



*Providing bicycles and other wheeled toys to children with life threatening illnesses.*

# The Pedaler

**December 2019**

*"Do your duty and leave the rest to Heaven"*

*Pierre Corneille*

Hello everyone, and welcome to **The Pedaler**, the official newsletter of Cody's Wheels Of Hope! I know it has been a little while since the last newsletter, but we are still "alive and kicking"!!

First, with the holidays arriving soon, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy Kwanzaa!! You are all important to us – and to the continuation of our mission. We truly appreciate ALL our supporters and donors. Without you, we could not continue to provide smiles to hopeful children. May the New Year bring health and happiness to you all!

And now, down to business.....

4-year-old Louis, of Branford, Ct. received a Radio Flyer 3-in-1 Tailgater Folding Wagon with canopy. Thiago, age 6 of Atlanta, Ga is looking cool on his red 16" Marvel Spider-man bike with handlebar plaque and a Bell Spider-man shatter 3D multisport helmet. A 3-year-old boy in Pinch, WV is riding a blue 16" Dynacraft Hot Wheels bike wearing a cool blue helmet.

Nicolas, age 9 of Trumbull, CT, is tearing up the road on his 24" Roadmaster Granite Peak Mountain bike wearing his Bell Sports Peak green pixel helmet. Tisa, age 7 of Conway, SC, is ecstatic with her multicolored 20" Fantasy bike and Schwinn Breeze pink/magenta/yellow helmet. We also sent her a set of heavy-duty training wheels. Jayden, age 6 of Myrtle Beach, SC, received his dream bike – an 18" green Action Zone Bike and is wearing his Schwinn Thrasher carbon helmet.

In August we received a call from the Ronald McDonald House in Pittsburgh requesting wheeled toys for the children staying there while receiving treatments at the hospital. We sent them a few items; a Step2 Motorcycle Ride-on, Tonka Classic Mighty Dump Truck, Tonka Power Mover cement mixer and Hot Wheels 20-car collector gift pack. Also, a Badger Basket folding double doll stroller (pink/gingham) with a My Sweet Love 18" doll and an African American 18" doll. More items were a Radio Flyer Cyclone ride-on, arm powered, red with 16" wheels (which was a gigantic hit with the kids!), Precious Toys pretend shopping cart w/"groceries", a ride-on Zigzag car that uses wiggle movement to steer and turn and an American Plastic Toys fire truck ride-on.

*"A kind and compassionate act is often its own reward."*      **Chinese Proverb**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Rich and I were at Boscov's Department Store *Friends Helping Friends* event. If you recall, we were selling passes to the event in order for you to receive 25% off most merchandise that day. It also entered you into drawings for prizes. The passes were \$5.00 each and CWOH got to keep the entire amount. Be sure to catch us next October for the event!!

Dee Caruana of Agresti Realtors held a fundraiser for us this past summer at BikeFest at Erie Harley Davidson. She raised \$350.00 for CWOH! Dee has been a great supporter of CWOH and has raised money for us in the past. We truly appreciate her efforts.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Rich and I were at the Erie Times News building selling the pink cancer edition (with a glazed doughnut) for \$1.00 each. Linked by Pink reps were also there. Both organizations benefitted from the project. We received a check for \$1036.00!! Thank you SO much to the Times for their support.

Recently we voted in a new Board member to replace another. It is Mark "Aleks" Aleksandrowicz (of Alek's Powersports). He starts the position at the beginning of the year. We look forward to having his input and ideas. Mark will be serving on the Public Relations Committee. We welcome him!

I just want to remind everyone that we have a great website – [www.cwoh.org](http://www.cwoh.org) – and invite you to check it out. Also, we have a fantastic Facebook following. Don't worry if you aren't on Facebook – there is a link on our website that allows you to see everything we post on FB – without joining.



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Big Bash for Bikes 2019 was on October 19<sup>th</sup> this year. We want to thank everyone who came (and spent money), donated or volunteered. We love you all! St. Francis Ushers Club has been a fantastic venue to work with. They handled the food and bar and made sure everything was up to our expectations. They have been wonderful to CWOH. If you need a hall for an event, please call Cat at the club.

I would like to thank our sponsors – without which we couldn't put on the event. This year they were Dee Caruana/Agresti Real Estate, Star Club, Aleks Powersports, Bonnell's Auto Group, Siebenbuerger Club, Kathy & Dave Betts, Arthur J. Gallagher Co., Erie Embalming Services, Plyler Entry Systems, John V. Schultz, Schell-Baroth Auto Center, Champion Ford – Edinboro, Dusckas-Martin Funeral Home, McLallen Landscape Supply, Bracken Funeral Home and RAACA (Riders Advocating Against Child Abuse). Also, DJ Ray Meyers and Cheap'n Easy donated their time and talents. Thanks to Brian Waller – our "sound guy" - for the great job. Also, thanks to Jim Rice from Bay City Accounting for having the "table talkers" printed up for us!

Our Vendors are important to the "dice walk" part of Bash. They are set up at tables where you roll your dice and they mark your roll on your tally sheet. They bring info about the goods or services they provide – and a door prize to be given away. All vendors donate their time and it is so greatly appreciated. This year's Vendors were Lucy's First Step, Thermal G RC Flying Club, RAACA, Creation Station and Custom Cycle Hydrographix. RAACA (Riders Advocating Against Child Abuse) have been with us EVERY year!

We had MANY people and businesses donate towards our American Auction and Special Auction. I can't name them all here, but if you would like a program from the event I will gladly send one to you. Just notify me.

I want to personally thank all the Board Members and other volunteers for their time and efforts. There is no way we could do this without you! We had 2 special volunteers this year – Martha and Adriel Carabello. They are the parents of one of "Cody's Friends" who received a bike and helmet last year. They spoke briefly about Adrian and what his bike meant to him

For those of you who have never been to Big Bash for Bikes, you are missing out on a lot of fun. We have the "dice walk", food, beverages, music, raffles, door prizes, small games of chance and more! When you come in, the stub from your admittance ticket is entered for a chance to win one of the hourly drawings for \$50.00!!

For those who like to make plans early, Big Bash for Bikes 2020 will be held at St. Francis Ushers Club once again on Saturday, October 10, 2020. This will be our 9<sup>th</sup> year for the event! If you have any questions about Bash please feel free to call/email me (814 460-8228/cindy@cwoh.org) If you would like to be a sponsor or donate to the auction, please let me know that also and we will be sure to make arrangements to get it.

*"Accept the challenges so you can feel the exhilaration of victory".*

*Gen. George Patton*

## FROM THE SEAT



This is one of the children at the Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House enjoying the Radio Flyer Cyclone arm powered Ride-on that all the children love!

This time of year, I think about Cody so much. He earned his angel wings not long after Christmas on February 4<sup>th</sup>. It was such a wonderful Christmas for him! That was when we gave him his bike that was donated to another child after he was gone that got Cody's Wheels Of Hope started. He was so happy that day. I think about the happy days and try not to focus on the bad days and the pain he was in. Sometimes I still hear his voice or feel his presence. Please tell your loved ones that you love them. Life can change so fast and your chance may be gone. Hold on to good memories and keep them in your hearts and minds. Sometimes that is all we are left with. Miss you and love you, Cody!

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

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**Thank you all for your support and help. If you have ideas for the newsletter, ideas for fundraisers (or would possibly want to sponsor a fundraising event) or need more information from us, please notify us. We cannot do this alone, and your help is very much appreciated!**

The **ONLY** requirements for receiving a bike/wheeled toy from CWOH is that the child be 15 years old or younger and have a life threatening illness.

It is our wish to reach many more eligible children. However, until we can be assured of a steady flow of donations, we are hesitant to contact sources that can help us reach the children. If you would care to make a monthly or quarterly pledge to Cody's Wheels Of Hope, please contact Cindy – (cindy@cwoh.org or (814) 460-8228). All donations are tax deductible.

**If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, or any other mailings, from Cody's Wheels Of Hope, please notify us and we will remove your name from our mailing list. (We NEVER buy, sell or trade names with any other entities)**

**Thank you all so much. See you again in a few months with lots of news!**

**Cindy, Rich, Kristoffer & Julie Filson**