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We are in the home stretch! Will you help Jamie's Smiles make a difference in children's lives this holiday season?

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is coming up fast and the Jamie's Smiles Christmas adoptions are in full swing! Just like last year, covid rates are ticking up in the state and there is a constant threat of school closures especially in the high risk special needs community. 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 just in case!

We delivered the family's coats before Halloween because the weather was getting colder. We also did our initial purchase through Kohl's on November 2nd. Many thanks to the L'Anse Creuse High School students and other volunteers who helped select items and complete that stage of purchasing.

So far this year we have raised about 73% of the funds that we raised last year which is usually fantastic for this point in our fundraising. However, most of our commitments have already come in and there is an unusually large number of needy families this year. In 2020, we touched the lives of approximately 251 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 so very thankful!! 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 where needed.

Here is a brief synopsis and update about our adopted family:

David, Dominic & Derek's Family

Last month we shared the struggles and basic story of David, Dominic & Derek's family. To refresh your memory, the triplets are now 18 month old little boys who live with their Mom and Grandma in Grandma's small home.

Mom had cancer as a child that left her blind in one eye, hearing loss in an ear, neurological issues, and was told that she was not likely to be able to have children. Mom and the children's father were married in 2018 and in late 2019, they found out Mom was pregnant. The babies were born during the height of Covid, but Mom had serious complications after the birth and required blood transfusions and an emergency hysterotomy. Dominic and Derek were rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Harper/Hutzel and David was rushed to the NICU at Children's Hospital.

Since that time, David has had multiple heart surgeries including a heart transplant. Mom, David, and Dominic have 22q11.2 Duplication Syndrome which can cause intellectual or learning disability, developmental delays and possible slow growth or weak muscle tone. Derek does not have any known special needs at this time.

According to Mom, Dad recently left the family and has offered very little help or support. Mom and Grandma are working hard to find assistance to provide for their needs, but they are struggling and going under since they are house-bound due to health issues of the triplets.

David was admitted to the hospital last month for frequent vomiting and poor weight gain. He was discharged from that incident, but doctors are monitoring him closely to determine if the vomiting is medication related or other. He is still struggling with both issues. It was discovered late last week that David had croup. Due to his fragile health, he has been readmitted to the hospital for care and observation. Derek is also very sick. So far they have managed to keep him at home, but his illness is significant and being watched closely as well.

As I noted in my first email, the family could use a new or gently used front loading washer & dryer. Mom is requesting front loaders due to some of her health issues for loading and unloading. A donor recently stepped forward and committed to purchasing a new washer and dryer for the family. To respect her privacy, I am not sharing her name, but I cannot thank her enough for her generosity!

How Can You Help?

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 family could really use a gently used or new television. The one that they had only has half of a picture. Also, because of the health issues with the boys, the family is housebound and this is their only "eye into the world".

Second, 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, they have begun collecting NEW hats, gloves/mittens, and scarfs. 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.

Third, 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 6th so that we can get everything wrapped and delivered prior to the winter break. This is our second and last email for this year's adoption. 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 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.

How Can I Send Money Through PayPal or Via Check?

Contributions can be made through PayPal by [CLICKING HERE](#), input an amount, and select "Donate with PayPal". Please know that we NO LONGER 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 final purchases, so please help us out by sending your check, PayPal, or email commitment by Monday, December 6th if you can! Of course donations are welcome at any time, but this helps us with planning.

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](#)

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

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