



Wheels for Kids, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, founded in 2003 by Denise Jungbert in honor of her daughter, Ashlee, who has Cerebral Palsy (CP).

Wheels for Kids, Inc. was established to provide wheelchairs for handicapped children with CP whose working parents do not qualify for public or charitable funding. The organization was created on the belief that working parents should not have to give up their livelihoods and perhaps their marriages to equip their handicapped child with a proper wheelchair.

A Child with CP

A child who has CP has special needs and many are confined to wheelchairs. The financial costs of providing age/size appropriate wheelchairs for a child with CP are extreme. In addition to these costs, there are also therapies, medicines, and caregivers to pay for. Even in a two income household, most working parents are unable to keep up with these costs and must seek public funding or other charitable assistance. However, to qualify for such assistance, they are often forced to take steps to lower their financial status.

Denise has been through the system and knows first hand what working parents must go through to give their children the most healthy and independent life possible. Wheels for Kids, Inc. is a way of helping parents like herself obtain a proper wheelchair for their child with CP.

To fulfill its mission, Wheels for Kids, Inc. intends to give away 3-5 wheelchairs throughout the year at fun-filled events specifically designed for handicapped children.



Founder's Statement

Hello! My name is Denise Jungbert, and I am the President of "Wheels For Kids". "Wheels For Kids" is a non-profit organization established in 2003 that provides wheelchairs to disabled children and their families who could not otherwise afford to purchase them.

I would like to tell you a little bit about what brought me here. My daughter, Ashlee, was born 14 years ago. From the start, she was seemingly without problems, but at 9 months of age, Ashlee was not progressing as she should. Ashlee was weak. We learned that she suffered from a condition known as Hypotonia Cerebral Palsy.

Ashlee's father and I were working full-time, but did not make enough money for the five-day-a-week physical and occupational therapies, which cost over \$100,000 per year. At the time we did not have health insurance. When we tried to obtain it, we discovered that pre-existing conditions were not covered. Ashlee's first manual wheelchair at age 2, which she quickly outgrew, cost \$3,200.

Customized Legs

A wheelchair provides a physically handicapped child with CP with the freedom of mobility. Wheelchairs are in a sense customized legs. An electronic wheelchair gives the child greater independence and the ability to interact with others without assistance. However, electronic wheelchairs are not always practical in some circumstances and a manual wheelchair is also important to a child with CP.

Because Cerebral Palsy affects children in so many different ways, wheelchairs must be specially designed to meet the needs of the child. Wheelchairs are very expensive. The cost to purchase a manual wheelchair can start at \$2,000. Electronic wheelchairs specifically designed to the needs of a child can exceed \$20,000.



The costs for Ashlee's therapies, braces and wheelchairs were so high that my husband and I could not financially support her. I quit my job, and my husband and I divorced in 1992 in order to qualify for Medicaid to shoulder Ashlee's medical bills. However, we stayed a nuclear family.

We were told by the doctors that Ashlee would go from a crib, to a bed, to a nursing home and that would be her life. We refused to accept this, and vigorously championed her therapies. Ashlee has now had four wheelchairs totaling \$36,000. Her next custom-made electric wheelchair will cost \$24,000.

This is why I established "Wheels For Kids", to help families who do not qualify for aid and who cannot otherwise keep up with the progressive growth and cost of wheelchairs. We want to help the children who fall between the cracks.

I hope you will join us on our journey.

If you would like to make a donation to help buy a wheelchair for a child with CP or if you have a wheelchair to donate, please contact:
Denise Jungbert
at (561) 752-0799.

