

## **NEWS RELEASE**

June 2 – for immediate release

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Carol Bryant 315.445.4010, ext.201

[cb.jowonio@yahoo.com](mailto:cb.jowonio@yahoo.com)

## **DATE CHANGED!**

## **GRAND OPENING OF JOWONIO'S TRIKE TOWN**

## **RE-SCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 10:00 AM**

## **Event Will Showcase School's Unique Outdoor Facility**

*Syracuse* – Jowonio School's Trike Town is ready for its Grand Opening! Due to the weather forecast, the event has been re-scheduled to Friday, June 5. At 10:00am on that day, the school will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening this exciting outdoor facility to 160 young children who are ready to pedal! The festivities will include a colorful trike parade, balloons and bubbles, ice cream, music, and the presentation of a \$15,000 check from CVS Caremark Charitable Trust, one of the project's recent major funders.

Trike Town is a multi-level play and therapy area unlike any other in Central New York. Designed by the architectural firm of A.J. Miller & Associates, and constructed by Lee Construction, the facility has been built over the past year on approximately one-half acre behind the school's East Genesee Street location. It includes almost 400 feet of paved track that loops under a tunnel and over a bridge, while passing by a child-sized village, natural bog, and country barn. Along the way, crosswalks and road signs will help children will learn about road safety, while surrounding gardens and natural landscaping allow young riders to explore the outdoor environment. At one end of Trike Town, a child-sized stage faces a gently rising hillside, offering opportunities for creative play and performances, and also serving as a perfect slope for sledding in the winter months.

A long-time dream of Jowonio School Director Ellen Barnes and the school's therapists and teachers, Trike Town has been designed to be a therapy and play area for children of varying abilities. Trike riding is an ideal activity for developing a range of gross motor skills, endurance, balance, general coordination, and social skills, and is particularly beneficial for children with special needs. One-third of Jowonio's students have physical and/or developmental disabilities,

and Trike Town will help those children participate alongside their typical peers as they experience one of the quintessential joys of childhood.

Trike Town has been made possible through generous support from the [Allyn Foundation](#), [CVS Caremark Charitable Trust](#), [John Ben Snow Foundation](#), [Nancy Radoff](#), the [Greene-Milstein Family Foundation](#), [Central New York Community Foundation](#), [Building Bridges Foundation](#), and the [J.M. McDonald Foundation](#). Numerous individuals and families have also helped support Trike Town, and additional contributions are still welcome for the facility's ongoing maintenance.

[Photos and more information about Jowonio School and Trike Town can be found at <www.jowonio.org>.](#)

### [About Jowonio](#)

[Currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year](#), Jowonio School is a non-profit school enrolling children with a wide range of abilities both in home and school-based programs. Jowonio serves more than 160 children and their families each year, and is nationally recognized as a model for inclusive education. Jowonio's mission is to provide model inclusive programs for young children, where diversity is celebrated and all are free to learn and grow.

**Photo 1:** A Jowonio student takes a test ride over the bridge at the school's Trike Town, scheduled for its Grand Opening on June 5. *(A higher resolution photo is attached.)*



**Photo 2:** Jowonio School's new Trike Town, scheduled for its Grand Opening on June 5. *(A higher resolution photo is attached.)*



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315.445.4010, ext.201  
cb.jowonio@yahoo.com  
[www.jowonio.org](http://www.jowonio.org)

**Friends of Jowonio**  
3049 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13224  
[www.jowonio.org](http://www.jowonio.org)

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