

KIDS WHO CARE

Discovering a need—and a way to fill it—these young people show that you can be small in years but big in spirit



Spencer Whale, 13

ACHIEVEMENT

Invented IV cars for sick kids

THE INSPIRATION

Raised by a single mother with a history of heart ailments, Spencer Whale had spent enough time around hospitals to know he wanted to help make patients—particularly kids—feel better. On a visit to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, he noticed a boy pedaling down the ward in a toy car while his mother, holding his IV pole, panted as she jogged after him. "I wondered," says Whale, "why hasn't anyone thought to attach an IV pole to the pedal cars?"

THE SOLUTION

Whale solicited donations of pedal cars and IV poles and enlisted volunteers to do the welding. The result: The KidKare Ride Toy is already a hit with doctors and patients alike at Mineola, N.Y.'s Winthrop-University Hospital, where dozens are already in use. Next year Little Tikes toy company plans to make them available nationally. "It

Whale (at Winthrop) giving Billy Palmer a spin in one of his KidKare cars.

makes the whole hospital environment less threatening," says Dr. Mark Weinblatt, director of Winthrop's Cancer Center for Kids. "They forget they are getting treatments." That's gratifying to Whale, who got help and direction from big brother and fellow inventor Brandon, 16, who created among other things a device called the Needle Beetle, which helps make IVs a less painful experience. "We can't help that they're sick," says Brandon. "But at least we can help them have more fun."

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