

Independence Inc. staff on Thursday reported an overwhelming response to news that a Lawrence boy's walker was stolen Wednesday morning.

By 9 a.m. Thursday, the agency that was gathering funds to replace the \$1,200 walker had met the goal, said John Tucker, equipment loan bank manager at Independence Inc.

Donors included the Lawrence Police Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Clinton Parkway Assembly of God Church and numerous other organizations and individuals, Tucker said.

Vania Bruner on Wednesday reported the theft of her son Luke's walker from the front drive of their home. Bruner and both of her sons, Luke and Logan, have Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder, a neurological condition that affects the sensory and motor nerves and leads to muscle weakness and atrophy. Bruner said the specialized walker was vital to Luke's mobility.

Tucker said he is working to expedite the shipping of a new walker, which typically can take two months to receive.

Additional donations beyond the replacement costs for Luke's walker will be placed in a medical equipment loan bank to be used to buy medical equipment for others, Tucker said.