KOOL KIDZ, Inc.

As a physical therapist I feel such joy when I see a child with special needs who struggles to walk and needs help for all basic mobility experience the freedom of moving with ease on a bicycle. The laughter and excitement, the exhilaration of feeling the wind, and the freedom a child feels is therapeutic in more ways than just muscle strengthening and endurance.

The children I work with at the Sams School have a variety of diagnosis, abilities, and limitations but all have the same thing in common. They are all children who love to play and laugh. Being able to play should not be a challenge. Freedom Concepts bicycles removes that barrier and gives a child with severe mobility impairments a chance to play like any other kid.

Adaptive bicycles are expensive, large, and can be difficult to transport making use at home unattainable for some families. To have access to a bicycle at school is the next best thing. The Sams School has playgrounds and sidewalks to ride along, trained professionals to help with transfers for children who need more than one person assist on and off the bike, and time in the day for play. The bicycles would benefit multiple children and get used daily.

The Joseph Sams School requires adaptive bicycles for the students with mobility impairments who would benefit from the daily activity of bicycling. If the school had adaptive bicycles they would be used through out the day by children in each class during recess, physical therapy and on outings. The children with mobility limitations would be able to participate during recess on an adaptive bicycle with their friends. The bicycles would be used therapeutically to increase strength and range of motion during physical therapy sessions. When the classes take walks in the surrounding neighborhoods, a child who would typically require assistance walking in a pacer or who would need to use a stroller or wagon could actively participate on a bicycle.

The Sams School is a private school that relies on fundraisers to purchase classroom supplies, communication devices, technology, and mobility equipment. Finding the funds to purchase 2-3 adaptive bicycles to accommodate the needs of all of the children with impaired mobility is an expense that requires its own fundraiser. Hopefully, through MyFirstBike enough funds can be raised to give the children who do not get to experience the freedom of bicycling at home that experience through school.

Thank you for considering assisting with this much needed endeavor.

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