

**Dick and Judy Hoyt**



**“Yes You Can” Grants**

The Hoyt Foundation is proud to be offering Dick and Judy Hoyt “Yes You Can” Grants to families to support inclusion. Team Hoyt has raised funds and awareness since 1977. In 1989 the Hoyt Family, parents Dick and Judy along with sons Rick, Rob and Russ, formed the Hoyt Foundation. The Foundation is now in a position to give back by supporting families to provide opportunities for inclusion for their child with a disability the way Dick and Judy did for Rick. Families with a child with a disability can request grants from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to help their child be included alongside their non-disabled peers.

### **The Hoyt Family Story**

In 1962 Dick and Judy Hoyt were expecting their first child. When Rick was born there were complications. The umbilical cord was wrapped around Rick’s neck causing a loss of oxygen which led to brain damage in the cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that controls muscles. The doctors didn’t know Rick’s future, but they knew he would be very disabled, and they explained to his parents that he would be a vegetable and they should put Rick away and have more children. Dick and Judy looked at each other and decided they were going to take him home and raise him as if he didn’t have a disability. Judy asked Dick, “Can I do this?” Dick said, “Yes you can.” As he hoped to himself, yes we will. Little did they realize at that time how powerful those words – YES YOU CAN – would become.

Judy driven by her desire to have her child with a disability do everything that her other two non-disabled sons do set to work. She got Rick included into kindergarten. The next year the first-grade classroom was on the second floor, so the school district sent Rick to a separate school for children with disabilities only. This was not inclusion so Judy went to the Superintendent and said, “Rick needs to go to school here in the same school his brothers will go to.” The Superintendent asked, “Do you think I can just make this happen?” Judy’s response, “Yes you can.” Rick went to the same school his brothers would go to. When other children with disabilities didn’t have the same opportunity as Rick his mother went to the state and met with her US Congressman Silvio Conte and helped him understand that we need to change our law to include children with disabilities. He asked, “Do you think I can get a law passed to make this happen?” Judy’s response, “Yes you can.” Chapter 766 Massachusetts Special Education Law, the first in the Nation, was passed in 1972. This became the model for the first federal special education law. Chapter 766 helped bring thousands of young people with disabilities into more inclusive educational settings.

In the spring of 1977, Rick asked his father, “Dad can I run in a 5-mile benefit run for a Lacrosse player who had been paralyzed in an accident.” Dick’s response, “Yes you can.” Far from being a long-distance runner, Dick agreed to push Rick in his wheelchair, and they finished all 5 miles, coming in next to last. That night, Rick told his father, “Dad,



when I'm running, it feels like I'm not handicapped." This realization was just the beginning of what would become over 1,000 races completed, including marathons, duathlons, and triathlons (6 of them being Ironman competitions). Also adding to their list of achievements, Dick and Rick biked and ran across the U.S. in 1992, completing a full 3,735 miles in 45 days.

The tenacity of these two people, Dick and Judy Hoyt, have led the Board of the Hoyt Foundation to create the Dick and Judy Hoyt "Yes You Can" Grants. If you feel that your family needs to be told "YES YOU CAN" then please apply.

### **What you should do**

A successful application needs to have the following:

- A description of your child's disability.
- Documentation of your child's disability (e.g., a letter from your child's doctor verifying the disability, an IEP documenting the eligibility process, SSI eligibility documentation).
- A description of how your child will be included with non-disabled peers.
- A message from your child explaining the area they are passionate about and want to be included in. This can be done any way that it works for your child (e.g., write a letter, draw a picture, record a video, be creative).
- A description of what is needed to allow your child to be included
- Estimated costs of what is needed (e.g., invoice, formal estimate from company providing product or service).
- Willingness to share your child's story now and as successful inclusion happens. This is important so others can be informed and inspired to do the same.

Please use the APPLICATION FORM provided to ensure each requirement is met:

- You can download print and scan your responses, send to Russ Hoyt at [teamhoyt73@gmail.com](mailto:teamhoyt73@gmail.com). Please put "Yes You Can Grant" in the subject line.
- You can request us to mail a copy that you can respond to and send in the mail.

Please mail to:

- The Hoyt Foundation
- 241 Mashapaug Road
- Holland, MA 01521
- ATTN: Yes You Can Grant
- Contact us by reaching out to Russ Hoyt at 617-513-2723 or [teamhoyt73@gmail.com](mailto:teamhoyt73@gmail.com)

### **Selection Timeline**

We will accept the applications for the first grant award cycle until March 30, 2022 and award the first grants on or before June 1, 2022. In future years grants will be accepted between January 10<sup>th</sup> (Rick's birthday) and March 8<sup>th</sup> (Judy's birthday) and awards will be announced on or about June 1<sup>st</sup> (Dick's birthday). Grants will be reviewed by the Hoyt Foundation Board of Directors.



APPLICATION FORM  
Dick and Judy Hoyt "Yes You Can" Grant

\*\*\*Please only provide the information requested, additional information may result in an inability to review your request\*\*\*

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON COMPLETING FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of child's disability

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Documentation of child's disability (e.g., a letter from your child's doctor verifying the disability, an IEP documenting the eligibility process, SSI eligibility documentation). Please include attachments, describe attachments here:

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Description of how your child will be included with non-disabled peers.

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Please include a message from child explaining the area they are passionate about and want to be included in. This can be done any way that it works for your child (e.g., write a letter, draw a picture, record a video, be creative). Please include attachments, describe attachments here:

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Description of what is needed to allow your child to be included. Please include attachments, describe attachments here:

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Estimated costs of what is needed (e.g., invoice, formal estimate from company providing product or service). Please include attachments, describe attachments here:

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What is the exact amount you are requesting from the grant: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Willingness to share your child’s story now and as successful inclusion happens. This is important so others can be informed and inspired to do the same.

Yes, I agree to have our story shared in multiple media platforms  No thank you

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

REALATIONSHIP TO CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete each section entirely and submit to:

By scan: Russ Hoyt at [teamhoyt73@gmail.com](mailto:teamhoyt73@gmail.com) Please include “Yes You Can Grant” in the subject line or

By mail: The Hoyt Foundation, 241 Mashapaug Road, Holland, MA 01521, ATTN: Yes You Can Grant