



Every child deserves a safe place to play, thrive and make friends

For Immediate Release

August 15, 2023

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NorCal Trykers and Jonnie & Friends Reach for the Stars Join Forces for a Magical Children's Day

Since 2017, NorCal Trykers has provided enhanced mobility options for children with special needs, while Jonnie & Friends Reach for the Stars has been tirelessly transforming Sacramento's Southside Park into an all-inclusive haven for children of diverse abilities. Now, these two renowned organizations are coming together to create an enriching experience for children, featuring various captivating activities.



On Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., during the city of Sacramento's Access Leisure monthly playdate, NorCal Trykers will deliver six customized therapeutic Amtryke tricycles explicitly designed for pre-selected children with special needs. These deserving kids reside in the greater Sacramento area (Roseville, Elk Grove, Antelope, Woodland). Each child has undergone individual assessments by pediatric physical therapists, resulting in the optimal Amtryke with customized adaptations to maximize the child's ability to ride.

As the children explore their newfound freedom by riding their personalized bikes around the adaptive playground, there will be opportunities for the public to learn about contributing, volunteering to assemble bikes, and applying for these unique bicycles in the future. Throughout the morning playdate, youngsters of all abilities will come together for inclusive fun on the We-Go-Round, a wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round championed by Jonnie & Friends, as well as enjoying other activities provided by the city of Sacramento, and parents and caregivers can network!

The celebration extends beyond the newly presented bikes with a blend of playground music features, music therapy, thoughtfully organized activities, engaging craft sessions, and opportunities to forge new friendships. Refreshments will be provided.

WHO: Gill Williams, Founder, NorCal Trykers
Marc Laver, Founder, Jonnie and Friends Reach for the Stars

VISUAL: Children riding their new therapeutic AMTRYKE around the adaptive Universal Universe Playground

WHEN: Saturday, August 19, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Southside Park Universal Universe Playground
2115 6th Street
Sacramento, CA

Background: NorCal Trykers is a nonprofit organization created for the sole purpose of providing, at no cost, customized therapeutic tricycles to children with special needs. Its mission is to provide mobility, exercise, confidence, and a sense of normalcy to the lives of worthy recipients in California's

greater Sacramento area. NorCal Trykers has helped over 300 families access the joy of riding trikes since they began in 2017. Run totally by volunteers, the group has minimal overhead, meaning almost every dollar donated goes towards purchasing a custom tricycle for a child with special needs.

Jonnie and Friends Reach for the Stars is a tribute to Jonnie Laver. As a young child, Jonnie loved the outdoors and playing with friends. After complications from meningitis, Jonnie became reliant on a wheelchair for mobility, and his family devoted their time to finding opportunities for Jonnie to play and thrive and became advocates for adding accessible play features in new and future playgrounds. In 2005, Jonnie and his family were asked by the City of Sacramento to help cut the ribbon at the opening of Southside Park's Universal Universe playground, one of the first all-access playgrounds in Northern California. Over time, the park saw significant wear and tear. After Jonnie's passing in 2019, the Laver family wanted to give back to the community. That's when they set the wheels in motion to restore Universal Universe's playground to its previous glory by launching Jonnie and Friends Reach for the Stars.

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For more information about NorCal Trykers, visit <https://norcaltrykers.com>, and for further details on Jonnie and Friends Reach for the Stars, visit <https://jonniesdreamplayground.com>.