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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jamie's Smiles Grants Over \$4,000 to Help Children with Special Needs

Jamie's Smiles is a fund held and administered by Four County Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3), in memory of Jameson Bates. Their mission is to supply supplemental funding to outstanding programs that benefit special needs children, through grants and other financial means. Gretchen Bates, Fund Founder, said, "We are delighted to share that Jamie's Smiles has released our annual grants in the amount of \$4,003.71 to help programs assisting children with special needs in our local communities."

On October 15, 2024 the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP), Kensington Community Church, and Glen H. Peters School, serving a combined total of over 1,680 students with special needs in Macomb County, received grants totaling \$4,003.71 from Jamie's Smiles for current projects and equipment. The money from these grants is for the purchase of therapy items and toys that will promote expressive communication skills, enhanced speech therapy, physical therapy aids, therapeutic positioning seat positioners, sensory toys, and noise canceling headphones to name a few. Some items will be used on site at their locations and others will be utilized as short-term loan equipment for families to use for child development and in-home teaching.

When asked about their projects Bates said, "We appreciate that there were so many amazing grant requests. We are extremely passionate about helping children, especially children with special needs. These programs are fantastic and have adapted their teaching and therapy methods to continue to improve the lives of children with special needs like our son. We are so thankful to have such amazing early intervention programs in our own backyard to continue to help so many children progress and excel. Additionally, we are pleased to support a new program this year through Kensington Community Church designed to include and support the special needs community in our area."

Bates went on to say, "We are also excited to announce our Holiday Adoption program for families of children with special needs through MIPP. We are adopting families from the MIPP program who are raising children that have special needs. We rely on the support and generosity of people in the community who have a desire to change the lives of others for the better by offering them a hand-up. We invite everyone with a giving heart to join in our mission to change lives and help others, especially those with special needs."

For more information about Jamie's Smiles's adoptions, please visit them on their website at www.JamiesSmiles.org. To make a contribution directly via PayPal go to <https://jamiessmiles.org/make-a-donation> then click "Donate Now", input the amount you would like to donate, and finally select "Donate with PayPal". From here, follow the directions to complete your contribution. Of course, you can still send a check made out to "Four County Community Foundation - Jamie's Smiles (Christmas)" to them at: 141 S. Main Street Romeo MI 48065. You can also call 810/798-0909 or visit Jamie's Smiles on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JamiesSmiles/> or on their website at www.JamiesSmiles.org.

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