

## **Kiwanis ramps up boy's life from wheelchair; Local clubs join effort to get 160-pound chair into house, family van.**

May 20, 2004, FISHERS - Routine trips to doctors' offices, the grocery and restaurants with his family exhaust Jack Huybers. The 4-year-old boy has cerebral palsy. He wears leg braces and gets around with a **power wheelchair** and a walker.

Jack takes his **wheelchair** with him to preschool on the bus, which has a lift. But without a **wheelchair** ramp, he couldn't get the 160-pound chair inside his house or take it with him in the family van.

His disability requires special equipment and modifications to his family's house.

Jack sees six specialists. He has two doctor's appointments a month. Therapy is three times a week. But today, when Jack goes to his doctor's appointment, he'll take his **wheelchair** for the first time.

Jack and his parents, Mimi and John Huybers, Monday night received a portable **wheelchair** ramp from five Hamilton County Kiwanis chapters, including Carmel-Clay and Carmel Golden K clubs.

Jeannette Denton, 47, president of the Carmel-Clay's club, said, "It was a pretty easy decision for us to make. This fit in with our values." She said Kiwanis' mission is "Serving the children of the world."

Her club's donation came from money made at their spring and fall pancake breakfasts and the club's flower sales.

Kiwanians presented the ramp at a club meeting.

Jack was thrilled. He said, "A ramp will get my **wheelchair** up into the car."

Mimi said Jack could now get in and out of the house easier.

"It will help our family a lot," she said.

The Huybers, John, 36, and Mimi, 35, live in a two-story house in Windermere, a Fishers subdivision on 96th Street.

John is an information- technology manager, and Mimi, formerly a part-time attorney, is a stay-at-home mom for Jack and daughter Hayden, 6.

The family's health insurance and Medicaid covers some items, including Jack's \$10,000 **wheelchair**, but would not offer assistance for the \$500 ramp.

Mimi is grateful to Kiwanis. "There are so many extra things we have to pay for," she said.

Jack's story tugged at Daphanie Hoppes' heartstrings.

Hoppes, 50, of Noblesville, is president of the Fishers Station Kiwanis Club. She requested help from her club and the 10 other clubs in the Sycamore South District of Hamilton County and Zionsville.

Jack's **wheelchair** ramp was the first local project in a long while where the clubs pulled together for a common cause, Kiwanians said.