

Amtryke - Therapeutic Tricycle Project



Since 2010, the Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village has been helping meet certain therapeutic needs of children with disabilities from families unable to afford this expensive equipment. The solution we provide to these children is an Amtryke therapeutic tricycle. As of Mar. 31, 2023, our club has presented *83 tricycles valued at over \$49,000* to children age 18 and younger who are living with disabilities affecting their motor skills and strength. Amtrykes are all about abilities, focusing on what children can do, not what they can't do!

In the 2017 Disability Status Report by Cornell University, it was estimated that there were over 6,000 children, ages 5 to 15, with ambulatory disabilities in Tennessee. There is a substantially larger estimate for children with cognitive disabilities, some of which could impair mobility and qualify a child for our project. The need is great!

Learning how to ride a bike is an introduction into a new world of freewheeling fun and independence. But, for some children with disabilities, this is a tremendous challenge. We help make the wish of mobility come true for children with physical or developmental disabilities. Properly balanced and safely supported, many children with even severe disabilities can ride an Amtryke. They benefit from the opportunity for increased physical activity, broadened social relationships and improved health and quality of life.

An Amtryke can be adapted in many ways Including frame size, seating and positioning of head and trunk support to insure a proper fit. Amtryke models include those with combined hand and foot motion to stimulate reciprocal movement, hand cycles for those with limited lower body mobility and traditional foot cycles designed for riders with special needs.



Equipment is available to keep legs in proper alignment and to prevent knee scissoring. Even placement of hands and feet can be improved with available adaptive equipment.

We welcome inquiries and referrals from therapists, teachers, parents, other family members and even friends who believe and hope that the child will be eligible for an Amtryke tricycle. When a child is determined to be eligible, the application process requires a licensed physical or occupational therapist to complete the application forms - some of which require parent or guardian signatures. It is the therapist who determines which model of Amtryke and what combination of adaptive equipment will offer the greatest therapeutic value for the child. Completed applications are then sent to our Kiwanis project team for review.

Every presentation of an Amtryke therapeutic tricycle is an uplifting event, whether during a club meeting or other setting. The child is thrilled and excited to use their tricycle. The parents are deeply grateful and happy to see their child receive the opportunity for exercise, play and social interaction. And, our club members take home the satisfaction of helping one more child, one more family, live a better life.



This project is an excellent example of Kiwanis at work.

It is all about abilities; not disabilities.



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**AMTRYKE
Therapeutic Tricycles**



The gift of mobility!