

To be eligible for this grant they submitted a completed application and it was voted on by the majority of the Board of Directors

EQUIPMENT

Equipment for a new baby or toddler can be expensive for a family. Cribs, strollers and car seats cost more than \$100; highchairs can run over \$75. These costs can seem high, but in all likelihood the infant or toddler will eventually develop and improve their physical abilities so that they no longer need "special" equipment.

Often this is not the case for children with disabilities. Physical impairments make it difficult for them to develop the strength and control needed to sit, stand, or walk independently. "Special" equipment is needed to help children with disabilities and their families to accomplish regular, daily activities that we take for granted. Unfortunately, the cost of this type of adaptive equipment far exceeds the costs listed above. Insurance may pay for some equipment but often deny coverage for items that are critically needed for families to function. The costs can be high: wheelchair ramps - \$400, special bath chairs - \$300-\$600, adapted strollers - \$2000, adapted toilets -

\$700, adapted car seats - \$500, manual lifts - \$4000, home elevator lifts - \$18,000. For some children and their families, the needs go on and on.

Families and children without disabilities will never need these items. However, for children with disabilities, this equipment allows them to function safely within their homes and communities. It is designed to provide support where the child needs it. The equipment also allows the family members or caregivers to assist the child safely and without hurting themselves in the process.

Providing financial assistance to help purchase needed equipment does help improve the quality of life for both children with disabilities and their families. *By Deborah Kiser*



Cruiser Ready

This Convaid Cruiser will enable a child to become more mobile inside and outside of the home. With padding for proper alignment its cost is over \$1500. Pediatric wheelchairs do not fold and are

difficult to place in the family car because of the weight and bulk. The Cruiser solves this problem without sacrificing the necessary support needed for a "special needs" child.

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