



Jamie's Smiles

A fund dedicated to helping children
with special needs

www.JamiesSmiles.org

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

Dear Friends:

Happy fall! With Halloween approaching and "trick or treat" nearly at your doorstep, it is also time for the official kick-off for the 2018 Jamie's Smiles Christmas adoptions! This is the Bates family's 22nd year of adopting families with our family and friends and our 14th year adopting families through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP). We have decided to "completely adopt" one family this year. As usual, our family this year really needs our help! Their children need more care and special items than most children and they have serious financial struggles so we have taken on fewer people with greater needs. This year we have chosen to adopt the following deserving family with children with special needs:

Trinity's Family

Trinity is a one year old little girl who lives with her Mom, Bridgette (age 27), Dad, Antonio (age 30), and two sisters, Latoya (age 7) and Briana (age 10). Trinity was born very early at 26 weeks and weighed only one pound 12 ounces. Immediately at birth, Trinity had to be rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to be placed on a breathing tube. She remained in the NICU for three months, then came home on oxygen for another six months. While in the hospital, they found that she had a heart murmur. The doctors are still watching this as she may require surgery. Trinity also has a suppressed immune system, feeding issues because she cannot chew (so she remains on formula to receive nutrition), and has "chronic lung disease" or "bronchopulmonary dysplasia" (BPD) as it is also known. According to the American Lung Association,

"Prematurely born infants, especially those born before 28 weeks of gestation, have very few tiny air sacs (alveoli) at birth. The alveoli that are present tend to not be

mature enough to function normal, and the infant requires respiratory support with oxygen or mechanical ventilation (a respirator) to support breathing. Although life-saving, these treatments can also cause lung damage, referred to as "broncho [airway] pulmonary [lung] dysplasia," or BPD."

[CLICK HERE](#) for a link to this quote and more information about BPD.

Trinity's sister Latoya also has special needs. Latoya was diagnosed with autism, but they have recently discovered that she was born with some of her brain's white matter missing. According to Wikipedia, "White matter is the tissue through which messages pass between different areas of gray matter within the central nervous system." Latoya is severely delayed. She can barely talk and according to her Mom she "has to learn everything where other children just learn things". She is functioning at the developmental age of about 4 1/2.

Mom cannot work right now due to all of the doctors' appointments and intensive personal health care required by Trinity and Latoya. Dad works, but does not make enough to get by with rent, food and now extensive medical expenses.

This family is not making their medical bills, rent and getting food on the table. They really need our help! Mom mentioned several times that they could really use help with food!

This year our family needs: Food gift cards, winter coats, pajamas, winter clothing, shoes, socks, boots, hats, gloves, diapers & wipes, a baby gate, pots and pans, bedding/sheets, comforters, books and toys.

As has become our custom, we will only come to you TWO TIMES this year via email. Please note that this is our first email and we will send ONLY ONE follow up. **We hope that you will consider writing out your check immediately so you don't forget. We plan to do the majority of the shopping for our families on November 6th as we have High School student volunteers helping that day.** We will send one additional email with an update on our donation status and then 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, 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 and meet as many of the needs of these families as possible.

Kohl's on 26 Mile Road in Shelby Township, generously gives us significant discounts on the merchandise that we purchase in their store. As a result, everything bought at Kohl's costs pennies on the dollar. For many years, Kohl's has also made a \$500 contribution and they have helped to wrap the gifts for our

families. They have agreed to help again this year!

Additionally, we have other vendors that give us discounts or support and contribute yearly because they care. If we have more money than we need for this deserving family, we will provide food and clothing gift cards to additional families, as there are many others in need and still more coming forward to ask for assistance.

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 of your screen choose "Jamie's Smiles Christmas", select "Donate", input an amount, and finally select "Donate with PayPal". From here, follow the directions to complete your contribution. Of course you can still send your check made 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 purchases, so please help us out by sending your check or email commitment by Monday, November 5th!

For more information about Jamie's Smiles, please call Gretchen at 586-206-5556 or visit us on [Facebook](#) or on our recently updated [Website](#) and please bear in mind that we also accept new left over Christmas wrapping paper.

Thank you for time, consideration and generosity,
The Bates Family & Jamie's Smiles
(Mark, Gretchen, Logan & Sidney)

PS By way of background for those of you who are new to the invitation (please bear with us if you have seen this information before), for many years we have championed adopting families of special needs children through MIPP. This is the organization that gave Jameson such phenomenal care and therapy while he was with us and sick with Infantile Spasms. We choose needy families with children with special needs who need a "hand up." Often, people do not realize the financial, physical and emotional burden of raising special children. They are incredible! They are worth it! But fiscally speaking, they can set you back so that you can never recover. In the 19 months that we had Jamie, his care cost approximately \$40,000 out of pocket and we had EXCELLENT insurance. You can imagine what it does to people with lesser insurance, etc... Anyhow, we try to help mitigate some of these costs for a couple of families per year..... Please join us in making a difference in these people's lives...

"You make a living by what you get;
you make a life by what you give."

- Winston Churchill



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