

Congratulations

Our Vice President, Teisha M. Bell, has graduated with a degree in Respiratory Care, and is now a Certified Respiratory Therapist. Kudos, Teisha!

Contributors

The Children's Secret Garden:
Pam Harper
Mildred Cooper Miller
Henry & Betty Hastings
Timothy & Mary Schlabach
Frank & Peggy Rizzolo
Joseph & Joanne Proulx
Frank & Jeri Krawczyk
Van & Penny Milligan
Jean Sowell
Kenneth & Darlene Steels
Stephen & Rebecca Sue Stop
Stephanie L. Grossi
Governor Thomas R. Carper

What Would You Pay For This Stroller?

If you were lucky enough to have a "normal, healthy" child, you could purchase an item like this at a local department store for around \$100.00 or less. But if you have a handicapped child, you'd pay around \$2000.00.

Often insurance companies deny coverage for items that a child with disabilities needs. Whether these items are "necessary" to improve the quality of life for that child or to assist that child in accomplishing an activity, doesn't make a difference to insurance companies. That's where The Kaitlin Marie Bell Foundation makes a difference. This foundation assists families in getting the items necessary to make a profound difference in that child's life - and their family's. But



we can't do it without help from people like you.

Contributions to The Kaitlin Marie Bell Foundation make it possible for the child with disabilities to have that stroller, so that he/she may join the family on a trip to the local park or mall. It may provide a car seat, or a walker, or another piece of equipment the insurance company has denied to pay for. To expect the families of these children to pay for these items out of pocket is impossible. These families have endured hardships that we, as parents of "normal, healthy" children, can't imagine. They have been drained both emotionally and financially, and will continue to be.

Sharon Swift

INCREDIBLE NUMBERS

Equipment for a new baby or toddler can be expensive for a family. Cribs, strollers and car seats cost about \$100 or more; highchairs can run \$75 or more. These costs can seem high, but in all likelihood the infant or toddler will eventually develop and improve their physical abilities so that they no longer need "special" equipment.

Often this is not the case for children with disabilities. Physical impairments make it difficult for them to develop the strength and control needed to sit, stand, or walk independently. "Special" equipment is needed to help children with disabilities and their families to accomplish regular, daily activities that we take for granted. Unfortunately, the cost of this type of adaptive equipment far exceeds the costs listed above. Insurance may pay for some equipment but often deny coverage for items that are critically needed for families to function. The costs can be high: wheelchair ramps - \$400, spe-



cial bath chairs - \$300-\$600, adapted strollers - \$2000, adapted toilets - \$700, adapted car seats - \$500, manual lifts - \$400, home elevator lifts - \$18,000. For some children and their families, the needs go on and on.

These are items that families and children without disabilities will never need. However, for children with disabilities, this equipment allows them to function safely within their homes and communities. It is designed to provide support where the child needs it. The equipment also allows the family members or caregivers to assist the child safely and without hurting themselves in the process.

Providing financial assistance to help purchase needed equipment does help improve the quality of life for both children with disabilities and their families.

Debbie Kiser

*The
Kaitlin Marie Bell
Foundation, Inc.*

*To Learn...
To Grow...
To Succeed!*

