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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jamie's Smiles Helps over 221 People this Holiday Season

Jamie's Smiles' mission is to supply supplemental funding to outstanding programs that benefit children with special needs, through grants and other financial means. This past holiday season, Jamie's Smiles raised over \$9,990, facilitated fully adopting a family through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP), and giving assistance to over 41 additional families in our local community. Their corporate sponsors' contributions and discounts as well as donated items raised the retail value of their assistance to local families to over \$16,000.

Jamie's Smiles is a fund held and administered by the non-profit organization, Four County Community Foundation, in memory of Jameson Bates. Jamie was born with Down syndrome and passed away from a rare seizure disorder in January of 2006. His parents, Mark and Gretchen Bates, created the "Jamie's Smiles" memorial and endowment funds to help other children with special needs like their son and to raise awareness about the value of "special children" in our community.

Gretchen Bates expressed gratitude to those who made this effort possible when she said, "We deeply appreciate the generosity of our many supporters and sponsors. We are grateful to the students who gave up many evening hours to help us wrap gifts for our adopted family. We would like to thank our business sponsors including our Gold Level Corporate Sponsors: St. Therese of Lisieux Parish and the Knights of Columbus and the Four County Community Foundation's Women's Fund. We would also like to thank our Silver Level Corporate Sponsor: Thrivent Financial/Thrivent Action Teams, and to thank all of the organizations and businesses for helping to make it possible to reach out a helping hand to people in our community this past holiday season."

"We estimate that we have touched the lives of over 221 people this year alone! Since we began, we have given away donations valued at over \$237,600 in grants and assistance to programs and as a result helped many families and an estimated 24,726 people in Macomb County. We also have over \$204,000 in our accounts and believe that we are making a HUGE impact on the lives of children in our local community," said Bates. "Many organizations work with us to help our adopted families including the corporate sponsors I mentioned as well as: Kohl's (Shelby Township), Mitchell Family Dental and Value Center Market (Clinton Township). Additionally, many individuals donated items and gift cards to help needy families with children in MIPP."

If you are interested in more information about Jamie's Smiles or to make a contribution, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JamiesSmiles> or on the web at www.JamiesSmiles.org. Financial gifts are always accepted and appreciated, please make checks payable to "Four County Community Foundation – Jamie's Smiles" at 141 S. Main Street, Suite A, Romeo, Michigan 48065 or call 810/798-0909 for information on how to make credit card or make PayPal donations on the Jamie's Smiles website.

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