

# Southeast Polk Men's Swimming

## Supporting Spreading Joy for Joe

### January 12, 2019

We will be collecting the following items...

toiletry items, gift cards for nearby restaurants and gas stations, books and magazines, paper, snacks, etc...anything that will make their stay a little more comfortable. We are also accepting monetary donations, so we are able to top the gift bags off with whatever left is needed.

A note from Joe's mother Amber..

My children were in a terrible car accident this past Christmas Eve (2017) right outside of Altoona, as they were traveling to their father's home to celebrate Christmas with their siblings. Joseph, age 16, a Junior at SEP, lost his life. My daughter Maddie, age 20, survived. (Maddie had extensive injuries including a broken neck, broken pelvis in 4 places, broken tailbone, shattered arm and elbow, bleed on her brain, blown tendons in her knees, bad concussion, bruised organs, and several broken teeth.)

With Joseph's 2 paychecks from his employer Hy-Vee in Altoona, I wanted to do something special. I purchased art supplies, books, and craft projects for children. My kids and I will be donating them to Blank Children's Hospitals this coming Christmas. This got me thinking...and this is how I came up with **Spreading Joy for Joe**.

With the accident happening on Christmas Eve, and Maddie fighting for her life in the hospital, our entire family drove there immediately. We were without several of our necessity items. I stayed with Maddie the entire month she was in the hospital. Someone donated a Christmas blanket for Maddie, toiletry items for me, comfort items such as blankets and fuzzy socks etc...

My children and I would like to make gift bags for children and their families that have suffered a tragedy or sickness. We understand the pain and suffering they are going through, especially during the holidays. We will be including the art supplies and books purchased with Joseph's paychecks. We want to add a nice blanket in each bag, toiletry items, gift cards for nearby restaurants and gas stations, books and magazines, paper, snacks, etc...anything that will make their stay a little more comfortable. We are also accepting monetary donations, so we are able to top the gift bags off with whatever left is needed.

Our gift bags will be made for children up to age 18.

We want some good to come from our tragedy. We want to spread kindness in our community.