

# Family of boy with cancer seeks money

The parents of 2-year-old Jayme Cassell are thankful to have their young son home after a custody battle with the state Department of Social Services.

Shannon and Jerry Cassell of Redford Township are beginning treatments for Jayme's cancer and want to make sure the toddler has a nice Christmas. But they don't have a lot of money.

"I wouldn't normally ask for money, but it's been hard," said Jerry Cassell, a former Farmington resident who is a self-employed private counselor-therapist, who runs the Perfect Channel Counseling Center on 12 Mile in Southfield. Shannon books appointments.

Jerry Cassell estimated the alternative treatment methods would initially cost nearly \$4,000. Anyone wishing to help may send donations for the Jayme Cassell Fund to: Inspiration America,

34997 Joy Road, Dearborn Heights 48127, or call to learn more about the treatments at 1-800-860-0900.

The Cassells appeared on a recent "Maury Povich Show" to discuss their ordeal and the treatments they are seeking for their son.

The Cassells would also appreciate Christmas presents for Jayme.

"But we would especially appreciate everyone's prayers," said Jerry Cassell.

Jerry Cassell said that it's been difficult for him to continue working during this ordeal.

The family has only one car and limited resources.

Diane Maloney, their Redford friend and baby sitter, organized a carter drive at South Redford's Pierce Middle School. Some \$700 has been raised since Nov. 24. Eighth-grader Justin Byrd,

Jayme's half-brother, attends Pierce.

Pierce principal Lorraine Yach said canisters are placed throughout the school and are passed after lunch.

Shannon Cassell discovered a large lump on Jayme's liver in late October.

The couple did not want a biopsy performed on Jayme because they feared the test would cause the cancer to spread faster.

They decided to seek a second opinion, but the physician wanted to know the doctor they were going to and the recommended treatment.

That's when the physician notified the Department of Social Services which eventually took custody of Jayme.

The 2-year-old child was taken from Shannon and Jerry Cassell at their Redford Township home on Nov. 10 by a DSS staff mem-

ber, assisted by local police officers.

Jayme spent a month in Children's Hospital. After being released from the hospital, Jayme stayed at an aunt's home until Monday's court ruling.

While in Children's Hospital, doctors ran tests showing that about 80 percent of Jayme's liver is diseased with malignant cancer, she said.

The Cassells oppose chemotherapy and are afraid surgery will cause Jayme's liver cancer to spread. Cancer has already affected 80 percent of Jayme's liver, Cassell said.

Cassell was the director of community education for Brighton Area Schools, serving from June 1971 to June 1981. He is a 1969 Farmington High graduate, with psychology degrees from Central Michigan University.

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# Church program helps clothe needy children

This winter will be a lot warmer for a Farmington-area family thanks to the recently completed Cloth-a-child program at Forest Park Baptist Church in Farmington Hills.

Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union, the church collected cash and clothing contributions to provide four children in one family, referred by the Love for Children program, with winter hats, coats, mittens and boots.

In addition, three complete back-to-school outfits were provided for a child in another family.

Helping wrap the gifts were Girls in Action members Heather Strubank, leader Teresa Orr, Danielle Dunn, Deanna Dunn, co-leader Michelle Dempsey, Paulina Vargas, Heather Vanderlaan, Melanie Vanderlaan, Christina Foran and Elizabeth Maynard.

Additional mission action projects at the church included Thanksgiving food baskets put together and delivered by the children's Sunday School Department and the making of Christmas bills by missionary union members to be distributed to


WIC (Women Infants and Children) participants.

Forest Park Baptist Church offers mission action and education

programs for children and teens each Wednesday at 7 p.m. For more information call the church at 476-0080.

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**Individual assessment**  
The Providence and Charter House respite care program is designed to serve individuals incapable of independent living but those not requiring 24-hour institutional care. Therefore, each potential participant must be assessed in their homes, free of charge, prior to acceptance in the program.

**Program information**  
If you would like additional information or a brochure about the Providence and Charter House respite care program, please contact the Charter Care Corporation at 24500 Meadowbrook Road in Novi. The phone number is 477-2000.



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