

**NEWS**

# San Clemente donation provides adaptive tricycles to let six kids go riding



Maya Crawford, 15, steers through a pathway as her mother Shan Crawford watches after Maya was given a tricycle from Special Spokes at Courtney's Sandcastle Playground in San Clemente on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. (Photo by Matt Masin, Orange County Register, SCNG)

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By **FRED SWEGLES** | [fswegles@scng.com](mailto:fswegles@scng.com) | Orange County Register

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**0 COMMENTS**

Miles McIntosh, 5, born with spinal muscular atrophy, hasn't been able to ride a bicycle.

Two days before Christmas, the San Clemente boy was presented with a life-changing gift: a tricycle custom-fitted for him, courtesy of the San Clemente Rotary Club and an Orange County nonprofit, OC's Special Spokes.

"We live in a neighborhood with a lot of children and they're riding bikes," said Nikki McIntosh, Miles' mother. "He has been wanting a bike. He wants independence. This is going to let him play with the kids in the street and help with therapy for his legs ... and just allow him to be a kid."

Six children – four from San Clemente, one from Anaheim and one from Moreno Valley – were outfitted with adaptive tricycles on Saturday, Dec. 23, at Courtney's SandCastle, a universal-access playground in San Clemente.

The tricycles, known as AmTrykes, retail for \$2,000, said Susan Hoang, founder of OC's Special Spokes. Her nonprofit gets them at a discount and fundraises to help families afford any remaining cost.

Hoang, a pediatric physical therapist from Lake Forest, said her organization has outfitted 135 children and adults with AmTrykes.

"These families are challenged for money to take care of their children," said Don Glasgow, a San Clemente community volunteer who worked with Rotary to make Saturday's event possible. The six AmTrykes were purchased with a \$5,400 grant from the San Clemente Rotary Club.

Tera Bodo of San Clemente said her family's AmTryke will open up new adventures for her daughter, Makayla, 15, born with multiple birth defects.

"She doesn't speak, but she understands sign language and comprehends everything," Bodo said. "Before, we couldn't even get her on a bike because of balance issues. This is just a pure blessing. We can go for bike rides as a family now."

Joshua Garcia, 9, from Moreno Valley, had to have a leg missing three bones amputated when he was 13 months old, said his mother, Danette Miller. He is on his eighth prosthetic as he continues to grow. Trying to ride a bicycle, even with training wheels, has been a struggle.

“Before, it’s like I’m holding the back seat and I’m pushing him,” Miller said. “His foot wouldn’t stay on the pedal and he’d get frustrated. Now I’m seeing something totally different in him. I’m just like thrilled, almost to tears.

“This is going to be very much life-changing for him,” Miller said. “It will finally give him self-confidence. I thank God every day for what he is able to do.”

Veronica Hoggatt of San Clemente has faced a different sort of struggle with her son Joshua, 16. He is 6 feet tall, close to 300 pounds, has autism and is non-verbal.

“He has a regular bike, but we just don’t feel safe with him on it,” his mother said. “This is so much lower to the ground. It has three wheels. It just seems more controllable. He loves to ride things.”

To learn more, see [ocspecialspokes.org](http://ocspecialspokes.org).

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 Fred Swegles. San Clemente Reporter. // MORE INFORMATION: Associate Mug Shot taken August 26, 2010 : by KATE LUCAS, THE ORANGE

## Fred Swegles

Fred Swegles grew up in small-town San Clemente before the freeway. He has covered the town since 1970. Today he covers San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. He was in the second graduating class at San Clemente High School, after having spent the first two years of high school in double sessions at historic Capistrano Union High School in San Juan. When the new high school opened, he became first sports editor of the school paper, The Triton. He studied journalism and Spanish at USC on scholarship, graduating with honors.

**COUNTY REGISTER** Was sports editor of the Daily Trojan. Surfed on the USC surf team. (High school surfing didn't exist back then.) With the Sun Post, he began covering competitive surfing from the mid-1970s, with the birth of the the modern world tour and the origins of high school surf teams. He got into surf photography and into world travel. Has surfed on six continents (not Antarctica). Has visited 11 San Clementes. Has written photo-illustrated profiles on most of them, with more in the works.

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