

Like



## Thanksgiving is coming and I am **THANKFUL FOR YOU!**

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

### **Dear Friends:**

As you may know, we have delivered the family's coats because the weather is likely to change soon. We also did our initial purchase through Kohl's on November 7th. Many thanks to the L'Anse Creuse High School students and other volunteers who helped select items and are planning to wrap the gifts that we have so far.

**So far this year we have raised 74% of the funds that we raised last year. However, in 2022 we raised 20% less than we did for the Christmas 2021 adoptions. As a result, we have currently raised 41% less than what we raised in 2021. We are striving to get back to the 2021 adoption funding level in order to help as many families as we can!**

Because we were very frugal, last year we touched the lives of approximately 328 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 are hoping to help at least that many folks again this year!!

### A Brief Synopsis and Update about DJ's Family

If you didn't get a chance to review our email last month, we have chosen to adopt Donte Junior, AKA "DJ", (6 months), his brother Carsen (Age 4), his sister Caisyn (Age 2), Mom, and Dad.

Due to issues at birth, Carsen (the oldest child in our family), had low oxygen at birth and soon showed a failure to thrive. He was diagnosed with hypotonia, chokes easily even on his own secretions, and has had to be resuscitated and intubated.

Middle child, Caisyn had an uneventful birth and she is average development for her age.

Donte Junior, "DJ", was diagnosed with hypotonia, feeding issues requiring a feeding tube, sleep apnea, has been intubated, and now has a tracheotomy.

Dad works hard to support his family. Mom stays home full-time now to take care of the largely bed and homebound boys and their sister. Carsen attends Glen Peters as he is able with his health as he is completely ventilated and oxygen dependent. DJ is not ventilator dependent, except at night, but sometimes requires ventilation assistance during the day.

### Additional Families' Needs

**We have also had several other families reach out through MIPP with larger items needs like high chairs, car seats, cribs, crib mattresses, pack and plays, learning toys, beddings, etc. We will provide these items 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 third 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 1st so that we can get everything wrapped and delivered prior to the winter break on the 15th.

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!**

**Please make checks payable to the "Four County Community Foundation - Jamie's Smiles"**, or 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**, 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 December 1st!**

**Need More Information or Want to Share with a Friend?**

We LOVE new friends! 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)**

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

**Caisyn, From Our Adopted Family, Trying On the Coat & 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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