

LORIGRAM

Inspiring minds and encouraging hearts - one child at a time.



NICE DAY FOR A WALK

We enjoyed an ideal day for our Walk for the Challenged. As always, we want to thank the Berlin Raceway and Entertainment Complex for hosting our event. It is the perfect venue for a Walk. We had many children in their wheelchairs, strollers and wagons utilizing the track for smooth cruising. In addition to raising money, the Walk provides a great opportunity for our many donors and sponsors to meet some of the children we have helped.



We want to extend a special thank you to our Walk sponsors - without your support our fundraising efforts would not be successful - thanks to:

Stehouwer Frozen Foods
Power Train
I D Engineering
Smith Owens Sewing & Quilt
Life Beyond Barriers
Metal Plus
Creative Mobility
Harmony Lake
Zokoe Realty

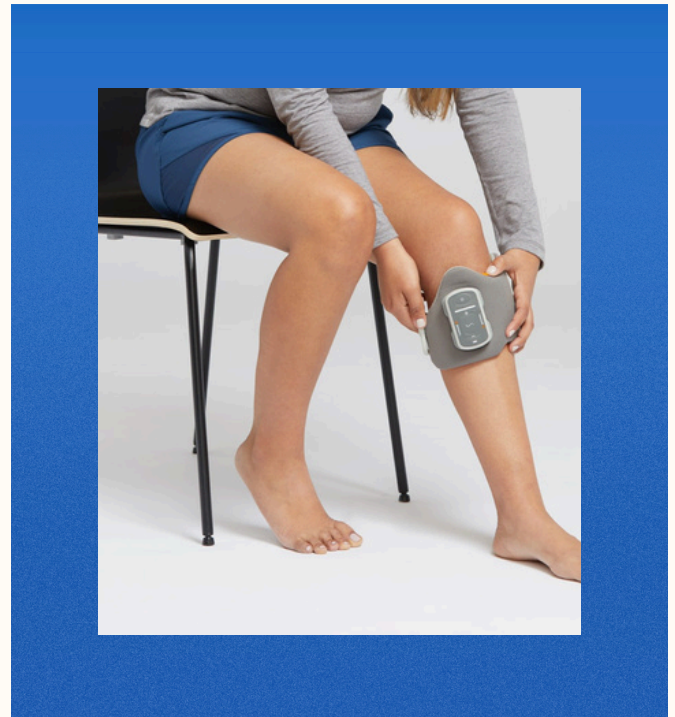
Touch of Class Auto Wash
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A FIRST FOR US

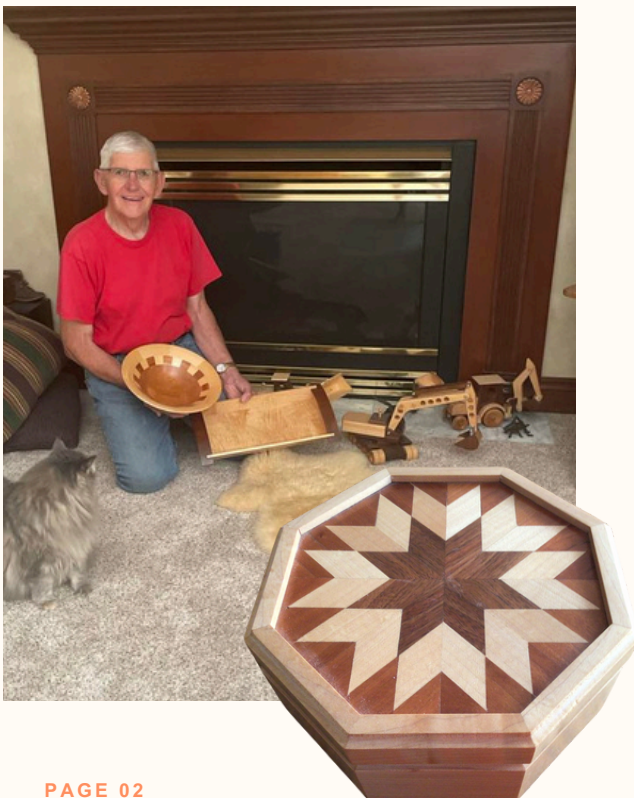
Zoe is old enough to get her first driver's license, a major milestone for most young people. But she is not able to fully utilize her lower legs and feet so driving a conventional vehicle would not be possible for her without some kind of assistance.

She requested our help to purchase a device that doesn't make the vehicle adapt to her but rather helps her adapt to it. This medical equipment provides low-intensity electric pulses to stimulate her nerves. These devices are generally utilized to improve patient's walking ability but, in her case, it allows her to operate a car.

We've not helped with this kind of equipment before but freedom for a teenager - what better gift could Lori's Voice deliver?



TURNING WOOD INTO MONEY FOR KIDS



Jeff is a skilled craftsman. He applies his considerable talent to wood and makes, in many cases, works of art. His "equipment line" of miniature tractors, trucks, farm tools, bulldozers and such are very intricate and demonstrate capability few have. He also makes boxes and ornamental objects, truly beautiful stuff. People come to him and ask if he will take on their project and he sometimes obliges. Despite his great and generally unique work he often doesn't ask to get paid. Instead, he simply tells his customers to send whatever money they think is appropriate to Lori's Voice to help the kids. From time to time, we will get a check from folks, and they will indicate Jeff asked them to send it. Thanks Jeff - you are one of a kind, someone actually capable of turning wood into money for the kids.

SAME HOME - DIFFERENT FEEL



Although Leo is still quite young he faces challenges that will be with him for a lifetime. Knowing this, his parents struggled with a major decision - should they undertake a huge remodel of their home or try to find another one that could support his long-term needs?

They opted for the remodel. Big job. Remodeling Leo's bedroom and bathroom in addition to leveling floors and widening doorways as well as adding ramps where necessary was the project they decided to tackle. The price tag was as big as the job, but Leo's family knew his safety and comfort were important to his growth and this was absolutely necessary. Lori's Voice pitched in with some key funding to help make this work possible. Sometimes our assistance seems minor but sometimes it changes lives - like Leo's.



IS A TOMATO A VEGETABLE ?

It's that time of year - tomatoes everywhere! Tomato seats, strollers, chairs and car seats are not found in your backyard garden though, but they are found in the homes of many of the children we help. The "Tomato" line of products was developed by an inventive Dad, the parent of a child with special needs and an avid gardener. Their unique soft touch cushions are made from the ideal material used to cover their specially designed seating products, all made with special needs children in mind. Many of our families are familiar with these products and feel they are very helpful in caring for their child. So when you hear a parent talk about their "tomato" it may not be for a BLT.





OUR VERY OWN SUPERSTAR



Everything we do here at Lori's Voice is driven by our volunteers. We have many volunteers, doing lots of different things, so we generally do not want to single out one person's contributions among the many. We certainly thank and value everyone who devotes their time and effort to Lori's Voice - we couldn't assist so many children without it.

However, we really can't help ourselves from singing the praises of Kathie, our superstar volunteer. If you've ever attended one of our events or been vetted by our ART group, you likely know Kathie. She is our internal traffic cop, keeping us all headed in the right direction, she is the go-to person with most any Lori's Voice question you have. So, we want to declare today Kathie appreciation day and thank her for all her often-invisible work on behalf of the kids we serve.

LOTS OF KIDS LOTS OF HELP

We're having a big year as we continue to reach more and more families. So far this year we have helped 109 children - far and away a record setting pace. It has become more common for us to hear from families all over the country, although out of state children generally receive a lesser amount, they are none-the-less very grateful, this is of course as our Michigan reputation continues to grow.

Many thanks to you, our faithful donors, for allowing us to continue to help so many children - without you it couldn't happen.

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