



## Charity fund provides wheelchair for Haverhill boy

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HAVERHILL - Trips to the doctor and his therapist are never easy for 4-year-old Matthew Rivera. They never are for a child with cerebral palsy who doesn't have the proper equipment to get around.

So when the board of directors for the Sen. Steven Baddour Charity Fund heard about a young Haverhill boy who could benefit from equipment such as a wheelchair for children with special needs, the board responded just as it has in the past.

Jim Zenevitch of Methuen, president of the charity fund, said he contacted Matthew's grandmother, who often cares for him, and offered to purchase a wheelchair to meet his needs.

"We decided this year to give out money to folks like Matthew, young folks who are in a tough situation medically and really need some help," Zenevitch said.

Baddour's charity fund was started in 1992 and is supported by Methuen and Merrimack Valley residents. The senator from Methuen is a member of the fund's board of directors.

Over the past four years, it has given more than \$60,000 to pediatric and geriatric units at Lawrence General, Caritas Holy Family, Merrimack Valley and Anna Jaques hospitals. The fund raises money primarily through annual golf tournaments, with the most recent being held Aug. 13 at Haverhill Country Club.

The fund recently paid to send a 14-year-old Methuen girl to a special camp for youngsters with diabetes where they learn how to live with their condition.

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