



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Japhet School Launches Cameron's Crusade

**Madison Heights, Michigan** - Japhet School, the award-winning school in Madison Heights, is sponsoring a service project to assist a local family. The school invites the community to join in a variety of fun spring activities that will raise money for Cameron's Crusade, or donate directly to the cause. The goals: to provide the family with a gait trainer, wheelchair lift, wobble switch, and full-support swing for their disabled child. Cameron's mother Julia teaches math at Japhet School, and his sister Grace attends Japhet as a first-grader.

Cameron Wasiluk, 11 years old of Warren, was a healthy child at age 5 when a common illness developed severe complications without explanation. Struck with "status epilepsy," Cameron's tiny body sustained more than 150 seizures daily. He spent months in the ICU until finally, to save his life, doctors had to remove part of his brain. Today Cameron still has severe epilepsy, is cortically blind, is nonverbal, uses a feeding tube, and has recently developed osteoporosis.

"The day-to-day life with a special needs child throws us many challenges," says Julia. "While we have been fortunate to get some equipment for Cameron, one thing that continues to get harder is transferring, moving, and walking with Cameron. Just recently he started to fall on the driveway, and I wasn't able to keep him up. We both fell onto the concrete. We are trying to work towards getting what is needed to move Cameron around in a way that is safer for him and for us."

A parent-teacher committee launched "Cameron's Crusade" and immediately began planning activities that would help raise funds. With a restaurant night, used book sale, bowling event, and individual donations, already the school has raised more than \$2,000, but the equipment goal items cost upwards of \$6,500.

"We are a family-oriented student community," says Head of School Cathy Mohan. "Our small setting is an ideal place for children to learn, but it can be a challenge to share our service endeavors outside our community of 70 families. We want to invite others to join us and have an immediate impact on the life of this 11-year-old boy and his family."

Among the first steps was launching a website -- <http://www.cameronscrusade.org/> -- which shares Cameron's full story, the service project, and its goals. Events that the school is sponsoring are open to the community.

- Talent Show: March 31, 3:45 PM: Come to Japhet School's Talent Show. Proceeds from the school's annual Talent Show always benefit a service project. Admission is \$10 per family.
- Mad Science: May 13, 3:45 PM: Get ready to be mystified by by molecules and amazed by atmospheric pressure. Witness a Mad Science hovercraft zoom across the floor! Admission is \$5 per person. The presentation is being donated, so all admission funds benefit Cameron's Crusade!

"While almost every aspect of life has changed for us, we are thankful every single day for Cameron and his sister, Grace, and all the love they bring us, and for all the wonderful people who have helped us along this difficult journey," says Julia. To support Cameron's Crusade by attending a Japhet School event or donating directly, contact [betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org](mailto:betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org).

(more)

### **About Japhet School:**

Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare children for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes, which are purposefully designed as “blends” or two-grade classrooms. This setup enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School’s national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school and creates leaders with integrity. Japhet is a National School of Character, and was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award.

As a part of its educational philosophy, Japhet School teaches children that “With the gift of knowledge and the understanding of moral and spiritual values comes an obligation to help mankind.” Each year the school purposefully engages its students in several service activities throughout the year.

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PHOTO: Julia, Cameron, and Kurt Wasiluk of Warren, Michigan. Julia is a Japhet School teacher.



