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## **CHS' FIRST LASER 3284 teams up with Go Baby Go!**

**By READER SUBMITTED**

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Members of the High School Camdenton FIRST LASER team 3284 traveled to Kansas City on December 2nd to partner with team 1939, The Barstow Kuhnigts to help with the annual build event to provide cars to handicapped toddlers so they can become mobile.

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Go Baby Go, a non-profit research program based at the University of Delaware, offers a wheelchair alternative for children who aren't able to walk or need assistance. The effort doesn't replace wheelchairs but provides a fun, temporary supplement.

Car designs range from Power Wheels convertibles to all-terrain toy car models. Although the models are the same as what's offered in stores, they're modified for kids with wide-ranging conditions, from down syndrome to health needs that require the aid of a ventilator.

Go Baby Go started in 2012 by Cole Galloway, a professor of physical therapy at the University of Delaware, now has 75 chapters nationwide and is gaining international traction. Most recently, Go Baby Go chapters opened in New Zealand and Israel.

Modified toy cars are an inexpensive way to help toddlers with mobility issues get around, experts say. Power wheelchairs can be costly and typically aren't available for children until they are older, and may not always be an option for children who are expected to eventually be able to walk. It is so important for toddlers to be able to move.

Movement and socialization are very often combined early and continually as children develop. Mobility plays a huge role in development for toddlers. Physical activity has important physiological benefit for children and it is how many toddlers learn social skills as well as developing their cognitive, motor language and other developmental benefits.

The LASER team will working with local businesses and health care providers to host an annual Go Baby Go build for Central Missouri. If businesses are interested in helping to sponsor an annual event please contact Sherry Comer, Central MO FIRST Affiliate representative, at 573-346-9233.



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