

of gold hearts of gold

children in philanthropy award

ALEX GUMP



On Aug. 21, 1999, Alex entered the world 5 weeks early and at a slight disadvantage. His first few years were filled with not so pleasant events. He spent most of his time in the hospital, having surgery after surgery to correct this or that and then many therapies to catch him up.

Alex then entered Kindergarten and he blossomed beyond everyone's belief. Alex made friends with everyone he met. He put a smile on everyone's face and always did his best. His family and friends knew their little guy had a special gift.

In the years since Alex was born, his family always came together to support the annual "Have a Heart, Do Your Part Radiothon" at Akron Children's Hospital. They saved their change all year round and the kids asked everyone they knew to donate. Alex at the age of 6 decided that he too wanted to help these children who were now in his situation. He decided to get his school involved in donating to this wonderful fundraiser. In his kindergarten year, he raised \$500 for the radiothon. Alex now participates in all of the fundraisers at Akron Children's including the radiothon, Walk 4 Babies, and the March of Dimes Walk. He recently spoke to a group of 300 bikers at the Teddy Bear Run at the hospital. He said he wanted them to know that their donation meant a lot to the children and the bears they brought to the children were appreciated. Alex raised over \$1,000 this year for the radiothon and was part of the 1st Annual Walk 4 Babies fundraiser which raised over \$54,000.

His family is very proud of Alex and all he has overcome. He is a wonderful little boy who has a heart of gold. What a great example he sets to give back in any way we can, no matter how large or small.

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