

National Weather Service Offices in Brownsville and Corpus Christi Team up to Sponsor Gift Drive for Young Cancer Patient



It wasn't Christmas or his birthday, but 8-year-old Matthew Carroll got the surprise of his life on Wednesday, September 28th. Staff from the National Weather Service (NWS) Offices in Brownsville and Corpus Christi, Texas, teamed up and conducted a 'gift drive' for cancer patient Matthew Carroll and his family. On Wednesday, staff from both offices surprised Matthew and his grandfather with a large assortment of toys and gifts for Matthew and his family at the Driscoll Children's Hospital in Brownsville.

In December, Matthew was taken to Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi and diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer that occurs in children. After three months of chemotherapy, the cancer continued to spread up his left leg. In order to save his life, the decision was made to amputate just below the knee. Matthew spent several months at the Driscoll Hospital in Corpus Christi and was recently

transferred to the Driscoll Children's Facility in his hometown of Brownsville.



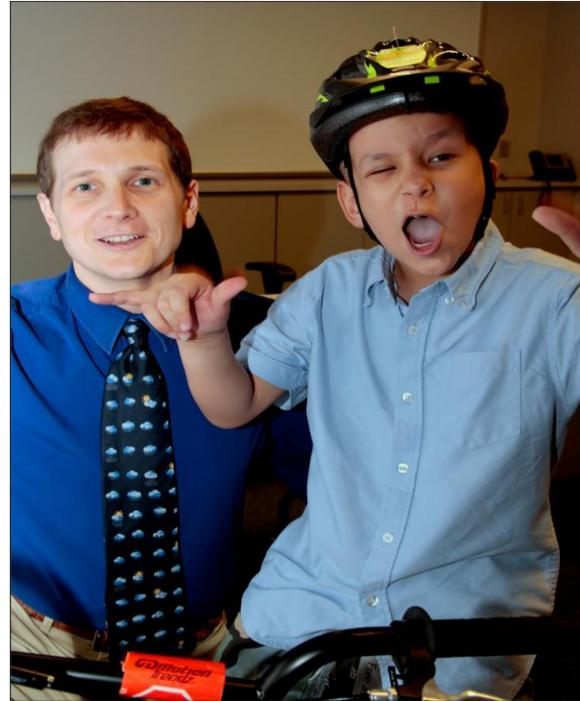
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Forecaster Joseph Tomaselli and Matthew Carroll, enjoying a happy moment of gift-giving.

As a result of the Presidential Proclamation making September “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”, in combination with NWS’ National Week of Community Service, NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Forecaster **Joseph Tomaselli** proposed the idea of sponsoring a young cancer patient.

After hearing Matthew’s story, the office focused their efforts on helping Matthew and his family. “Since he was being hospitalized in Corpus Christi, it made sense to include both NWS offices on this effort”, said **Steve Drillette**, NWS Brownsville Meteorologist in charge.



*NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Meteorologist-In-Charge **Steve Drillette** with an excited Matthew Carroll.*



*Matthew Carroll shows off his bicycle moves to NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Science and Operations Officer **Douglas Butts**.*

During the month of September, individuals from both offices donated gift items found on Matthew’s “wish list”. Over two dozen gifts, ranging from a new bike and soccer goals to gift cards and household items, were presented to Matthew. “It was very rewarding, and I am proud to be a part of an organization where people are so willing to put others before self”, said Steve. “I think we just started an annual project!”

For more photos and additional information, go to our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Brownsville.gov>



*NWS staff from offices in Brownsville and Corpus Christi alongside Matthew Carroll, his grandfather (far left), and Driscoll Children's Hospital oncologist **Cris Johnson** are, from left: from NWS Corpus Christi, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **John Metz** and Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) **Scott Cordero**; from NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, MIC **Steve Drillette**, Forecaster **Joseph Tomaselli, Jr.**, Data Acquisition Program Manager **Jim Campbell**, Science and Operations Officer **Douglas Butts**, and WCM **Barry Goldsmith**.*