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Every year we ask that requests for help be submitted to our web site www.helpfriendsindeed.org. This letter came to us via our web site and was written by Emilee's mother hoping we could help them.

"I am the single mother of a former 27 week premature infant, Emilee Rose. She was born weighing 1.6 pounds and was 12.2" long. Emilee was born with numerous medical conditions; some have cleared and some we are still working on. Her current medical conditions are: BPD (chronic lung disease), severe reflux and SID (sensory integration disorder). Emilee's BPD requires her to be on oxygen 24 hours a day and breathing treatments twice daily. Her reflux has her on two medications three times a day and sleeping in an upright position. And her SID has her tremorous at times with overstimulation from sounds, light or texture, and at times just can't be touched. She cannot tolerate being outside more than 15 minutes. This disorder falls under Autism. I have done everything I can financially to help Emilee. I have cancelled my own COBRA insurance to have funds available to pay for her needs, sold most of my possessions, and my parents have depleted their funds giving all they can. I simply cannot keep up financially with the many medical demands that Emilee has. I have been unemployed since 8/09, my unemployment is due to run out at any time now, and state medical assistance continues to make cuts, leaving more monthly out of pocket expenses that I can't afford. Trying to pay rent or keep utilities on is barely possible.

However, in order to help other parents in my same situation with a premature infant, and to earn enough money to support Emilee and myself, I am in the process of building a new business called Emilee's Helping Hands. I spent countless hours researching and navigating the resources available to babies that are born extremely prematurely. There is a real need for these families to have someone help them, especially at a time when they are almost singularly focused on their child's health. Emilee's Helping Hands can provide these families with the support and information that will help ease their burden. I already have a website, emileeshelpinghands-com.webs.com.

Asking for help is something I had never done prior to Emilee's birth. However, I am at a point where I am desperate and honestly have no other place to turn. You have no idea how much Emilee and I need your help, and it would be greatly appreciated. Should you choose to help Emilee Rose, it would impact our lives tremendously! I would be able to afford Emilee's medical needs and keep a roof over her head. It would ease my mind and keep me focused on being able to continue to give Emilee the love, hope and attention that she deserves."

I thank you for your time and consideration,

God Bless,
Christina

We are proud to announce this year's recipient is Emilee Rose and her mom, Christina. We are having a fundraiser for Emilee Rose on June 23rd from noon to 4:00 pm at Moretti's Cadillac Ranch at 1175 W Lake Street in Bartlett, Illinois.

Friends in Deed



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