

Wheels for Ryan

Thank you for taking an interest in “Wheels for Ryan”. We are looking forward to the prospect of working with you to support Ryan and increase awareness of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Ryan and his family hold a very special place in our hearts. This is Ryan’s story ...

Ryan Kim was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at age four. Before then, he was just like any other normal, happy and active toddler. Life changed when the local preschool noticed that Ryan had trouble walking and could not use the stairs very well. Lots of testing later, the Kim family had to start dealing with the fact that Ryan’s life expectancy would be greatly limited.

Ryan is a beautiful soul and a fighter. He has learning difficulties due to his condition but he has never given up on his love for school. In Year 3, Ryan’s physical condition worsened and doctors realised it was time he needed an electric wheelchair. Now in Year 4, Ryan drives his electric “wheelie” around the school with a smile always on his face. There was great excitement when Ryan received his “P” plates earlier this year. He takes home a Year 1 Homework book with a 4 glued on top of the 1 so that he doesn’t feel left out. It is Ryan who wrote his “Wheels for Ryan” logo above for us.



Ryan requires constant supervision. He finds even a full day of school too much to handle. He simply gets too tired. Even at times like these during coronavirus though – Ryan would not miss out on seeing his friends for the world.

In 2017, Ryan’s mum, Soo, found she was pregnant. A mixture of thrill and absolute dread filled her. Not only was she pregnant but she was having twin boys. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic disease that is passed down most commonly through the male line. An agonising wait ensued to find out if her twin boys would also have the condition. Thankfully, they did not and Soo gave birth to two beautiful boys, Jay and Roy in early 2018. Ryan was very excited to be a big brother and, although he cannot run after or keep up with his brothers, he gives them all of the love he can muster.

The Kims are a family of six with limited financial resources. They live in a modest home with the children sharing two rooms. Most nights, Soo ends up spending the night with Ryan to massage his muscles as he gets such bad muscular leg spasms that he wakes up screaming in pain. Each day brings a new challenge for the Kim family. Holidays are few and far between and if they occur are in place of a birthday party and at a caravan park a few hours away for a few days. Although both

parents are originally from Korea, the children have never been back to visit their extended family. In saying all of this – not once have I ever heard Ryan or his family complain of feeling “lacking”.

A month or so ago, a few dear friends came to understand the most recent hardship that the Kims have been enduring ...

Ryan must leave his electric wheelchair at school as it cannot fit in the Kim family car and also fit in the family. Although government support will convert an appropriate car to accommodate an electric wheelchair, the government does not provide for a larger car. Without his electric wheelchair, outside school, on weekends and school holidays, Ryan is limited to manual wheelchair activities. His mother is also forced to carry Ryan in and out of the car every time he needs to go anywhere. This is on top of managing her highly active twin two year olds.

This is where, as a community, we are hoping to help the Kim family at least in a small way. Let it be one less challenge for them to have to tackle. We want them to know that they are not alone and we are here to support them. We would like to help the Kims buy a new minivan to accommodate Ryan’s wheelchair and the family at the same time.

It is easy to want to help Ryan. His mother Soo is the most caring, loving and quietly spoken soul you will meet. The family never ask for anything or complain at all. Soo was brought to tears even just by the thought that we might try to help them with this endeavour. Ryan’s life expectancy is to age 15 – he turned 10 in February this year.

In this time of such great need and sad news, we are hoping to be able to bring some joy to a deserving family. Ryan wants to live life as best he can. We would like to give Ryan the independence and freedom he deserves outside school.

If there is any means by which you are able to help us in supporting Wheels For Ryan, we would be incredibly grateful. By our calculation, if the Kims sell their current car, we will likely then need to raise an additional \$40,000 to provide a minivan that will both fit the complete family, the electric wheelchair and comply with government guidelines for conversion to a disability vehicle.

We have a “**My Cause**” crowd funding Web page for “Wheels for Ryan”. Any donations should be directed to this online service.

www.mycause.com.au/page/233535/wheels-for-ryan

We also have an Instagram page.

www.instagram.com/wheelsforryan/

And we have a Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/wheelsforryan/

We are also using the “**#WheelsForRyan**” tag where ever we can.

We are eager to be able to help the Kim family and Ryan with urgency. We would love to have your support in this campaign. If you would like additional information, please contact us.

Kind Regards,

Suzanne Mann

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On behalf of the Wheels for Ryan fundraising team

