

## ▼ Service Cont'd—

Raymond's love of music began at age two, and will continue to grow with practice on his new piano.

### Gift of Music Makes Christmas Merry

The first thing on Raymond Charles Grote's Christmas list for Santa was a piano. Blind since birth, the Pennsylvania boy has been developing a keen ear for music, and at age five can play a number of songs on his electric keyboard. According to his music teacher, though, Raymond needs to practice on a real piano to increase the strength in his hands and fingers. Unfortunately, unexpected financial problems prevented the family from purchasing the \$800 upright piano Raymond wanted.

That's when the Susquehanna Lions Club stepped in and agreed to purchase the piano for Raymond. But Christmas was rapidly approaching, and with the club's other holiday projects, money was still an issue.

But the club was undaunted. "We decided, one way or another, this boy's going to have a piano," says third vice-president Mike Sprout.

Lions negotiated with the piano store to delay payment until the funds could be raised. Santa delivered the piano right on schedule, and Raymond was thrilled.

"I think I'll remember the expression on his face the rest of my life," says Bob Shenberger, Raymond's stepfather.

The story doesn't end there. An article about the Susquehanna Lions' efforts to brighten Raymond's Christmas appeared in a local newspaper. This spurred a community response unlike anything the club had ever seen. In less than a week, \$3,000 poured in from citizens wanting to help Raymond get his piano. Now, not only is the instrument paid for, but so are lessons for the young musician. The Lions are also considering establishing a trust fund for Raymond.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Teresa Ann Boeckel and the York Daily Record for their contributions.)



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