

NEWS RELEASE

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JOWONIO'S TRIKE TOWN OFFICIALLY OPEN

Unique New Outdoor Facility at Jowonio School

Syracuse – Jowonio School's Trike Town is now open! On June 5, the school held a Grand Opening celebration to showcase this exciting outdoor facility. The festivities included recognition of the project's major contributors, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a colorful trike parade, balloons and bubbles, ice cream, music, and the presentation of a \$15,000 "giant check" from [CVS Caremark Charitable Trust](#). Then, one classroom at a time, Jowonio's 160 young children were thrilled to take their inaugural rides around the track.

The Grand Opening Celebration

About 100 families, friends, supporters and members of the media gathered near the colorful ribbons across Trike Town's entrance gate for the brief ceremony. [School Director Ellen Barnes](#) greeted the crowd and talked about Trike Town's development from a "wishful dream" to a reality, thanking many of those who helped make it possible, especially [Ann Sutherland, Program Director](#). Sutherland, who served as Jowonio's manager of the project, then recognized [Trike Town's architects, Mariane Miller and A.J. Miller & Associates](#), along with [Tom Lee and Lee Construction](#), the construction company for the project. Recognition was also given to [Dan Reeder, Nate Bliss, Steve Synder and Industrial Contracting, Inc.](#), and [George Baldwin and the Empire State Contractors Apprentices Program](#), who all helped with Trike Town's design and construction.

Next on the program was [Peter Irwin, Director of Development for Friends of Jowonio](#), who thanked Trike Town's major contributors. These generous organizations and individuals are listed on Trike Town's large entrance sign, and a permanent Donor Book just inside the main entrance includes all who helped support the project. [Peter Dunn, President and CEO of the Central New York Community Foundation](#), then spoke about the Foundation's commitment to supporting organizations and projects that help build community, citing Jowonio and Trike Town

as examples. In an exciting visual show of support, [Janet Hollingsworth from CVS Caremark Charitable Trust](#) then presented the school with a [\\$15,000 "giant check"](#)!

The big moment finally arrived, as two children from Jowonio's Earth Room cut the colorful ribbons, officially opening the facility for their classmates who joyfully pedaled in. As the adults cheered them on, students of varying abilities, riding a variety of traditional and adaptive trikes, explored Trike Town's multi-dimensional track. As they rode past the Main Street shops, over the bridge, through the tunnel, to the country barn, and back again, the kids were all smiles. After a few trip around the track, the students visited the Trikers Café for free ice cream, courtesy of [Gannon's Isle](#). The children all agreed, Trike Town is terrific!

About Trike Town

[Trike Town is a multi-level play and therapy area unlike any other in Central New York](#). 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.

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.

Sidebar Story – Community Support

Trike Town's adorable buildings were designed, constructed, and painted by several generous individuals and organizations. Materials and labor for the village Post Office and Gas Station were donated by the [Empire State Carpenters Apprentices Program](#), which trains 250 carpenters, floor layers & millwrights each year. Registered by NYS and affiliated with Carpenter Local 747 (Syracuse) and Local 281 (Binghamton), entrance into the program requires a High School Diploma or GED, and provides an alternative or supplement to a traditional college program. The Carpenters Apprentices Program, led by [Training Coordinator George Baldwin](#), encourages community service, and has worked on projects for a number of area schools, hospitals, and community agencies. Jowonio was also the fortunate recipient of this organization's generosity several years ago, when skilled members of the program built lofts in two of Jowonio classrooms.

At the opposite end of Trike Town, a classic red barn built by [Industrial Contracting, Inc.](#) helps create the impression of riding into the country. The Syracuse-based company, which serves the larger commercial construction industry, helps support several children's organizations, and is owned by [Steve Snyder](#), a member of the Friends of Jowonio board.

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

About Jowonio School

[Currently celebrating its 40th 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.

[The photos below are also attached in higher resolution.](#)

Photo 1: Ellen Barnes and Peter Irwin accept a \$15,000 check from Janet Hollingsworth of CVS Caremark Charitable Trust



Photo 2: Kieran Capozzi, a student at Jowonio, is all smiles on the Opening Day of Jowonio's Trike Town



Photo 3: Students at Jowonio School enjoy a ride around the school's new Trike Town



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