

Lori's Voice

Inspiring minds and encouraging hearts - one child at a time



Who is Leading the Parade

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Walk	2
Bike Time	2
Van Safety	2
Under Cover	3
The Door Please	3
The New Guy	3
Unconventional	4

What makes an everyday van a "handicap van"?

- Generally a lowered floor making room for a wheelchair.
- Special tie down straps or fifth-wheel like devices to hold a chair in place.
- An automatic ramp that lowers for wheelchair access.
- Possibly extensive hand controls for the driver.

Each year we select one or two of our special kids to represent Lori's Voice when we meet with the media folks and in general to promote our Walk for the Challenged. This year's ambassadors are eager to help and to bring their unique personalities to the event. You will be able to spot them since Ali will be sporting her Princess tiara and Isiah will of course be in his super hero cape and mask.

These two little ones are inspiring, their life stories are short but very impactful and their ability to overcome obstacles is amazing.

Ali is ten years old and can pretty much take care of herself. This girl was driving her own power wheelchair at 14 months so better move out of the way because this one is going places. The ride has been bumpy but you wouldn't guess that when meeting her - the 17 surgeries she's had and the countless doctor appointments have not

dulled her spunk. Don't let the wheelchair fool you Ali is an intelligent little girl that enjoys singing, dancing, planting flowers, arts and crafts and helping others. Look her up at the walk and say hi.

Isiah is seven and is full of life. He lives with a very rare problem shared with only 800 other people in the world. But it is the other things that define him and make him a "super hero" leader for our Walk.

You might see him in his wheelchair, and think he

has disabilities we look at him and see that he has abilities.

Not that many seven year old boys are excited about school but Isiah is - he loves his lessons and really enjoys reading.

Baseball is his passion though and would never think of missing a Miracle League game. He loves playing outside with his siblings and rides his special bike all the time. Look him up at the walk and say hi.



Coming Soon Walk for the Challenged



The annual Walk for the Challenged is quickly approaching. Of course it is much more than a walk. It is a family friendly morning of activities. This years 'theme is superheros.

You can use the race-track to walk, stroll, run, skate, bike ride or maybe just enjoy the people gathered. Many of the children we have helped over the years

attend this event – stop in and meet some of them. As in the past we'll have firemen and racecars along with their drivers along with local celebrities and of course a few surprises.

When – June 16, 2018, 9:30 to 11:30, registration at 8:30 am.

Where – Berlin Raceway, 2060 Berlin Fair Dr. Marne Michigan.

Cost - \$20 individual, \$45

immediate family.

The first 1,200 people registered get a free t-shirt.

By preregistering on line before the walk you will be guaranteed a t-shirt so just log into lorisvoice.org

This is a great family fun event. Please join us.



Spring Time is Bike Time

About this time of year you probably get out your bike, pump up the tires, dust it off and take a ride. It isn't that easy though if you have some physical limitations.

Of course every kid wants the fresh air and to feel the breeze while biking – it is spring after all. Arguably a bike for a special needs child is not a medical necessity.

We know however it enriches a child's life giving the freedom our kinds of kids often miss out on.

This year we fulfilled several kids' dreams with special bikes. These bikes have adaptive equipment. Some are special balance bikes, others hand peddled still others duet bikes

powered by a parent or sibling. In all cases though they come fully equipped with the freedom independence and fun that often eludes our special friends.



Specialty bikes are designed to provide specific support and body positioning.

All Vans Are Not Equal



As some of you know I was in a car accident in December. Although not fully healed I am doing much better. Thanks in no small part to the quality of our handicapped van's conversion equipment.

Our van's accessibility equipment was manufactured by a national brand that has been rigorously crash tested to insure it could withstand impacts.

Dawn from Clock Mobility explained there

are handicap vans on the road that are not tested and may not protect the occupants in the event of a crash. Please be careful when buying a handicap van insure the equipment can be serviced and has been tested. **Lori**

Under Cover Assistance

Lori's Voice has volunteers that do all kinds of things to help the cause. Lots of these folks are behind the scenes doing their particular task and seldom get the recognition they truly deserve.

One such group is the quilters. This group of ladies (and a few gentlemen as well) work year round to produce

beautiful handmade quilts. They make them in all sizes, colors and patterns. Of course they make them with kids in mind so the unique designs are appealing to youngsters.

This work is much more difficult and time consuming than you may guess. It takes a talented group of folks dedicated to the task and fortunately for us

we have just such an assembly.

So where do the blankets go? We hand them out at venues where Lori's Voice has an involvement - like the Miracle League and Mary Free Bed Hospital. We also should acknowledge Kathy Boomgaard and Attic Window Quilt Shop for their dedication to this wonderful group.



Can You Get that Door for Me

You see kids scooting around in their motorized wheelchairs and it seems like they have a lot of freedom to come and go as they please.

Not necessarily so - a closed door is an obstacle most wheelchair bound people cannot overcome. It seems so simple yet robs our kids of their freedom and independence. Well

Lillian's Mom wanted to do something about it and asked for our help. We purchased an electronic door opener and friends of the family handled the installation. Lillian is now literally "ready to go" without help.

In addition to solving the obvious safety issue of not being able to get out of the house our assistance has

opened the door to the rest of the world for Lillian. She has newfound freedom and independence, all delivered by just giving her a remote control power door.

As able bodied individuals we take so much for granted - next time you open the door remember those that cannot.



Unconventional Assistance



Our help generally assists with the payment of medical treatments, or medical devices. We have purchased a lot of AFOS wheelchairs, walkers, handicap accessible vans, therapy and things very connected to the young person's medical needs.

And then there are the times we assist with things that just help a special needs kid feel like every other kid. Adam is a young teen that has to travel from time to time for specialized treatment far from home. Helping with the travel costs is pretty straightforward but in addition we sent him a

computer that he could travel with. He no longer faces hours of idle travel time but can now download some educational programs and games to occupy the time.

While not exactly connected to his illness this assistance will provide him a window to the world he hasn't had before. We were pleased to be able to make it happen.

Support our Walk Sponsors

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About Us

Lori's Voice is a 501(c) (3) Charity that provides funding for equipment, educational resources and medical assistance to children with neuromuscular and degenerative diseases.

Board: Lori Hastings, Dave Hastings, Marj Williams, Ray Breiding, Scott Noto and Duane Kluting

