

2018 Heart for the Disabled

Join us as we celebrate, love, and encourage five special needs families selected for our “Heart for the Disabled” project. Our goal is to surprise each one of these families with greeting cards, notes, Bible verses, pictures, gift cards, drawings ... all to encourage them in the name of Jesus. Below are brief descriptions of each family and their needs.

Kelly and Corina

Kelly and Corina had been married four years when Kelly was in a car accident and broke his neck. Corina committed to be Kelly’s main caregiver while she raised their two daughters. Now, twenty years later, Kelly is struggling with pressure sores and chronic pain. The additional doctor appointments and physical therapy sessions are a heavy burden that leaves both Kelly and Corina feeling isolated and alone.



Desiray, Malachi (11), Eden (9), Sebastian (6), Kingston (5), and Zorian (3)



Desiray is a single parent to five boys, four of whom have disabilities. Desiray gets exhausted with the various needs of her children, and also works outside of the house to help meet the family’s financial needs. They haven’t been able to attend church in years because keeping up with the boys is overwhelming. But Desiray is firmly committed to Christ and to holding her family together, no matter what the challenges. True, she needs help, but most of all, she needs to know she is not alone.

Darrell and Betty, Brandon (18), Justin (11), and Ethan (15)

Darrell and Betty have three sons. Their oldest, Brandon, is on the autism spectrum and is non-verbal. The entire family chips in to take care of him, but there’s a new challenge: Brandon has hit a growth spurt and now keeping up with him and his growing strength takes so much more out of them. And then of course, the changes are hard for Brandon, too, and he doesn’t have the tools he needs to communicate with his family. Both Darrell and Betty have been involved in coordinating support groups for other special needs families, but right now, it is just too hard.



Misty and Larry, Cody (13), Natalie (11), and Rosemary

Misty and Larry are parents to Cody and Natalie. Both children are non-verbal, and due to some of their other disabilities, they fall easily and must be monitored closely. That's one reason the family is so grateful for Misty's mother Rosemary who helps out a good deal, especially when Larry is unable to get off work. The constant 24/7 caregiving routines are hard, but the family chooses to look on the bright side and reflects the joy of the Lord.



Mary, Aaron, and Children (No picture)

Mary and her husband, Aaron, are the parents of 5 children: Keleigh (5), Michael (9), Josiah (11), Marissa (20), Jaron (21). Mary has diabetes, and each one of the children has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS). EDS is a connective tissue disorder, and in this family's case, they know the pain of constant dislocated joints, osteoarthritis and scoliosis. They have a good support system through their Mennonite community, but because Mary and Aaron do not take assistance from the government, they have many needs. With five children living with chronic health conditions, they are hard-pressed on many sides. They need prayer; and they need reminders from Scripture that God will take care of them.

Please mail all notes, gift cards, poems, etc. to:

Attn: Heart for the Disabled
Joni and Friends
PO Box 3333
Agoura Hills, CA 91376

Checks can be made payable to JONI AND FRIENDS with the memo line HEART FOR THE DISABLED: (family name). We will then make a check to the family for the amount you specified.

In order to respect the privacy of each family, we cannot provide additional information, such as mailing addresses or phone numbers. There is no deadline for sending your notes of encouragement. We will sort through the gift items and mail each family its package of cards and gifts, with the first package to arrive on Valentine's Day, February 14.