

Keepin' Up With The Kidz

Fall 2021

Another Win On The Road...

The partnership between Kelly's Kidz and A&A Driving School has provided resources to make independent community mobility a reality rather than merely a dream for those in Michigan who need adaptive transportation.

Since 1959, A&A Driving School has instructed students with or without disabilities. Today, the school has eight driver rehabilitation specialists on staff, five of which are ADED board certified, which allows for individuals with Autism, amputations, brain injuries, Cerebral Palsy, Cerebral Vascular Accidents, Congenital Diagnoses, Low-Vision Diagnoses, Multiple Sclerosis, Spina Bifida, Spinal Cord Injuries, and countless others to participate in the program.



DRIVERS REHABILITATION
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For individuals to be successful behind the wheel of adaptive transportation, A&A provides resources like state pamphlets/books regarding driving when applicable and at-home programs for students to supplement and support their training. When behind the wheel, A&A provides verbal instruction as well as brake and steering assistance when needed.

David Denman, 15, was a recent recipient of the Kelly's Kidz Driving Grant and participated in the program over the summer. He has hemiplegia on his right side from a stroke he suffered when he was six years old. His diagnosis has forced him to think creatively every day because he has to find ways to do what most kids do with both hands - with just one.

"Driving independently means I can be like my friends, I can drive to a job, but more importantly it means I have accomplished more than what doctors thought I would do," said Denman, who also enjoys playing and watching sports, playing video games, and hanging out with his family. "I really appreciated the grant Kelly's Kidz awarded me so I could do additional driving lessons with A&A Driving School."

"Individuals who have so much to offer the community-at-large are now realizing their dreams," said Lesley Hagerman, A&A Office Manager. "They are now able to go anywhere the road takes them."

A&A Driving School can be found in Livonia, Plymouth, and Shelby Township.

For additional information, visit www.aa-driving.com or call 734.422.3000.

Humbled, Honored Again By Your Generosity!

We hope this newsletter finds all of you well and looking forward to the holidays.

Like many organizations, Kelly's Kidz used a little creativity to find ways we could help support our mission.



In fact, we used dolphins and who doesn't love dolphins? We provided virtual dolphin experiences for kids and they were able to interact with them down in Florida. *See the back for the full story.*

We have widened our network of resources having become connected with Washtenaw County to expand our Random Acts of Kindness Program.

As we shared last year, we lost three very special people and tremendous supporters of Kelly's Kidz and were able to honor them through financial contributions in support of various charitable efforts in Southeast Michigan in their name.

And through it all, your support continues to ring near and dear to our hearts. We cannot express how much your continued support means to us and all we are able to provide for families in our area. We wish you a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Thanks for Caring,

Kelly & Dave



Kelly's Kidz is a not-for-profit created to provide financial assistance and resources to physically-impaired children with special needs and to create an opportunity for them to lead the best life they can possibly live.

Random Acts At Work...

The Kelly's Kidz Random Acts of Kindness is a small and mighty program. All program considerations must be referred and benefit recipients with a physical impairment.

The pandemic was difficult for so many and we received many requests. Here are just a few examples of how important this program is from our recent connection with Washtenaw County.

One family living in an apartment complex desperately needed bathroom grab bars for their son to safely use the restroom and shower. When the apartment complex refused to install, Kelly's Kidz was contacted to assist. The bars were ordered, shipped directly, and installed within three days.

While drinking for most of us is second nature, aspirating thin liquid could become life threatening for some of our families. With amazing products available to help, they are expensive and rarely covered by insurance. Kelly's Kidz has provided this product multiple times for families experiencing a financial hardship as a three-month supply runs close to \$300.

We are grateful for the support of this program as it has been so very successful and continues to touch so many families.

Solid Rock Does It Again!

For the second consecutive year, Canton-based Solid Rock Jewelers selected Kelly's Kidz for their Charity of the Month in November.

"We are excited to, once again, make a financial contribution to Kelly's Kidz in support of our mission of giving back to the community in which we live," shared owner Felicia Haggerty, who has more than two decades of experience and is eager to help with your jewelry needs.

This holiday season, check out Solid Rock Jewelers, located at 5924 N. Sheldon Rd. in Canton or visit their virtual showroom at www.solidrockjewelers.net.

Gone, Never Forgotten...

As we have shared previously, Kelly's Kidz lost three very special people and tremendous supporters in the last couple of years. In 2021, Kelly's Kidz was able to honor them by supporting various charitable efforts in Southeast Michigan. Here is a brief recap:



Jack and Margaret Demmer were a pillar in the non profit community supporting a number of local organizations. To honor their memory, Kelly's Kidz purchased a communication board, which is located at the Miracle League of Plymouth. The board will open up the lines of communication between a non-verbal player and their buddy and coaches in a way that would not otherwise be available.



Carol Campau volunteered for many organizations throughout the Metro Detroit area, including the Women of Birmingham which supports SCAMP camp in West Bloomfield. SCAMP is a five week therapeutic summer program for individuals with disabilities ages 3 to 26 years old in the Metro Detroit area. Kelly's Kidz made a \$10,000 donation to SCAMP in Carol's memory and the dedication occurred in August. The bench was made by special needs students and resides at West Bloomfield Middle School where the camp is held each summer.



Dolphin Zoom Eases Boredom

Boredom is defined as the state of feeling disinterested in one's surroundings, having nothing to do, or feeling that life is dull. This was the theme for so many of our Kelly's Kidz families during the pandemic.

Thankfully, Kelly's Kidz was able to connect almost a dozen families with the Island Dolphin Care of Key Largo, Florida, to do a Zoom call with dolphins.

Kids were able to interact with the dolphins on screen by requesting the dolphin do a jump, waves, or even make 'silly' sounds. Each visit lasted about half an hour and included a tour of the Island Dolphin Care outdoor facility and a digital recording of the Zoom so they can watch it over and over.

Eli and Kiernan were two kids who participated in the special visit - and smiled the entire time. Island Dolphin Care provides unique, animal-assisted motivational and educational programs for children and adults with special needs and abilities and their families and caregivers.



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Creating Opportunities