

# Family offered wheelchair-accessible ride

**JON BLEIWEIS**

STAFF WRITER

The Twigg family of Roxana did not win a new handicapped accessible van as part of a National Mobility Month contest that took place in May.

But that hasn't stopped the local community from coming together to try to help, as the need for an improved way for Danielle Twigg to transport her growing 9-year-old son, Layne, still remains.

After learning about the Twiggs, Eve Slocum of Ocean City reached out to Danielle Twigg on Facebook with an offer. For \$8,000, she would sell her a wheelchair accessible van in working condition that she no longer needs.

"It felt like a blessing, considering we hadn't won the contest," Twigg said. "We knew the contest was a long-shot, anyway, but for me, I felt it was worth a try. To have this sort of opportunity just from someone seeing I was in the contest, I guess a positive outcome resulted, anyway."

Like Twigg, Slocum knows about the toll it takes to transport a grown child who can't take care of himself. After years of lifting her own son into a car, Slocum got the van about four years ago to help transport him.

Since her son passed away in September, Slocum no longer has use for the vehicle's lift, but it's her only means of transportation. The \$8,000 would go toward a new car.

In recent months, she considered selling the van, which has less than 67,000 miles on it, but she wanted to make sure it went to someone who needed and deserved

it, she said, well aware that wheelchair-accessible vehicles are hard to come by at an affordable price.

When Slocum learned about Twigg, she found that perfect cause. The two have never met.

"It's a godsend to have this van," Slocum said. "I was blessed to have it come my way and I would love for it to go her way. I think about her and that little boy all the time."

Not only does the van have the much needed lift, but it also has extra seating for more passengers, Twigg said.

"It would mean the world to me," she said about obtaining the van. "It would mean a lot less stress both physically and emotionally."

A longtime friend of Twigg's, Chelsea Hudson, set up a GoFundMe page to try to raise the \$8,000 needed, because it's a price Twigg, a single mother, cannot afford.

Hudson said Twigg often helps the community, so it's time for the community to return the favor.

"She's always been there for me. She's there for everybody," Hudson said. "She deserves it."

Contributions from area residents and businesses have begun to come in, at a rate of about \$100 per day.

"I've been in awe of how the community has come to gather to support us," Twigg said. "I feel after strug-

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**FYI**

To donate to the GoFundMe campaign to support Danielle Twigg, visit <http://www.gofundme.com/dani-twigg>.



STAFF PHOTO BY JON BLEIWEIS

Danielle Twigg escorts her 9-year-old son, Layne, down a walkway outside. After losing out on a contest to win a wheelchair-accessible van, Danielle has received an outpouring of support from the community.

# Family

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gling as a single parent after eight years, I have this whole community of angels to support me. I think everyone in the community is as excited to see the outcome as I am.”

Among the donors is Joani Callaway, owner of Bridgeville-based Callaway Corporations LLC, whose sons attend school with Layne. She voted in the contest last month and saw the GoFundMe page on Facebook.

“I saw they were in need and I just figured that I’d be happy to give to them,” she said.

Slocum is hopeful Twigg can raise enough money to buy the vehicle from her.

“My heart really goes out to her. She’s a trooper, a very strong mom,” Slocum said. “I know the toll it takes on your body,



STAFF PHOTO BY JON BLEIWEIS

**Nine-year-old Layne Twigg, right, plays catch with his brother, Aiden, 8. After losing out on a contest to win a wheelchair-accessible van, their mother, Danielle, has received an outpouring of support from the community.**

your mind, your soul. I don’t know her but I have a close connection.”

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