

INSIDE: 2011 AMBUCS NATIONAL CONFERENCE PREVIEW

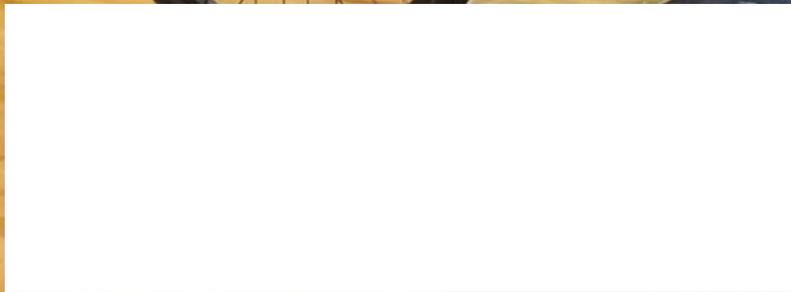
Spring 2011



AMBUCS™

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- ★ Guide to New AmTryke ECommerce Store
- ★ Bonus Chapter News Coverage



Chapter News

Otsego, MI Student is Riding Again as First Recipient of Local AMBUCCS Initiative

Gabe Porter can hardly get any sleep these days since receiving a new AmTryke® in February from the Alive After Five chapter of AMBUCCS in Kalamazoo, MI. "He is so excited," says his mom, Gayle. "He can't wait for spring to get here so he can ride it."

For this high school junior with special needs, getting a new bike is a much bigger deal than for most kids his age. He can't ride a regular bike. He has Down syndrome and has difficulties with balance. This new tricycle gives him the balance he needs, and the freedom to be a normal kid. "We can go on family bike rides again," Gayle says.

Gabe is the first recipient of a new initiative by the local AMBUCCS chapter. Member Donna Whitcomb explains that it seemed toddlers and younger kids, as well as veterans, were getting fitted for bikes, "but there was a gap," she says. So they started looking for students in local high schools. Donna learned that Gabe outgrew his tricycle, and the group found its first recipient. They made the donation in memory of Al Frazier, a former member of their chapter and a strong advocate of Otsego Public Schools.

The AmTryke® presentation was done at halftime of a boys' basketball game in Otsego, and was a surprise to Gabe. He serves as the team's water and ball boy but gets right in every huddle and in every locker room pep talk. "He says it's his job, he's going to work," Gayle explains. It's something he loves, and the players have welcomed him. In fact, they didn't go straight to the locker room at halftime Wednesday night, instead, they sat on the bench and watched as Gabe's name was announced and he ran out to the middle of the floor and waved to the crowd.

"They were really excited for him," says Mark Haase, the school's varsity basketball coach. The team posed for a picture with Gabe and his new bike before working on the second-half game plan.



GreeneBucs Chapter Hosts Annual Christmas Auction



The GreeneBucs, OH chapter of AMBUCCS was able to spread holiday cheer throughout its

surrounding community when it held its annual Christmas Auction on December 1, 2010.

This year's auction brought in over \$22,000 for the chapter and thirteen (13) AmTryke® therapeutic tricycles were donated by individuals or corporate sponsors.

Three AmTrykes® were presented during the event and a guest Santa was on hand to help with the presentation. As a special entertainment portion of the event, the TAC choir (pictured) — an award winning singing group comprised of individuals with disabilities — performed holiday melodies.

A portion of the funds raised from this event were used to assist six area families during the holiday season. GreeneBucs chapter members shopped for gifts, loading up six shopping carts, and later wrapped and delivered the presents before Christmas.

Afterwards, a tryke build was held to give six additional children with disabilities a holiday gift.

Ambucs of East Texas Gain Visibility With Parade Float

The Ambucs of East Texas chapter participated in the 25th Annual Longview, TX Ambucs Downtown Christmas Parade.

Chapter members spent many hours together working on this float. All the laughter, camaraderie and bonding throughout this process made the experience an enjoyable one.

Gordon Hon, Charlie Williams, Daniel Sargent and Lee Lester built the main structure, additional chapter workers included Marsha and Elizabeth Hon, Rocio Mendez, Jean Black, Lauralea and Clifton Cox, Lee Lester, Faye Herring, and

Sammie Paz.

The theme of this year's parade:

"Volunteerism: The Gift of Giving."



AMBUCCS Chapters Are

Augusta, GA Chapters Make A Difference In Life of Local Boy

The Augusta, GA chapter of AMBUCCS held a special program on January 13, featuring a recent tryke recipient who stopped by the group's meeting to formally thank them for donating his ProSeries 1412 model AmTryke®.

Elijah Almeter, a very active five-year old boy with Cerebral Palsy, expressed great appreciation for his new ride and told the Augusta members how much fun it has been for him. During the event Elijah was joined by his mother, father and brother at the meeting, as well as his therapist Judy Bierman.

A few months earlier, Elijah had gone to St. Louis, MO to have an operation on his back to relieve the spastic paralysis that resulted from his medical condition. During his recovery period in St. Louis, Elijah was placed on an AmTryke®, which he rode often as part of his therapy session. It was related to the Augusta chapter that it was the first time that he had smiled since his operation.

"We are so thankful for AMBUCCS and their presentation," Elijah's mom Holly told the



assembled chapter members. "He rides it every day with the kids in the neighborhood and was very disappointed that he was not allowed to go outside during the recent snowstorm. He calls his AmTryke 'his motorcycle'. It's great for his legs. Thank you all."

Elijah's dad Mike also informed the Augusta members that the pain has been a constant companion to his son, but thanks to his new AmTryke he keeps smiling.

Many people might see Elijah as just a kid with disabilities, but, according to his father, when he is on his motorcycle 'he is seen as just another kid.'