

Therapeutic Tricycle Project Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village

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 Amtryke¹ therapeutic tricycle. As of January 2020, our club has presented **72 tricycles valued at about \$37,000** to children age 18 and younger who are courageously 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!



The Need - In the 2017 Disability Status Report: Tennessee by Cornell University, it is estimated 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!

Overview – Learning how to ride a bike is an introduction into a new world of freewheeling fun and independence. But, for 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 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.

Each child must be evaluated and recommended by a physical or occupational therapist who determines which model of Amtryke and what combination of adaptive equipment will offer the greatest therapeutic value. Therefore, our project team has no requirement for medical training.

Prices per tricycle can vary from about \$500 to over \$1,000. The project is managed by a Kiwanis project leader and one or two team members. Other club members help as needed with photography and publicity.



Project Process - Typically the process begins with a therapist identifying a candidate child, completing the application forms, obtaining parent or guardian signatures and sending completed forms to our Kiwanis project team. The Kiwanis project team requests a quote from AMBUCS² for the cost of the trike, decides if and when to order the trike and places the order accordingly. The Kiwanis project team takes delivery and assembles the trike. Invoices for the trike are paid through our club foundation.



Every presentation of an Amtryke therapeutic tricycle is an uplifting event, whether during a club meeting or in a private setting. The children are 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.

Project publicity has gained recognition and appreciation for our club. By virtue of its emotional nature and potential benefit to the recipients and their families, this project is an excellent example of Kiwanians at work.

Documentation:

The following forms are used, most of which are required by AMBUCS¹ for placing orders for the Amtryke² tricycles:

- Amtryke Therapeutic Tricycle Request Form
- Amtryke Therapeutic Tricycle Waiver Form
- Amtryke Assessment Form
- Amtryke Selection Form
- Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village and Kiwanis Foundation of Tellico Village Waiver Form



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- 1 Amtryke, established in 1994, is a company owned & operated by National AMBUCS, Inc.
 - 2 National AMBUCS, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1922 which is dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. Currently, there are over 5,000 AMBUCS members spread throughout over 150 chapters in 30 states.



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AMTRYKE PROJECT



IT IS ABOUT

ABILITIES

NOT *DISABILITIES*