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## **Designing computer games is teen's dream come true**

By GAIL MAHOLICK [gmaholicktonline.com](http://gmaholicktonline.com)



David Fitzsimmons of Penn Forest Township, receives a large screen laptop computer specially designed to allow him to design computer games.

A smile crept over the face of 18-year-old David Fitzsimmons of Penn Forest Township, as his dream was fulfilled by Dream Come True, Blue Ridge Chapter.

The son of Patrick and Shauna Fitzsimmons has always wanted to design video games, but had no idea how to get started.

"A few years ago, we received a letter from Dream Come True that said they wanted to do a dream for David," said his mother. "We didn't follow through for a few years, but

then one day David said, 'I have a dream.'" He wanted a laptop computer and classes to help him fulfill his dream to be a video game designer.

Since David has Asperger's Syndrome or (Asperger's Disorder), a disorder with symptoms similar to autism, David's announcement spurred her to contact volunteers at Dream Come True.

"He seldom expresses a desire for anything," said Mrs. Fitzsimmons.

Asperger's Syndrome is characterized as one of the five pervasive developmental disorders, and is commonly referred to as a form of high-functioning autism. In very broad terms, individuals with Asperger's have normal or above average intellectual capacity, with atypical or poorly developed social skills often with emotional/social development or integration happening later than usual as a result.

As part of his dream, David worked with a mentor at the Banana Factory, Bethlehem, for five weeks to learn video game designing and received some rather large speakers to round out the package.

David clearly said, "Thank you," to Frank Stanek, who coordinated the dream, and to other Dream Come True board members, who gathered to watch him open the packages wrapped in gold paper.

"I'm sure he'll be locked up in his bedroom for several days," said his father.

Stanek expressed gratitude to the many people who support Dream Come True.

"This is what it's all about," said Stanek. "Seeing a child with a smile on his face."