



## Mission

To provide assistance to low-income families with special-needs children in Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties, with a particular focus on the needs of *siblings* in those families.

### 2008 YEAR-IN-REVIEW ~ HIGHLIGHTS

During 2008, Hearts and Smiles was able to provide assistance to **178 children** from 71 families. In addition to all the families we were able to help throughout the year, our Holiday Wish List Program helped an additional **414 children** from 168 families using the sponsorship support of local businesses and individuals. **We have touched the lives of more than 1,000 in 3 short years!**

The families we have helped throughout 2008 encompass two-parent households, single parent situations and guardian relationships. Some households speak English as a second language. Others are reliant upon the wages of disabled earners for survival. A few families have even made donations back to the foundation despite their dire circumstances. Yet all feel the same pride and love for the special children in their care. Below is a list of the struggles some of our families are facing.

- ☺ A single mother of 17 month old twins from Philadelphia, whose one son has congenital heart disease, G-tube dependency, seizure disorder, communicating hydrocephalus, cerebral thrombosis and a developmental delay
- ☺ A diabetic mom of 6 who is, herself, struggling with mental health issues, dealing with a special needs child with asthma and Failure to Thrive syndrome
- ☺ A single mom in Harleysville on a very fixed income whose 3 year old daughter has cognitive development delays
- ☺ A family of 5 whose youngest girl is suffering from Acute Lymphoma Leukemia
- ☺ A family of five from West Grove whose middle daughter has Leukemia
- ☺ A family of six from Bridgeport, whose 8 year old has ADHD, Receptive/Expressive Language Disorder and PDD, NOS. The 5 year old has developmental delay and mental health issues as well
- ☺ A Mother of three whose youngest has Down's Syndrome and is on a feeding tube

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☺ *Helping families, one smile at a time.* ☺

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- ☺ A young mother in Philadelphia with very limited resource whose 13 month old has severe brain damage
- ☺ A family of five from Hatfield, whose 5 year old has a diagnosis of moderate/severe autism and whose two year old is showing signs of possible delay. Dad is a marine in Iraq
- ☺ A family of seven from Ambler, whose 3 year-daughter suffers from Developmental Delays
- ☺ A single mother with a Down's Syndrome two-year old from Pottstown
- ☺ A family of five from Linwood whose 2 year-old has Dravet Syndrome
- ☺ A family of six from Bridgeport, whose 5-year old is diagnosed with PDD-NOS and Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder
- ☺ A family of four in Harleysville whose twins are diagnosed with autism
- ☺ A family in Langhorne whose son is afflicted with Tay-Sachs disease
- ☺ A 5 year-old girl, who lives with her Mother, Grandmother and 3 year old sibling, who suffers from GERD, developmental delay, G-tube placement and atria septic/ventricular septic defect
- ☺ A ten year old, being raised by his Grandmother, suffering with parental substance abuse issues and feelings of abandonment
- ☺ A family of four from Pennsburg, whose four year-old has Autism
- ☺ A family of five from Lincoln University, Pa., whose eldest daughter has been battling a brain tumor and is now wheel-chair bound
- ☺ A family of three from Reading whose baby has had an extended stay at Chop's NICU
- ☺ A family from the Northeast with a 12 year old mentally challenged son who lost their home and all belongings in a fire
- ☺ A single mom of four from Lansdowne whose premature twins have feeding and sleeping issues
- ☺ A single mother with a 10 month old born with multiple medical issues including a hole in his diaphragm, chronic lung disease, high blood pressure and a feeding tube

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- ☺ A family of five from Norristown whose middle son has Asperger's Disorder/ Pervasive Developmental Disorder and Rett's Disorder
- ☺ A family of four from Philadelphia whose premature baby was born with microcephaly, cerebral dysgenesis and hypoplastic corpus callosum
- ☺ A family of three from Philadelphia, whose youngest child is diagnosed with agenesis of the corpus callosum as well as deficits in head and trunk control
- ☺ A family of four from Philadelphia, whose 3 year-old son has seizures disorders and mitochondria
- ☺ A single mother's four year old with Rubinstein Taybi Syndrome
- ☺ A mother of two whose son is diagnosed with aggressive autistic behavior
- ☺ A family of four in Plymouth Meeting whose two year old son has developmental delays and whose ten year old daughter is wheelchair bound due to cerebral palsy
- ☺ A 13 year old girl living with health impaired grandparents who suffers from depression
- ☺ A very young Philadelphia family with two children whose four year old suffers with developmental delay, failure to thrive as well having a shunt and hydrocephalus
- ☺ A family of seven from Havertown whose youngest daughter is suffering from Periventricular Leukomalacia, brain damage and cerebral palsy
- ☺ A family from Pomeroy, Pa with two children whose baby was diagnosed at 1-year with a life threatening, chronic illness
- ☺ A single mother of three in Boothwyn who has a 2 ½ year old with global development delays after being diagnosed with lead poisoning
- ☺ A family of five from Marcus Hook, whose 2 year-old, now deceased, was diagnosed with a brain tumor
- ☺ A family of six in Coatesville whose eldest daughter is diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, bone cancer
- ☺ A single mother of six whose middle child has a chronic, life threatening illness
- ☺ A single mother of two whose youngest son was diagnosed with Fragile X and Pervasive Development Disorder

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- 😊 A family with three children, one a five year old who has epidermolysis bullosa
- 😊 A single mother of one child who has mental health issues
- 😊 A single parent family in Coatesville with two children, one who has mental health issues
- 😊 A single parent of three whose eldest son is suffering with anxiety and anorexia
- 😊 A single mother of 2 in Philadelphia whose son has severe allergies and Asthma
- 😊 A family from Philadelphia whose one year old diagnosed with Lymphangiona
- 😊 A single mother of two whose son is autistic
- 😊 A family of seven with two special-need s children, one son with anxiety disorder and one with ADHD
- 😊 A single mother of four with a special needs child who has mental health issues

**To see our previous Year-In-Review Highlights, for more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our website at [www.heartsandsmiles.org](http://www.heartsandsmiles.org).**

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