



Jamie's Smiles

A fund dedicated to helping children
with special needs

www.JamiesSmiles.org

Calling All Jamie's Smiles Holiday Helpers!

Dear Friends:

Time is moving quickly and Thanksgiving is nearly upon us so the Jamie's Smiles Christmas adoptions are in full swing!

I come to you a little earlier than usual this year in this second email with an update on our yearly adoption of families with children with special needs. Because Covid rates are climbing in the state, there is a looming threat of school closures. **Since our adopted families are through the schools, we are striving to deliver all of their items and to make food gift cards available for other families ASAP!**

So far this year we have commitments of 56% of the funds that we raised last year. Last year we touched the lives of approximately 246 people through our holiday adoption program. Some were adopted in a BIG way and others were given food gift cards, clothing, or toys to help them through. ALL were grateful!! With times being particularly hard this year, we are hoping to help at least that many folks again this year!!

We hope that you will consider helping us help others again this holiday season! We are adopting one family completely this year, but we are helping several other families in a smaller way with car seats, high chairs, clothing items, toys, or food gift cards. We also have a long reach into the community to help dozens of other families with food gift cards as well. Here is a brief synopsis about our adopted family:

Collin's Family

Collin is now a 16 month old little boy who lives with his Mom, Julie (age 25), Dad, Albert (age 37), and two sisters Addilyn (age 2) and Kaylee (age 4 months). When Collin was born his family found out that he has down syndrome and he was diagnosed with a heart murmur, fused fingers on both hands, and fused toes on one

foot. He was sent to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) with jaundice and having trouble breathing. After a rough month and the insertion of a feeding tube, he was able to go home. He has a hole in his heart and may require future surgery to repair the hole, but it is currently being watched closely by his doctor. He has had two surgeries on his hands and foot since July 2020. Collin has had the feeding tube removed and is able to eat normally. Mom stays home to take care of Collin's special care needs and siblings. The family currently rents a home and Dad works to provide for their needs, but they are struggling.

We have also had several other families reach out through MIPP needing larger items like high chairs, car seats, clothing items, coats, learning toys, bedding, etc. We will provide these items to additional families as we are able based on our funding this year.

What Can You Do?

We hope that you will help us, help this family and the COUNTLESS others like them again this year! If you want to help, we hope that you will consider writing out your check immediately so you don't forget. We have done the initial shopping and gotten the coats, hats, gloves, shoes and boots to the family. We plan to move on to food, clothing, toys and other gifts for additional families with children with special needs in the MIPP program in the next week. **This is our second and last email update on our donation status and you will not hear from us unless you made a donation or financial pledge that requires follow up or to send you a "thank you"!**

So whether you can donate \$5 or \$1,000, 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 that we raise and meet as many of the needs of as many families as possible.

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 and bottom of your screen choose "Jamie's Smiles Christmas", select "Pay Now", input an amount, and select "Continue". From here, follow the directions to complete your contribution. **Please know that we DO have to pay processing fees on PayPal contributions so checks are preferred.**

To send a check, please make it 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 additional food gift card purchases, so please help us out by sending your check or email commitment this week!

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 to wrap the gifts donated and purchased.

Thank you for time, consideration and generosity,

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

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



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