

Like



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

Dear Friends:

I hope that in this unusual year, you and yours are well and happy! I come to you about Jamie's Smile's yearly adoptions. With all that has happened financially this year because of Covid, your community needs your help much more than in many former years.

This is the Bates family's 24th year of adopting families with our family and friends and our 16th year adopting families through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP). We have decided to "completely adopt" one family this year. This year we have chosen to adopt the following deserving family with children with special needs:

Collin's Family

Collin is a 15 month old little boy who lives with his Mom, Julie (age 25), Dad, Albert (age 37), and two sisters Addilyn (age 2) and Kaylee (age 3 months).

When Collin was born his family found out that he has down syndrome and he was diagnosed with a heart murmur, fused fingers on both hands, and fused toes on one foot. He was sent to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) with jaundice and having trouble breathing. They soon found that he was not eating. He was put on oxygen and a feeding tube. After a rough month, he was able to go home.

Since that time, he has been closely watched by his Cardiologist. He has a small hole in his heart that has not yet healed. He may require future surgery to repair the hole, but it is currently being watched closely by his doctor. He had his first surgery on his

hands and foot about five months ago once his Cardiologist said he was stable enough to proceed. He is currently awaiting another surgery on his hands and feet later this month.

Collin has had the feeding tube removed and is able to eat normally. After his birth, Mom decided to stay home as day care was too expensive and Collin required special care. The family currently rents a home and Dad works to provide for their needs, but they are struggling.

This family needs: A car seat, a high chair, winter coats, pajamas, winter clothing, shoes, socks, boots, hats, gloves, diapers & wipes, pots, towels, bedding/sheets, cooking pots, towels, comforters, books and toys.

We have also had several other families reach out through MIPP with larger items needs like high chairs, learning toys, beddings, etc. We will provide these items to additional families as we are able based on our funding this year.

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 unless we need to follow up on a pledge from you. **If you are interested in helping, 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 3rd as we have student volunteers helping that day since they are off school.** 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 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 and meet as many of the needs of local 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. We have requested their 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 in these uncertain times and still more coming forward to ask for assistance. **Last year we were able to help more than 45 additional families with food gift cards alone.**

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 and bottom of your screen choose "Jamie's Smiles Christmas", select "Pay Now", input an amount, and select "Continue". From here, follow the directions to complete your contribution. **Please know that we DO have to pay processing fees on PayPal contributions so checks are preferred.**

To send a check, please make it 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 2nd!

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.

We thought you might be interested in checking out just a couple of pictures of families from previous adoptions below...

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...

2019 Adopted

**Family Opening
Gifts**



**2018 Adopted
Mom Picking Up
Gifts**

**2018 Adopted
Family in Coats
and Winter Wear**

**Made Possible
by Gifts Like
Yours through
Jamie's Smiles**



**2017 Adopted
Child Opening
Gifts**



2017 Adopted
Child Opening
Gifts



2016 Adopted Child Opening Gifts



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

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