

Teen enjoys new ride

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By 18, most teens have a few years driving experience behind the wheel of a car but not Ty Morgan. Ty will never be able to drive, because he has Cornelia de Lange Syndrome — a birth disorder which is characterized by low birth weight, delayed growth, small stature and a small head.

At the beginning of this summer, Ty's mother, Sheilena Smith, made it possible for him to enjoy a ride around the neighborhood by giving him an electric golf cart. Ty's family added a personal touch that reflects their love of the Georgia Bulldogs. The cart is all decked out for a "Dawg" fan and is pulled by a bright red truck and trailer.

On July 1, Ty went to Chattanooga, Tenn., and had the opportunity to cruise the

entire length of the Tennessee Riverwalk in his cart. Mrs. Smith received special permission from Daniel Kral, director of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department, to make the trip. Kral coordinated with the local police department and the Hamilton County Recreation Department to make this possible because these agencies believe everyone should have access to the waterfront park.

Ms. Robbie Hixson, Ty's teacher, also joined Ty and his family on the Riverwalk.

"As Ty's teacher, it has been lots of fun to get out on my own Trek Classic Cruiser bicycle and follow along with the family as they ride the golf cart," Ms. Hixson said.

Throughout the years, Ty's family has learned many ways to adapt in order to meet his needs. Ty loves his golf cart, and now he has the chance to drive like other teens.