Thumbuddy Special sponsored the Mom's Day Out. This year, moms of children with autism were treated to a day of pampering at the Hair Experts in Lombard, shopping and then a very special private dinner at Carlucci in Downers Grove. It was a wonderful day for these very special caregivers. Thanks to so many, including Mary Eileen Newton for making this event so powerful!

Dear Thumbuddy Special

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Words cannot say what a wonderful day I have had. It's been very special. From spa, shopping and dinner, it was very emotional. It's not always that someone makes us feel this way. .."Special". Thank you very much, ahh...I can't stop saying thank you. Crying here! I want to bless everyone from Thumbuddy Special have a blessed Holiday Season.

With love always, Malissa

A thousand thank you's for such a special day that you gave me. I enjoyed it so much and felt so honored that you would dedicate this day to me. Although I confess that I did miss my children a little, I know they were fine with their dad.

I don't have words to express how good I felt this whole day. I felt like we were a big family. We went to a nice restaurant that never in my life had I been to, and I never could imagine coming into such a wonderful atmosphere with such wonderful people. God fills us with blessings and He will return to you all that you have done for us.

*With much joy, good wishes, and blessings,
A thousand thanks,
Veronica*



It was simply a perfect day for all the Thumbuddy Special Moms



The day of November 6, 2011 was a very special day for me because I was able to express all that I had inside of me and found that all of those with us had the same cases and could also express their feelings about their special children. And today I realized that I am not alone and more people are in the same situation as me. I truly want to thank you, and may God take care of you with many blessings. For all who remembered those of us who have children with disabilities, thank you!

-Rosie

Wrapping Party (in loving memory of Dick Perrault)

Thanks to your generosity this past Christmas Season, Thumbuddy Special sponsored over 85 families in need. We thank our friends at Scheck and Siress, the Butterfield Clan Christmas Party, BCD Meetings and Incentives and all of our Elves that made these memories possible.



Over 300 children also received toys, thanks to our friends at Kohls in Downers Grove!

Quotes from Family thank yous...

"Thank you very much for all the gifts that me and my sisters received. That was very thoughtful and we hope that next year, we as a family

can help another family at their time in need."
Alivia, Brianna, Alyssa and Vanessa

"The gifts and support could not have come at a better time considering our situation. You have given us more hope that things will get better soon"

Latoya

"We are sure that God is not going to ignore how you helped us and He is going to multiply your Harvest. Thank you so much and God Bless you.

Patricia



22 Students with Disabilities treated to a day of Christmas Shopping and Lunch

This shopping experience is so extraordinary for these students. They shop for their parents and siblings and then enjoy a lunch together. It is a great time and learning experience for all...

"I bought a candle so my mom could relax... This is my last year, I am going to miss my friends but I'm always going to treasure these moments. Thank you so so so so much for these memories."

Jesse

"The Wrestling men are awesome. If it wasn't for you, I would never get them. You are the best! Also thank you for the delicious lunch. It made my day and night. May God Bless You.

Curtis



All Aboard! The Polar Express....

Kids love Santa and they love trains! It is difficult for a family with a special needs child to go see Santa or even go on a train ride. We love working with our friends at West Suburban Special Recreation and sponsoring a trip to the North Pole! Way too much Fun!



"Thank you very much for letting us ride the Polar Express to the North Pole. We enjoyed it very much! It was a wonderful experience"

Christopher

"Thank you for providing a wonderful time for all...young and old we were able to enjoy "the magic" and the thrill of Santa. We were all "one" in our enthusiasm "all alike" in looking forward to Christmas"

The Maicyan Family

This past year donations were made in loving memory of:

Joseph Zielinski	Mary Kennedy
Wally Newton	Lauren Scheffler
Nellie Madden	Leona Rompela
Tim Newton	Jim McCann
Jim Madden	Joan McCann
Rosemary Rozich	Camille Manning
Tom Fielding	Larry Zinder
Jack Fielding	Pepa Dogaru
Diane McLain	David Thomas Jandris
Jack LeClair	Dan MacAskill
Tommy McEnery	Jason Abdullah
Lorraine Studin	Kay Hallagan
Dick Perrault	John Sands
Connie Thompson	Judy Schwarzbach
Florence Zielinski	Nancy J Cooper
Brian McGarry	Christine Pappageorge
Reba Chaplinsky	Donald Gentile
Ted Lesnik	
Jordan Fluker	Thumbuddy Special would like to thank the family of Winifred Ziarko, who in lieu of flowers, donations were made to Thumbuddy Special.
Raymond LeFevour,	
Dominic Cairo	
Kay McGovern.	
Dr Michael DiGilio	
Betty Ann White	
June Carlson	

Last year donations were made in honor of :

- Jim and Denise O'Connor
- Nat and Laura Coffman
- August and Carolyn DeLuca
- Helen McDonald
- Jim and Julie Coffman
- Kathy Slater

ALL STARS ★★

- ★ Carlucci Restaurant in Downers Grove
- ★ Mary Eileen Newton
- ★ Chub Thompson
- ★ Dr Robert Hall and Kristine Hall
- ★ Hair Experts in Lombard
- ★ Al and Gail Madden
- ★ Cathy and Tom Joyce
- ★ St Vincent de Paul Society of Christ the King Parish
- ★ Knights of Columbus of Christ the King Parish
- ★ Swanson, Martin and Bell
- ★ Dave and Cathy Cahill
- ★ BCD Meetings and Incentives
- ★ Scheck and Siress
- ★ Helen McDonald
- ★ Fraternal Order of Eagles Berwyn Auxillary #2125
- ★ Chuck and Debbie Novak
- ★ David and Jennifer Fielding
- ★ Wally and Michelle Habbal
- ★ Tom Prescott for doing our taxes, year in and year out!
- ★ All of our friends who sold those raffle tickets...you know who you are!

Thank You