



# Jamie's Smiles

A fund dedicated to helping children  
with special needs

[www.JamiesSmiles.org](http://www.JamiesSmiles.org)

## Will you help Jamie's Smiles make a difference in children's lives this holiday season?

### Dear Friends:

### Happy Sweetest Day! What better time to officially kick-off the 2019 Jamie's Smiles Christmas adoptions than on a day where we celebrate love?!

This is the Bates family's 23rd year of adopting families with our family and friends and our 15th year adopting families through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP). We have decided to "completely adopt" two families this year. As usual, our families this year really need our help! Their children need more care and special items than most children or they have serious personal and financial struggles so we have taken on fewer people with greater needs. This year we have chosen to adopt the following two deserving families with children with special needs:

### Mykell's Family

Mykell is a two year old little boy who lives with his Mom, Sabrina (age 38), and sisters Kaylenna (age 8) and Ariana (age 1). Dad does not live in the home, but helps out somewhat monetarily as he is able. He does visit his children. When Mom was 20 weeks pregnant with Mykell she found out that he had a heart defect. They induced her at full-term. When Mykell was born Mom was able to hold him for a couple minutes before he went to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). He was transferred to Children's Hospital that day and at age 3 weeks, Mykell had his first open heart surgery. His oxygen was so low after surgery that they did not think he was going to live through the night, but he is a fighter!

During his five months in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) post-surgery, he received a tracheotomy and vent. His heart defect has been diagnosed astruncus arteriosus pulmonary atresia:

*Truncus arteriosus is a birth defect of the heart. It occurs when the blood vessel coming out of the heart in the developing baby fails to separate completely during development, leaving a connection between the aorta and pulmonary artery. [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to this quote and more information about this heart defect.*

This past spring at 2 years of age, Mykell had his second open heart surgery that lasted 16 1/2 hours and required a month and a half in the PICU post surgery for recovery. Sabrina says, "I am so blessed that I have him in my life.... I know my baby is sick, but every day when he's here he teaches me something". Mom cannot work due to the extensive needs of Mykell.

***This family needs:*** A car seat, a high chair, a pack & play, winter coats, pajamas, winter clothing, shoes, socks, boots, hats, gloves, diapers & wipes, silver ware, bedding/sheets, comforters, books and toys.

### **Chase's Family**

Chase is a one year old little boy who lives with his Mom, DaiJa (age 23). Dad is not in the picture and does not contribute to Chase's support. Chase was born very early at 26 weeks and weighed only 1 pound 12 ounces. Immediately at birth, Chase had to be rushed to the NICU to be placed on a breathing tube and to treat him for heart issues including an irregular heartbeat and two holes in his heart. He remained in the NICU for three months and had to continue breathing treatments at home once he was discharged. While in the hospital, they found that he had retinopathy of prematurity:

*"Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a potentially blinding eye disorder that primarily affects premature infants weighing about 2¾ pounds (1250 grams) or less that are born before 31 weeks of gestation (a full-term pregnancy has a gestation of 38–42 weeks). The smaller a baby is at birth, the more likely that baby is to develop ROP. This disorder — which usually develops in both eyes — is one of the most common causes of visual loss in childhood and can lead to lifelong vision impairment and blindness." [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to this quote and more information about ROP.*

The little family lives in an apartment and Mom tries to make ends meet by doing cosmetology related services from her home. Mom's work helps them to get by with rent, but they are struggling.

***This family needs:*** A crib, winter coats, pajamas, winter clothing, shoes, socks, boots, hats, gloves, diapers & wipes, a high chair, pots and pans, bedding/sheets, a vacuum, books and toys.

As has become our custom, we will only come to you TWO TIMES this year via email. Please note that this is our first email and we will send ONLY ONE follow up unless we need to follow up on a pledge from you. **We hope that you will**

**consider writing out your check immediately so you don't forget. We plan to do the majority of the shopping for our families on November 5th as we have Middle School and High School student volunteers helping that day since they are off school.** We will send one additional email with an update on our donation status and then you will not hear from us unless you made a donation or financial pledge that requires follow up or when we send a "thank you"!

Whether you can donate \$5 or \$1,000 or more, we will put it to the best use we can and the value that our combined funds and efforts can have to others less fortunate than ourselves is tremendous. We pool all of the funds and meet as many of the needs of these families as possible.

Kohl's on 26 Mile Road in Shelby Township, generously gives us significant discounts on the merchandise that we purchase in their store. As a result, everything bought at Kohl's costs pennies on the dollar. For many years, Kohl's has also made a \$500 contribution and they have helped to wrap the gifts for our families. They have agreed to help again this year!

Additionally, we have other vendors that give us discounts or support and contribute yearly because they care. If we have more money than we need for this deserving family, we will provide food and clothing gift cards to additional families, as there are many others in need and still more coming forward to ask for assistance.

Because we ask that checks be made payable to the "Shelby Community Foundation - Jamie's Smiles" your contribution is tax deductible (please speak with a tax professional for details). If you prefer you can also contribute items, but these will not be tax deductible. If you are willing to help, please email us with your commitment as soon as you can.

**Contributions can be made through PayPal! Contributions via PayPal can be made by [Clicking Here](#), then from the drop down menu on the left hand side of your screen choose "Jamie's Smiles Christmas", select "Donate", input an amount, and finally select "Donate with PayPal". From here, follow the directions to complete your contribution. Of course you can still send your check made out to "SCF – Jamie's Smiles (Christmas)" to us at: PO Box 183181, Shelby Township MI 48318 as well. We need to know what our budget will be to make purchases, so please help us out by sending your check or email commitment by Monday, November 4th!**

---

For more information about Jamie's Smiles, please call Gretchen at 586-206-5556 or visit us on [Facebook](#) or on our regularly updated [Website](#) and please bear in mind that we also accept new left over Christmas wrapping paper.

**We thought you might be interested in checking out just a couple of pictures of families from previous adoptions below...**

## Thank you for time, consideration and generosity,

**The Bates Family & Jamie's Smiles**  
*(Mark, Gretchen, Logan & Sidney)*

*PS By way of background for those of you who are new to the invitation (please bear with us if you have seen this information before), for many years we have championed adopting families of special needs children through MIPP. This is the organization that gave Jameson such phenomenal care and therapy while he was with us and sick with Infantile Spasms. We choose needy families with children with special needs who need a "hand up." Often, people do not realize the financial, physical and emotional burden of raising special children. They are incredible! They are worth it! But fiscally speaking, they can set you back so that you can never recover. In the 19 months that we had Jamie, his care cost approximately \$40,000 out of pocket and we had EXCELLENT insurance. You can imagine what it does to people with lesser insurance, etc... Anyhow, we try to help mitigate some of these costs for a couple of families per year..... Please join us in making a difference in these people's lives...*



**2018 Adopted  
Family**

**2017 Adopted  
Family**



**2016 Adopted  
Family**



**2016 Adopted  
Family**



**2016 Adopted  
Family (Mom  
with MIPP  
Therapists)**

*Please Note: Jamie's Smiles is a fund held and administered by the Shelby Community Foundation.*

©2019 Bates Consulting, L.L.C | Harrison Township, MI

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®