

# Wheelchairs 4 Kids Annual Report

June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016 Fiscal Year



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Mission Statement

Wheelchairs 4 Kids is dedicated to improving the lives of children with physical disabilities.

# **Accomplishments**

- Provided 56 kids with equipment and/or modifications this fiscal year
- 83.76% of our funding spent on programs
- Hosted 9 Wheely Fun Days for our Families
- Held 3 successful fundraising events
- 60 pieces of media coverage (news articles/video segments)
- 100% family satisfaction



# **Accomplishments Summary**

This fiscal year Wheelchairs 4 Kids provided equipment or modifications for 56 children. We are very proud that as such a young organization, 83.76% of funding went towards programs, 10.33% to administration, and 5.91% to fundraising expenses. We know it is important for donors to feel confident that their gifts are being used wisely.

We celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March! It was a wonderful time honoring our donors, volunteers, advocates and especially our children. Our emcee was Gayle Sierens, retired news anchor for WFLA and our keynote speaker was Thaddeus Bullard. Thaddeus AKA Titus O'Neil gave a touching speech about his life. There wasn't a dry eye in the house! We honored the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation with our "Hero of Freedom" award for all they have done for us. It was a time to remember! We are very excited for the next 5 years and look forward to our 10 year anniversary!

Wheelchairs 4 Kids hosted 9 "Wheely Fun Days" for our families. Our Christmas party started with dinner at the Palm Pavilion or ClearSky Cafe, then off to meet Winter the Dolphin, star of the movie blockbuster, Dolphin Tale. Even Santa and Mrs. Claus made a surprise appearance! The Washington Nationals invited our families to the Presidential Suite during a

spring training game. The children received Nats memorabilia and met the players. One of our children even got to throw out the first pitch! We also went to two WWE events, went behind the scenes at the St. Pete Grand Prix to meet the drivers and received a private performance by Skylar Stecker! Some of our kids even went waterskiing at U Can Ski 2 using adaptive equipment!!



Over the last fiscal year, Wheelchairs 4 Kids had 60 pieces of media coverage. This includes TV news segments, articles and blog posts. Family satisfaction is very important and we are proud to have 100% family satisfaction!

### **Inclusion Program**

Wheelchairs 4 Kids is proud of our inclusion program called "Wheely Fun Days"; a program that allows our children to experience some of the activities that we take for granted as well as some exclusive

experiences that will create memories that will last a lifetime and make them the envy of all their peers!



Our kids benefit from our "Wheely Fun Days" program simply by being out in the community and

having fun. Their social skills will improve and able-bodied children will become more comfortable by learning to accept individual differences; realizing that our kids share many of the same hopes and dreams that they have and even enjoy the same pop culture phenoms, like Bucs QB, Jameis Winston! The best way to help children overcome their misconceptions about kids who have disabilities is to bring them to places and events that other children enjoy. We also host "exclusive"

events for our kids. There is nothing more impressive to a child's peers than being the kid who gets to exclusively participate in an event or meet a favorite celebrity!

# **Equipment/Modification Program**

Wheelchairs 4 Kids is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with physical disabilities.



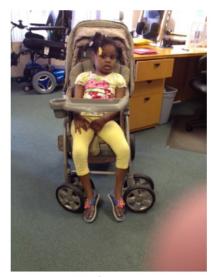
Many children faced with living with physical disabilities are in wheelchairs that are too small, in disrepair, or do not fit the needs of the child. Children outgrow their wheelchairs before government or insurance programs will allow for a replacement. Not only is it unsafe for a child to be in a chair that is inadequate for their needs, but it can impact their

health in numerous ways including scoliosis, respiratory problems and pressure sores.

In addition, families are faced with trying to care for their special needs children in homes that have not been modified to meet their specific circumstances. Imagine trying to lift your teenager in and out of bed or a bathtub without assistive devices or a modified bathroom. Picture a child in a home where they can't get upstairs. Our name may be Wheelchairs 4 Kids, but we do so much more. We have provided custom wheelchairs, widened doors, built ramps and provided wheelchair lifts and carriers for vehicles. We have given children standers and gait trainers and even installed a stairlift allowing a child to reach the second level of their home.

#### Some interesting facts:

- Medicaid generally only replaces a chair every 5 years. Children grow.
- Medicaid may provide a power chair, but no means for the family to transport it or even get it into the child's home or through narrow doors.
- The Muscular Dystrophy Association has terminated their \$2,000.00 per family stipend for equipment/modifications due to reduced donations and an increased focus on research.
- Easter Seals and UCP have cut back on their equipment programs.
- There are several organizations that are shipping wheelchairs to third world countries but very
  few that help children in the states due to the high cost of customizing chairs to fit the needs of
  the child and meeting regulatory standards.

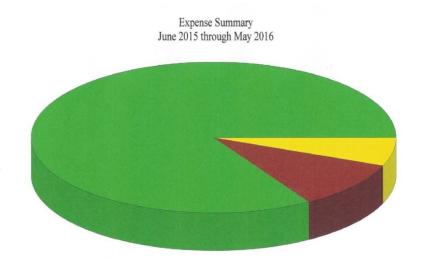






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# **Financial Information**



Programs	83.76%
Administrativ	re 10.33
Fundraising	5.91
Total	\$360,288,94





#### Full Access Pass Partners – 2014-15

Wheelchairs 4 Kids is honored to be a Charity of choice for our "Full Access Pass" supporters. Thank you so much for believing in our mission and sharing our vision to help children with physical disabilities.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Please note this is a list of donors from June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016 fiscal year.