

There are people who dream, and then there are people who turn dreams into reality. When teenager Adam Bergin took a summertime bike ride in Honor three years ago, he had no idea it would lead to the largest undertaking of his life. “We decided to take a shortcut through Maley Park and over the bridge,” says Adam, “but the bridge was too narrow for our handlebars. You literally couldn’t take a bike across it. I wondered how people would get across it with a wheelchair. And then I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if someone built a new bridge?’ I never guessed that would become my Eagle Scout project.”

Adam, 15, is a member of Boy Scout Troop #27. He resides in Traverse City during the school year. But with a family cottage near Little Platte Lake, his summers are spent exclusively in Honor, a fact he considered heavily when selecting his Eagle Scout project. “I wanted to give something back to the community that has given me so many good memories,” he says. “I felt this was a great opportunity to do that. The bridge stood out to me because I wanted my project to make a lasting impression, something I could come back and see ten years from now.”

Adam raised all of the necessary funds through consistent effort and good, old fashioned elbow grease. His mother, Carol Bergin, points out that \$300 was raised through Adam’s nonstop collection of bottles and cans, plus eight trips to the grocery store to turn them in. Dad Peter Bergin adds, “Support for the bridge came from all around, including community and business leaders in Honor, St. Philip Neri Church in Empire, four Boy Scout troops, and the many people in Traverse City who donated their cans to the cause. We are very proud and thankful for those who came together on such short notice to make the project a reality.”

The new, covered bridge features a metal roof and handicap accessible ramps at each end. At seven feet wide, it has plenty of room for pedestrians, the disabled, and of course bicyclists. It ties in perfectly with Honor’s new sidewalk expansion completed in November.

The project was supported by the Honor Area Restoration Project (HARP) and the Honor Village Council. “Many people dreamed of this bridge for a long time,” says HARP co-chair Shantel Sellers, “but there’s a big difference between dreaming and doing. Adam Bergin has set that standard in our community today, not just for young people but for us all.” Bob Theobald, president of the Honor Village Council, agrees: “It is very gratifying to know that someone so young could care enough about his community to accomplish something so big.”

While the bridge means a lot to the people of Honor, it means even more to the Bergins. “We feel that the bridge reflects both the principles Adam learned in Boy Scouts and those we’ve taught both our children,” says Peter. “His sister Claire has watched him grow up through his years in Boy Scouts, knowing all the while how much Adam wanted to be an Eagle Scout, and now his dream is coming true.”