

## **EXAMPLES OF ADAPTIVE BIKE GIVEAWAY ENTRIES**

*\*The stories below may not be 500 words or less.*

*For the Adaptive Bike Giveaway 2019 ALL ENTRIES MUST BE 500 WORDS OR LESS*

~ **KELLAN** ~

"It is truly my honor and pleasure to nominate Kellan Holloway for the chance to receive an adaptive bicycle. Kellan was born pre-mature on March 8, 2012 and is now 6 years old. This child has gone through more obstacles in his short life span than most adults have that I know!

He has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, cerebral palsy and intellectual and developmental delays. This diagnosis presents challenges for Kellan in the areas of communication, social skills, learning and motor abilities.

Despite these hurdles, Kellan works hard at school and at home, and is determined to succeed in all that he does. He is an active boy who likes to move! He enjoys all kinds of movement and is a big fan of the outdoors.

Kellan has an older brother Landon, who loves to include him in different activities which can prove to be difficult at times, but Kellan will do his best to follow.



This year Kellan had his first experience riding a bike at school with the help of his therapist and teachers. This was a skill that seemed impossible for him, but boy, did he prove us wrong! Though difficult at first, Kellan is now able to ride an adaptive bike independently! When riding the bike, the look on Kellan's face and the sense of accomplishment and independence he has, can be seen by everyone. His ability to ride the bike has boosted his self-esteem, granted him a sense of independence and helps him to practice and maintain valuable motor skills that he can use during other motor activities.

More importantly, a bike to ride at home would give Kellan the ability to join in with his brother and other children in the neighborhood adding to his social opportunities and the feeling of being part of his community. Every child deserves the opportunity to be a part of what all kids are doing and receiving an adaptive bicycle would give Kellan just that!"

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~ TYLER ~

"I would like to nominate Tyler Hastings for your adaptive bike giveaway. Tyler is 24 and has choreo-athetoid Cerebral Palsy as a result of an hypoxic ischemic brain injury when he was 6 weeks old. On December 7th, 1993 we had our very own D Day. We were getting our sweet first born, healthy baby boy ready to go get his first pics with Santa Claus when he had an ALTE and went into full cardio-respiratory arrest. I immediately started to give him CPR while my husband frantically drove to the nearest emergency room where it took them 18 minutes to resuscitate him. Tyler was then transported to University of MD hospitals PICU, where we would all spend the next two months. The grandparents all flew in from Illinois because the doctors didn't expect him to even make it through the night. If he did, they told us he would be deaf, blind and even used the word "vegetable". We wouldn't let that take away our hope and prayers that Tyler returned home with us.

Fast forward to today, Tyler just completed his third Tri My Best Triathlon last weekend. He actually rode on a Freedom bike that he borrowed from his therapist. It would be a blessing for him to have a bike of his own to continue to use and exercise his legs, not to mention get out with family and feel good about his accomplishments. He would be so excited if he won his very own bike."



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## ~ JUNIOR ~

“My story begins when my life changed back in March 1, 2002, I was 20 living in a rough neighborhood on Aurora's East side. My 21st birthday was just 17 days away I couldn't wait but faith had other plans for me. I was working 3rd shift so during the day I had my 2 year old daughter at the time. I had picked up my daughter and I some McDonald's it was around 3p.m. That afternoon my whole life changed, after getting home from getting food I decided to go check the mail box before going inside. As I walked to the mailbox there was a guy walking by but I didn't think anything of it as I held my 2 year old daughter's hand I looked into the mailbox. I saw the guy moving fast out of the corner of my eye so I looked as he was pulling out a gun, I hurried up and picked up my daughter and started to run inside shielding her from the bullets. I felt like I was still running but I was laying on top of my daughter so I knew right away something wasn't right. I tried telling my daughter to slide out because I didn't want to die on top of her. My adrenaline and making sure my daughter was okay was the thing kept me fighting to stay alive.



As I was choking a neighbor came out, I somehow got the energy to ask him to check if she was hurt and as soon as he said, "no she's fine" I blacked out for the next 2 weeks. All I remember was the medics cutting my clothes and one of them had mentioned one of the five bullets that hit me had the tip sticking out on my chest where my daughters head was. It was by the grace of God that she was not hurt.

The Doctors came in and I knew something was really wrong with me from the moment I was shot. I was strapped to the bed because Doctors thought that once I found out I was paralyzed I would try to get up but I didn't, I was just happy to be alive and still able to watch my daughter grow into the young woman she is today. That's how I looked at it and I am able to manage to this day. I do have my moments as you can assume. There are some moments that I wonder what my life would be if I was walking, but like they say God only gives us as much as we can handle. I figure he must really think I'm able to take on a lot.

Later after two months in the hospital and in rehabilitation in Chicago I was able to go home. I was paralyzed at T6 and after spending my 21st birthday in the hospital

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my family had a little cook out for me to celebrate it two months later. After talking to my mom and dad I found out that I was taken to three different hospitals. First was Mercy in Aurora, they couldn't do anything for me so they air lifted me to Downers Grove. Then my parents were told I needed to be air lifted to Loyola because there was nothing any of the first two hospitals could do. My parents were told at Loyola there was a very slim chance I would make it and if I did I would be paralyzed.

My daughters and my step children like to go on bike rides but I have to stay behind since it's very expensive for an adaptive bike. But I saw their faces as they ran along side of me at the Abilities Expo and they were finally happy to know I could ride with them until I asked about the price of the adaptive bike. I then realized it was way out of my budget and would not be able to ride with my children.

This is how my whole life changed from one second to another. Thank You for all you do and making dreams come true. We don't realize what we have until we lose it. The things some people take for granted others wish they could do.”

