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Release: Immediate

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR FT MYERS ONE-YEAR-OLD WITH MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES

#TeamKyler Comes Together: Learn How You Can Help, Too

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Despite his significant ongoing medical and mobility challenges, one-year-old Kyler Schmidt is a happy kid. Kyler has been living with major health issues since he was born in July 2020. The Fort Myers community is rallying to cover Kyler and his family with help, hope, and financial assistance as they face the ongoing challenges of his care—learn how you can help.

Kyler began experiencing seizures at birth—as many as 30 seizures every day. He was diagnosed with hemimegalencephaly, or HME, with hemiplegic cerebral palsy on his left side. He has the developmental capabilities of a five-month-old: he cannot sit, walk, or talk. While Kyler has received a critical surgery that should reduce his risk of seizures, his family will have to continue to manage his complex health needs, including regular sessions with specialists such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and cardiologists.

The costs associated with Kyler’s ongoing care are overwhelming and often not fully covered by insurance. Kyler’s mother has been forced to return to working full-time just to cover medical bills and equipment—but frustratingly, that full-time income will reduce Kyler’s state-based Medicaid benefits, resulting in new financial challenges.

When friends and family members realized the immense financial burden that the Schmidt family would be facing, they immediately assembled a force to lift the family’s spirits and help with immediate financial needs: [#TeamKyler](#). They started a tax-deductible fundraising campaign with the trusted national nonprofit Help Hope Live at: <https://helphopelive.org/campaign/19127/>

“No parent should have to worry about financial stress when dealing with this,” explained a friend on Kyler’s fundraising page. “Our hope is that we can take some of the financial burden off the family so they can focus solely on taking care of their precious baby boy.”

Because Help Hope Live is a nonprofit, the funds raised in Kyler’s honor won’t impact his Medicaid benefits or count as income/assets to his family—a critical point of difference over crowdfunding sites like GoFundMe.



Help Hope Live

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The family shared a hope-filled update on the fundraising page in September: “Thank you everyone for the hearts that you have—there are no better friends and family.” On October 1, they shared that Kyler had his first-ever belly laugh.

You can make a donation to assist with out-of-pocket medical and related expenses at:

<https://helphopelive.org/campaign/19127/>

Subscribe to Kyler’s Campaign Page to receive regular updates, including new photos and videos. To learn how else you can get involved with Kyler’s fundraising campaign, call the nonprofit at 800-642-8399.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and all funds raised will be managed by the nonprofit to cover verified medical and related expenses. Help Hope Live verifies medical and financial need for every patient.

Help Hope Live is a national nonprofit that specializes in engaging communities in secure, tax-deductible fundraising campaigns for people who need a transplant or are affected by a catastrophic injury or illness. Since 1983, campaigns organized by Help Hope Live have raised over \$158 million to pay patient expenses.

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