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Time is moving ahead quickly, will you help Jamie's Smiles make a difference in children's lives this holiday season?

Dear Friends:

You may have noticed that Thanksgiving is almost upon us! :) We have delivered the family's coats because the weather is getting colder and FAST! We also did our initial purchase through Kohl's on November 8th. Many thanks to the L'Anse Creuse High School students and other volunteers who helped select items, wrap the gifts that we have so far, and complete that part of our project.

I am a little nervous! So far this year we have raised about 43% of the funds that we raised last year.

Last year we touched the lives of approximately 317 people through our holiday adoption program. Some were adopted in a BIG way and others were given car seats, high chairs, clothing items, food gift cards, or toys to help them through. Our families who receive donations, from total adoption to a helping gift card, are always super thankful!! We were able to help more than 104 families with food gift cards alone. We are hoping to help at least that many folks again this year!!

A Brief Synopsis and Update about Sebastian's Family

If you didn't get a chance to review our email last month, here is a synopsis of Sebastian (22 months), his sister Emma (4 years old) and Mom, Heather's stories...

In October 2020, the little family was separated when Eduardo (Dad) lost his fight to gain citizenship and was ask to voluntarily depart the country. Sebastian was born two months later.

Sebastian has been diagnosed with Hypoplasia of the Corpus Callosum (when part of the corpus callosum is missing), Congenital Cerebral Ventriculomegaly (enlarged ventricles), Hypoplasia of the Anterior Commissure (connects the two cerebral hemispheres of the brain concerned with the olfactory pathway), and Anemia. Heather is struggling with medical appointments for both kids, therapy appointments, and day to day life alone. Eduardo was able to meet meet Sebastian and see Emma in 2021 and they are continuing to work with lawyers to be reunited as a family, but in the meantime, Heather is managing without any support.

Additional Families' Needs

We have had many other families reach out through MIPP with larger items needs like high chairs, car seats, learning toys, beddings, etc. We will provide these items and food gift cards to additional families as we are able based on our funding this year.

Can You Help?

As is our custom, we will only come to you TWO TIMES this year via email. Please note that this is our last email unless we need to follow up on a pledge from you or to send our thank you follow up.

If you have already given and helped, MANY THANKS!!! If you are still looking for your niche, here are a couple of ways that you can help this year:

First, the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP) has noted that many Children (and parents) frequently come to their appointments without hats, gloves/mittens, and scarfs because they do not own them. As a result, this is the second year that they are collecting NEW hats and gloves/mittens. Due to state restrictions, they cannot take used items; this is because so many of their students are immune suppressed or compromised and used items can pose health concerns. If you would like to donate any of these items, you can drop them off in the boxes in the lobby at the MIPP Millar building at: 37623 Garfield, Clinton Township between the hours of 8am-3:30pm or EMAIL ME and we can make arrangements for you to drop them off with me and I will get them to

MIPP.

Second, If you are interested in helping financially, we hope that you will consider writing out your check or sending a PayPal (see below) immediately so you don't forget. We are hoping to wrap up the majority of the shopping for our families by December 9th so that we can get everything wrapped and delivered prior to the winter break.

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 who are struggling is tremendous. We pool all of the funds, enlist local business support and sponsorship, and meet as many of the needs of local families as possible.

We have applied for and been told that they have approved matching funds through the "Wood Community Investment Team", we have applied for "Thrivent Action Team Project" support, and we have vendors that give us discounts or support and contribute yearly because they care.

Contributions can be made through PayPal or By Check!

Contributions via PayPal can be made by [CLICKING HERE](#), input an amount, and select "Donate with PayPal". **Please know that we do NOT pay processing fees on PayPal contributions so this is a super fast and convenient way to make a contribution.**

To send a check, please make it out to "Four County Community Foundation - Jamie's Smiles (Christmas)" to us at: PO Box 539, Almont MI 48003. We need to know what our budget will be to make purchases, so please help us out by sending your check, PayPal, or email commitment by Friday, December 2nd! Of course donations are welcome at any time, but this really helps us with planning.

Other Big News!

Jamie would have been 18 years old this past July. When he was born, we banked his cord blood. Since his passing, we have been looking for an opportunity to donate his cord blood to another child or a meaningful study to help other children.

After exhaustive research since June, we have discovered that because he had Down syndrome, the blood could not be donated to an individual. We reached out to dozens of organizations and research institutions trying to find a group that was conducting research that we felt would help as many children as possible in the long run.

Last month we found the Crnic Institute's Human Trisome Project Biobank at the University of Colorado which, of course, specializes in Down syndrome. They have been collecting blood and tissue samples since 2016, using the samples as a part of the biobank can be used for future, unspecified research, and making them available to other research organizations and studies. In March, they approved accepting cord blood donations.

We are excited to announce that Jameson's cord blood will be the Crnic Institute's Human Trisome Project Biobank's first cord blood donation. It is being shipped to them today!! It is our understanding that it may be used in dozens of different studies to help other children like Jamie.

Need More Information or Want to Share with a Friend?

We LOVE new friends! For more information about Jamie's Smiles or to share about us with other, 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)

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION VIA PAYPAL](#)

**Emma, From
Our Adopted
Family, Trying
On the Snow
Pants and Hat
Made Possible
by Donations
Like Yours
through
Jamie's Smiles**



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

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