

Like



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

#### **Dear Friends:**



It is feeling a lot like Fall and with the change in weather, our thoughts turn toward the holidays and helping members of our community in need.

This is the Bates family's 29th year of adopting families with our family and friends and our 21st year adopting families through the Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP). We have decided to

"completely adopt" the following family of six this year:

#### **Ivy's Family**

We are adopting Ivy, (13 months), her two sisters Elodie (Age 3) and Aliyah (age 8), Mom (27), and Dad (28) and Mom's brother Kristian (Age 20).

At age 10 weeks, Ivy was diagnosed with failure to thrive and hypotonia (low muscle tone). However, she is now exhibiting "global delays" meaning that she is not meeting average child milestones. She does not talk, is just starting to sit & crawl, is not standing or walking, and is delayed in many emerging ways. Genetic testing came back negative for concerns, but cognitive delays seem

likely. Her family is desperately seeking answers to explain Ivy's significant delays.

Mom & Dad are engaged and have been together 5 years. Both were raised by alcoholics or addicts in single parent homes. Dad's Mother was murdered when he was 7 years old over drugs.

Mom stated that her Mother was an alcoholic. As a result, she has taken in and has been raising her brother, Kristian, for the past four years when he came to live with them.

Recently, Mom lost her job as a bartender after she reported her manager for sexual harassment. She had surgery for endometriosis in early October and may require a hysterectomy in the future. Mom and Dad are renting a home for their family. Dad is bipolar and currently unemployed.

### **Additional Needs**

**We have also had several other families reach out through MIPP with larger items needs like car seats, 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 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 or sending a PayPal (see below) immediately so you don't forget. We plan to do the majority of the shopping for our family's needs on or about November 7th.** We are about to purchase and deliver coats for the family since the weather is changing and it is likely to move significantly colder soon. 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. We have requested their help again this year!

We also have 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, and large items like car seats to additional families, as there are many others in need and still more coming forward to ask for assistance. **Last year we were also able to help additional families with more than 82 food gift cards and provide an additional nine car seats to other families..**

**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.**

**Or By Check...**

**If you are sending a check, please make checks payable to the "Four County Community Foundation - Jamie's Smiles" and send to 141 South Main Street, Ste. A, Romeo MI 48065. 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 Monday, November 3rd! If you prefer you can also contribute items, but these will not be tax deductible.**

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 your 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 as many families as we can every year... Please join us in making a difference in these people's lives...*

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

**2024 Drop Off  
of Gifts to  
Adopted  
Family (Child  
is Avalynn)  
Made Possible  
by Donations  
Like Yours  
through  
Jamie's Smiles**



**2024  
Additional  
Adopted  
Family Pick Up  
of Gifts. Mom,  
DeVaughn &  
Taj are So**



**Thankful for  
You Kindness!**

**2023 Adopted  
Child: Carsen  
With Some of  
His Gifts**



**2023 Adopted  
Child: DJ With  
Some of His  
Gifts**



**2022 Adopted  
Child Enjoying  
Opening Gifts**



*Sebastian with His New Toy*

**2022 Adopted  
Child Enjoying  
Opening Gifts**



*Emma Opening Her Stocking*

**2021 Adopted  
Child, Gerold  
(One of the  
Triplets) Using  
One of His  
Gifts**



## **Gerold Enjoying His Holiday Blessings!**

*Please Note: Jamie's Smiles is a fund held and administered by Four County Community Foundation.*

©2025 Bates Consulting, L.L.C | Harrison Township, MI

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing®**