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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blind student helps other blind children with beeping Easter egg hunt, fishing derby, computer programs Boyk Law's Bikes for Kids to give Jalen Ballard a tandem bike today at 3:30pm at Wersell's

Toledo, Ohio - Boyk Law's Bikes for Kids will be honoring a 15-year-old young man who was top of his class the past two years in a row at St. Francis High School, despite his blindness. He uses his computer skills to help other blind children and has never lost his drive even after multiple surgeries to save his vision. Boyk Law will be surprising Jalen Ballard with a new tandem bike today at Wersell's Bike Shop at 3:30pm.

Winner: Jalen Ballard, 15

Nominators:

Darlene Limmer, teacher

Jen Rygalski, aunt

Dianne Hornyak-Adams, grandmother

Date of Bike giveaway: Tuesday, July 24th at 3:30pm (it's a SURPRISE!)

Where: Wersell's Bike & Ski Shop, 2860 W. Central Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43606

Darlene's nomination:

Jalen Ballard, a junior at St. Francis de Sales is blind and relies on braille to read. He now has only light perception. He is a diligent and hardworking honor student, carrying the number 1 rank in his class for both his freshman and sophomore years at St. Francis. Due to his blindness, it is difficult for him to participate in normal sports. If he had a tandem bike, he could participate with family and friends for socialization, exercise, and health. Jalen is humble, gracious, kind, and generous. He is appreciative for the opportunity to further his education. He has used his computer skills to develop programs for use by former classmates, and menus for other blind people. He and his family unselfishly continue to "give back" by organizing and working on events for blind children and their families, including annual beeping Easter egg hunt and fishing derby.

Jen's nomination:

My nephew is blind - but that doesn't let that stop him or dim his spirit. He is amazing and has accomplished a lot. Having a tandem bike would really help as it would enable him to ride with his family, including his younger brother. Their family has racked up a lot of medical expense with the surgeries and treatments for him, so this would really help out. Thank you for helping bring joy to him!

Dianne's nomination:

Jalen is a wonderful boy who has struggled since birth with very limited vision and since the age of 13 lost the rest of his vision. He underwent many, many surgeries trying to save the vision he was losing to glaucoma. He has always loved bike riding. With help and guidance, he was able to ride short distances when he was younger. Now that he has no vision, it is impossible for him to ride. Both his parents and younger brother love to ride bikes and he is now left out of that family fun time. He needs a Tandem bike in order to again ride. The cost of that bike is beyond their financial means. It would be so appreciated if he were to receive that type of bike now.

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The Bikes for Kids program provides one bicycle to a deserving child each week of summer, until August 22nd. Bikes for Kids is asking parents, teachers, caregivers, and loved ones to recognize a child who has made a difference in the life of someone else by nominating them to receive a free bicycle from Wersell's Bike Shop, compliments of Boyk Law. Wersell's will be donating a helmet and a lock to each winner. While there are no specific guidelines on what makes a nominee deserving of a new bike, we encourage nominators to think about any kind things that the child has done for others, or how the child has positively impacted his or her family, friends, community, or classroom.

Started by Charles E. Boyk Law Offices in 2009, Bikes for Kids has given away over 100 bicycles to area kids as a way to raise awareness about child injury accident prevention. **To nominate a child in your life, visit www.BikesforKidsToledo.com.** Questions about the Bikes for Kids program can be directed to Anneke by emailing community@charlesboyk-law.com or by calling 419-720-4456.