

A Shell Oil Company Children's Humanitarian Project: Two Special Boys; One Shared Dream of Riding a Bicycle

The Ried family lives in Lansing, Michigan and consists of Ms. Gina Ried and her two sons: Nathan and Dakota.

This is a special family who came to us with the need for a bicycle that would enable all of them to spend time together as a family, get exercise, and enjoy the outdoors. Nathan is an eleven-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome and gross motor problems, who has quickly outgrown his current tricycle; Cody is five and has Septo-Optic Dysplasia, leaving him blind and cognitively impaired.

There are currently many different types of bicycles on the market, with a variety of different features. However, no bike currently addresses all the specific needs of this family. It was our task to design and build a three-seated bicycle that caters to all of their needs and to allow these great kids the chance to enjoy their favorite hobby again.

Our group was honored to be given the chance to help a fellow Lansing resident and her two wonderful children.

...The Ried Bicycle Student Design Team



Ms. Ried



Prof. Priezjev

As a single parent of two special needs boys, I have encountered many challenges in regards to finding activities that we can all enjoy together. Bike riding is the one activity that we all enjoy. But since both boys now need assistance in riding a bike, I am finding it extremely difficult to participate in this activity as a family. If we had a bike that would allow me and my oldest son to pedal and had a seat to carry Dakota, we could once again enjoy the wonderful activity of bike riding.

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