

# THE ELMHURST INDEPENDENT

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courtesy photos

Pictured is a group of children with disabilities and their families surrounded by members the Elmhurst Bike Club. Each of the six children is on a bicycle made available through the fundraising efforts of the Elmhurst Bike Club. The Club presented the children with their new-found methods of mobility at its recent meeting on Thursday, March 10 at Community Bank of Elmhurst.

## Bike Club funds purchase of bicycles for six disabled children

By Dee Longfellow  
 For The Elmhurst Independent

It was a delightful evening for the members of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club on Thursday, March 10, who were on-hand to witness the excitement of six children with disabilities as they each received a bicycle from the Club. The Bike Club raised

\$6500, matched by Project Mobility, which allowed for the purchase of the bicycles.

"It was so cool to watch," said Club member Kim Messina, who met with the Independent following the event. "One little boy got on his bicycle and just started riding around and around in a circle, happy as he could be. It was so wonderful to see the

smiles on those kids' faces."

"We were humbled by their courage and grace," said George Pastorino, president of the Elmhurst Bike Club. "Our members ... had the experience of a lifetime that will never be forgotten."

"It was just such a wonderful thing to be able to do," Messina added. "It's nice to know that we may have made their lives better."

Pastorino offered a more

philosophical message.

"My message is this," he said. "Let's think less about how fast we can ride from here to there, how many miles we pedal, or how steep of a hill we can climb, and focus on having a positive effect on our community. Because only when we touch the lives of those in need will our legacy be remembered, long after the miles and such are long forgotten."



James is beaming a big smile as he gets set to take off on a mini-ride around the 2nd floor of Community Bank of Elmhurst on his new bicycle. James and five other children with disabilities were given the bicycles by the Elmhurst Bike Club at their recent meeting.



Pictured is Emmy getting adjusted and fitted into her new bicycle purchased by the Elmhurst Bike Club. The bikes were presented at a Club meeting on March 10, which six children with disabilities attended with their families.