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Council President Honors Disabled Student

During a recent Summit County Council Meeting, Council President Nick Kostandaras honored nine year old Kelsey Minick, a 3rd Grade Honor Roll Student at Suffield Elementary School for her work in the classroom and her enormous heart and courageous spirit as she lives with the daily challenges of her paralysis – the result of child abuse from her first adoptive father when she came to the United States from a Russian orphanage as a young child.

Kostandaras first heard of Kelsey when her current adoptive parents, Sue and Chuck Minick of Suffield, OH were in search of a motorized scooter for her to play with her friends and family more easily than her wheelchair would allow. Kostandaras contacted the Minick's and told them he wanted to purchase the scooter, and with the help of donors such as Chippewa Partners, LLC and JP Development, was able to get the scooter from Miller Medical Supply for Kelsey.

Never one to let her disability discourage her, Kelsey enjoys swimming, biking, playing the keyboard, reading and drawing. She has also performed on stage with the Ohio Children's Ballet for the past three years in the holiday production of "The Nutcracker," at Akron's Civic Theatre.

"Kelsey is a wonderful child who is extremely smart and always has a positive outlook on life," said her mom, Sue Minick. "We have been truly blessed by her and all the wonderful people who've helped us fulfill her dreams," she continued.

"I was touched by her story and her unbelievable spirit to overcome so much at such a young age. She's an inspiration to us all," said Kostandaras.

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