

Eugene Bethel Lions with High-Tech

Meet Isaac. He is an 8-year-old who was diagnosed a year and a half ago with a rare brain tumor called a craniopharyngioma. He had a 12-hour brain surgery to remove the tumor, but because of the pressure to his optic chiasm he was left completely blind. He now has many conditions to manage for the rest of his life, as well as adapting to life without vision.

He is learning Braille, using his cane, and doing well at home-school. He may be facing another brain surgery or radiation for possible regrowth. His upcoming MRI will be crucial.

Isaac's family discovered an assistive device called an OrCam MyEye, which could help Isaac be more independent and improve his quality of life. The family approached the Eugene Bethel Lions Club for help with the cost of this device.



Isaac's mother, Brenda, holding the book while Isaac uses his OrCam for the first time.



(l-r) Eugene Bethel Lion Sally Cabiness, Isaac and President Edwena Matychuck.

The OrCam clips to sunglasses and tells the wearer everything that is in front of him or her. It can identify money, colors, products, facial recognition, and much more. It would be helpful to Isaac to have this device for many reasons – mainly his ability to be independent and take pride in his accomplishments.

The OrCam MyEye helps with such tasks, mainly activities involving reading. The OrCam is not technology for the blind that enables seeing but rather technology that allows the user to be able to read texts without asking others for help. The device snaps a picture of texts, any text from any surface, and relays the information to the user via a small earpiece. This allows the user to be able to read work emails, medicine labels, and more all on their own. For people who are visually impaired, this kind of technology for the blind makes the ability to read independently much easier and accessible.

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Assist Blind Youngster Reading Aid

The family cannot afford the OrCam. In addition, Isaac has a lot of medical supplies that are not covered by insurance, as well as medications, safety equipment, adaptive supplies, and the cost of gas for frequent trips to Portland for appointments. They also need railings around their porch to keep him from danger, handrail for stairs, handlebar for the toilet, and a shower modification to fit his limitations and requirements.



(l-r) Eugene Bethel President Edwena Matychuck, Brenda Martinez, Tiago Martinez and Isaac in the forefront.

The Eugene Bethel club has stepped up to help this family in many ways:

- Provided a Springfield Lions Club Foundation grant of \$500 to cover the costs of traveling to and staying in Portland for medical treatment.
- Built railings for the porch.
- Presented Isaac with a \$25 gift card for his birthday in November.
- Presented the family with \$100 for Christmas

Isaac's mother, Brenda, wrote to Eugene Bethel President Edwena Matychuck: "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for anything you do to support our sweet little angel have a better life and meet some of his basic needs. He is an inspiration to anyone that meets him."

Photos of the porch. . .



Seems the Eugene Bethel Lions Club is also an inspiration in their community.

submitted by DG Linda Stent