



Hello Mary Ellen,

WOW what a bike. My kid can't stop smiling we literally had to put the bike in the kitchen because he would not let it stay in garage :) he is that elated! We are all elated! What an amazing gift of generosity and thoughtfulness we feel from your amazing foundation.

I appreciate this so much, and so does Gabriel of course. We will use the bike probably everyday if it's up to him. He feels so good about himself, it is a gift for all, his pride in his new bike shines through.

"My bike" "My bike"

Thanks,
Dawn



We hope when receiving this letter you and everyone else who collaborates in this program is well.

Luciano, Estela and Cinthia give you a thousand thanks for making it a reality for my daughter to be able to get on a bicycle that she wished so much to get on and ride. We appreciate it with all of our hearts and may God continue to help you so that more kids that need these types of bikes can continue to smile.

May God bless you always and one day he will recompense you.

Thank you, Thank you very much,
Cinthia's Family

Save the Dates

Carlucci night
Saturday
MARCH 3RD
5:00-8:00pm

Bowling is Back!
Friday
APRIL 19TH
Mont Clare Lanes

Golf Outing
Friday
JULY 19TH
Maple Meadows

More info to follow in the Spring Update!



For almost two decades, we have given motion through adaptive bikes, strollers and vans. Through technology we have given children their voice. With your commitment to Thumbuddy Special, we can continue finding new ways to allow our friends to reach toward finding the joy in life they all deserve. God Bless, Mary Ellen

Henry in his new stroller off to pre-school

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 ~ 2013

We want to thank you for the wonderful gift of the iPad for our son, Jack. He has been very frustrated with his inability to communicate, and it is only getting worse as he gets older and realizes what he is missing out on. With the iPad, Jack's world will suddenly be an easier and happier place for him. Thanks you again - We can't wait to start using it with him!
~ Jack's Family



A New Voice "I want, I want, I want...oh what is it? It is on the tip of my tongue." We have all been there, so frustrated, not able to come up with the word. Now, just imagine how that is for many of our children with Special Needs, who would like so much to get their point across or needs met. We were honored to present more than a dozen iPads and other augmentative communication devices to several deserving buddies this year. Your generosity has given these children a new voice.

Thanks for helping my brother. He is going to love his new IPAD.
Thanks,
Dylan and Colin



Dear Thumbuddy Special,

Kevin and I would like to thank Thumbuddy Special for giving Kevin the gift of an IPAD. As Kevin is not a full time student, because of he has to go to dialysis three times a week.

Receiving this gift will help Kevin tremendously with his learning process. Kevin can now take his classes with him to Dialysis with his IPAD. Again, Kevin and I would like to thank Thumbuddy Special for the wonderful gift!

Kevin's Mom

Thanks

My family and I would like to thank you for giving Angelica the opportunity to have an ipad for her to use at home. Angelica is an amazing and determined little girl who does not let anything slow her down. She works very hard at everything that she does. I know this ipad will help Angelica to keep on improving with her communication, speech, reading, and motor skills.

Again, thank you for the ipad, and if there is anything that we can do to help other kids, please let us know.
Sincerely, Virginia



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

Summer Fun TS donated over \$13,000 to our local special recreation agencies for Kids to Just Have Fun.



Our partnership with WWSRA and SEASPAR is running strong. TS sponsored several children to attend Summer Camp Fun in memory of Brian McGarry. Due to the popularity of the Polar Express, TS also funded a summer train ride and picnic with our friends at West Suburban Special Recreation.

So much fun was had on our train trip. Everyone got a conductor's hat and whistle. We had a picnic lunch & even broke a piñata shaped like a train!

Thank You Thank you, Thank you
WSSRA

"I would like to thank Thumbuddy Special for making the "great time" of WSSRA summer camp possible for my kids – they loved it! Your donation made a summer of fun and activities possible for them. They are missing camp already!"

Thank you again
Monica
Mother of Daniel and Emilio

Erin and Shannon would like to give a big hug to Thumbuddy Special and all its supporters. Erin and Shannon are enjoying Seaspar summer camp thanks to all of you. The girls are having a blast swimming, doing crafts, and playing games, with so many helpers that make it fun!

Thanks for making this a fantastic summer!

Thanks and God Bless,
John, Tricia
Annie, Erin and Shannon

Year Around Fun



Marty, Nancy and Mary Jane supporting the cause!

Our Spring Happy Hour

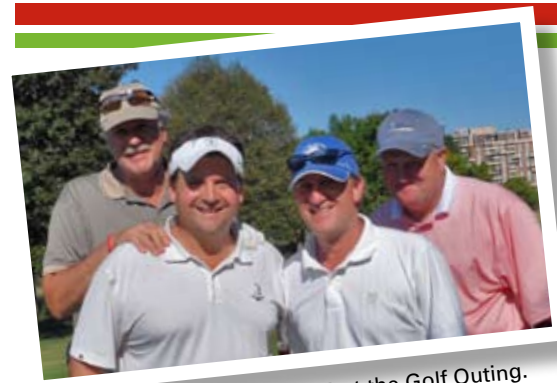
at Pasians was a huge success, where over 100 local special education teachers and staff from Oak Park, Berwyn and Cicero helped us raise over 3,000! Kudos to their dedication to the children they serve on a daily basis.



Tracy, Danielle and Caeli, 3 of our wonderful volunteers.

Golf Outing

Somehow in the midst of the summer's heat, TS Golf Outing had a beautiful day in the low 80s, our "Angels" are watching over! We all had scores in the low 70s! What a great crowd again this year. TS would like to thank all of our hole sponsors and volunteers for providing these fun memories for all involved.



4 of our friends from SMB at the Golf Outing. Steve Danekas, Ross Bartolotta, Joe Switzer, and Bruce Terlep

Dedication worthy of Salutes!

Our 2 Mainstays, BCD Meetings and Incentives and Swanson Martin and Bell Law Firm continue to support Thumbuddy Special through their giving spirits. Each company ran employee fundraisers either through "matching funds", Happy Hours or "Jeans Day". We salute your dedication to the families and children of Thumbuddy Special. Our friends helped raise over \$5,000 through their efforts, sponsored numerous Needy families at Christmas and sponsored 2 families for get away weekends. Well Done Friends!

This past year donations were made in loving memory of:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Joseph Zielinski | Brian McGarry |
| Brian Pacaro | Ted Lesnik |
| Jim Schmidt | Jordan Fluker |
| Edward Costin | Dominic Cairo |
| Tom Sheridan | Dr Michael DiGilio |
| Madeline Jaroc | June Carlson |
| Kay Moats | Lauren Scheffler |
| Thomas P Sawyer | Jim McCann |
| Julia Kareiva | Joan McCann |
| Dr James Watts | Larry Zinder |
| Nellie Madden | Stan Kundys |
| Jim Madden | Ken Clacher |
| Rosemary Rozich | Gladys Price |
| Tom Fielding | Bart Murphy |
| Jack Fielding | Ed Williams |
| Diane McLain | Pete Zonsius |
| Jack LeClair | |
| Tommy McEnery | Thumbuddy Special would |
| Lorraine Studin | like to thank the family of |
| Dick Perrault | Ken Clacher, who in lieu |
| Connie Thompson | of flowers, donations were |
| Florence Zielinski | made to Thumbuddy Special. |

ALL STARS ★★

- ★ Jim Compton
- ★ Carlucci Restaurant in Downers Grove
- ★ Chub Thompson
- ★ Dr Walid and Michelle Habbal
- ★ Knights of Columbus of Notre Dame Parish in Claredon Hills
- ★ Dr Robert Hall and Kristine Hall
- ★ Salon Divino in Downers Grove
- ★ Al and Gail Madden
- ★ Cathy and Tom Joyce
- ★ Swanson, Martin and Bell
- ★ Dave and Cathy Cahill
- ★ BCD Meetings and Incentives
- ★ Bill Rogers
- ★ Scheck and Siress
- ★ Helen McDonald
- ★ Cheryl Sitkora
- ★ Carolyn Murphy
- ★ Dawnelle and Scott Pearson
- ★ Mary and Tracy Stollberg
- ★ Chuck and Debbie Novak
- ★ All of our friends who donated to the Mom's Day Out Baskets... you know who you are!

Thank You

Adapted strollers...Henry

Henry is not able to walk more than a few feet on his own right now, and due to his blindness and his physical delays, it will be a very long road to independent walking. So we really needed a safe way for Henry to ride the school bus to pre-school as well as to provide mobility in general as he is getting to big for the "baby" strollers now.

Our insurance told us that the chair would be covered, so we thought we could just place the order and get it in a timely manner. So we had him fitted for his chair back in January of this year. However, once we realized how high the out of pocket cost would be, we had to hold off on the order and decide what to do. We could not afford the cost, so we settled on borrowing a used chair from the school. It was ok for the bus trips, but

it wasn't really what he needed. And we couldn't use it for outings because the wheels were not in good enough condition and would shake after pushing it a few feet.

Then we heard about Thumbuddy Special, and we were so relieved that the cost of the chair was not going to inhibit Henry from getting the equipment he needed any longer! We received his brand new, beautiful chair just in time for Henry to use it to start back to pre-school at the end of August! He looks so comfortable in it, and I feel so much more confident sending him to school on the bus in his new sturdy chair! The wheels are great for long walks, too. It also has plenty of room for growth, so we will be using it for years to come!



Thank you so much for providing Henry with a safe, appropriate chair that fits all of his needs! We are so relieved that he finally has his own chair after using the borrowed chair for so long. This is thankfully one less thing for us to worry about, and now we can focus on Henry's schooling, his therapies, and just having fun going out as a family!

We will always remember Thumbuddy Special and what you did for Henry!
Thank you again,
Sincerely, Margaret, Justin, and Henry