**Kingston Family Jams Out for a New Accessible Van for
Son Living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy**

**KINGSTON, MA – June 12, 2019** - 13-year-old Declan Hickey from Kingston is living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and needs an accessible van to continue to get to school, doctor’s appointments, and participate in the activities he loves. [Jett Foundation](http://www.jettfoundation.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, is helping his family with the purchase of an accessible van through their matching gift financial assistance program, [Jett Giving Fund](http://jettfoundation.org/givingfund/). The Hickey family is raising half the funds needed for their $58,000 accessible van through their [fundraising page.](https://www.jettfoundation.org/jgf19declan) Jett Foundation is matching the remaining 50 percent to purchase the van for the family.

Declan was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy at age 4. He was not running as fast as the other children in his preschool and a physical therapist detected that something was not right. After seeing a pediatrician, Declan was diagnosed.

Now, Declan is in middle school and due to not having an accessible van, Declan cannot use his power chair in school. Instead, he has to use a scooter which is both uncomfortable and does not provide the support he needs throughout the school day.

“Traveling to school, doctor’s appointments, and within the community is difficult without a van,” said Declan’s mom, Aisling Hickey. “Declan must use his scooter which we have to dismantle while traveling. With a handicap van, our family would be able to travel in the community, to doctor’s appointments and to school more easily and more safely.”

Health insurance often won’t cover all specialized medical and accessibility equipment such as scooters, shower chairs, ramps, rotational medical beds, platform lifts, and handicap accessible vans; items needed when suffering from a progressive muscle-wasting disorder. Without this equipment, those with Duchenne struggle to participate in the kinds of activities that most people take for granted, such as going to and from doctor’s appointments, navigating the hallways at school, and going to the mall with friends.

**To help reach their 50% goal of the van’s cost, the Hickey family, with the help of family and friends is hosting “Declan’s Van Jam” on June 23 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.** The event will take place at New World Tavern at 56 Main Street in Plymouth, MA and will feature live performances by five local bands, raffle prizes, tasty treats, and a cash bar. Bands include Sourpuss/Superpuss; Martin, Morrell & Freddette; Dana & Jed; the Atlantic Rhythm Pigs African drum band; and special guests Peter O’Halloran & the Hired Men.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [declansvanjam.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/declans-van-jam-tickets-61925117694). For more on Declan’s fundraising efforts, please visit [Driving Declan](https://www.facebook.com/Driving-Declan-1146164432210735/) on Facebook.

**About Duchenne muscular dystrophy**

Diagnosed during childhood, Duchenne is a progressive neuromuscular disorder that causes a loss of motor, pulmonary, and cardiac function, and premature death. It affects every one in 3,500 live male births and some females. Duchenne has no cure. Children with Duchenne are born seemingly healthy and decline over time, usually losing their ability to walk around the age of 12 and succumbing to the disease in their early to mid-twenties.

**About Jett Foundation**

Since 2001, Jett Foundation, located in Plymouth, Mass., has worked to find treatments and a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy while improving and enriching the lives of those impacted. Jett Foundation is a registered charity with 501(c)(3) status from the IRS; all donations are tax deductible. [www.jettfoundation.org](http://www.jettfoundation.org).

**Media Contact for Jett Foundation**

Gabriella Diniz, gabriella@jettfoundation.org, 781-585-5566

**Media Contact for Event**
Aisling Hickey, aislingfh@gmail.com, 617-270-7745

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