

Our 2020 Recipients



Addam Simpson

Addam Simpson, 37, lives in Upper Bucks County with his wife, Desiree, 37, and five children aged 7 to 15. The home is owned by Addam's parents, who also live there. Addam became critically ill in November 2019 and was hospitalized with a diagnosis of lymphedema, acute respiratory distress syndrome and adult kidney failure. He also is being monitored for heart failure. When he was in the hospital, he went into respiratory failure and was intubated. A tracheotomy was placed, and that is how he breathes now that he is back home. His doctors have not identified the cause of the lymphedema, which causes severe swelling and fluid retention. He had been running his own construction business, but when he got sick, he lost the business, including his truck. The family is with his parents because they could not afford their rent. Desiree has gotten a fulltime job, a first for her, since she was a full-time mom. The Simpson family would use any funds COB assists with to move out of the parents' home and to get another vehicle. Addam's hope is for his tracheotomy to be removed and to be able to work again. However, his prognosis is uncertain.

"Everyone wants to change the world, but we must start in our own homes, with our neighbors and in our own communities." Manuel Corazzari



Joseph and Jamie Gambetta

Joseph, 37, and Jamie, 32, live with three sons and a daughter in a trailer home in Center Valley. The children are aged 12 to 5. They bought the home four years ago but it has turned out to have basic, serious defects. Early in 2019, Jamie began having headaches and dizziness. She was working at a Dollar Tree and was on track to become manager but her illness put an end to that. She was diagnosed with idiopathic intracranial hypertension, or increased pressure inside the skull. The cause is not known, but Jamie is scheduled for surgery to reduce the pressure. Doctors tell them the prognosis is uncertain. Meanwhile, Joseph broke spine bones when he fell carrying furniture on his job with Servicemaster. He has had spinal fusion surgery but still is in constant pain. He no longer can work. Yet, he is responsible for all household chores and care of the children. With help from COB and our partners, they plan to rehab their home and get caught up on credit card bills and other debt.

How You Can Help

MAKE A DONATION:

By check payable to COB and sent to

St. John's UCC, 538 E. Thomas St. Coopersburg, PA
18036

By visiting www.cobcares.org

TELL OTHERS ABOUT US



2020

COB'S 19TH YEAR

IN TIMES OF NEED A COMMUNITY STANDS FAST...

Who We Are

The *Community Outreach Benefit* began 19 years ago when members of St. John's UCC became aware of the financial burden of one of its families and desired to raise money to lend a financial helping hand. The benefit raised \$8200 that first year.

The 2002 event proved so successful and gratifying that COB events became an annual event. COBcares has raised \$950,000 for 61 families with financial hardships due to medical needs in the surrounding communities.

Our COBcares Team is proud and grateful for all the support received from area churches, countless businesses, service organizations, individual donors and giving volunteers who will once again combine to help our recipients this year.

... TO HELP THOSE WHO NEED AN EXTRA HAND.

Our Mission

To reach out to those in need

To reach out to the Southern Lehigh and neighboring communities through a yearly fundraiser for a recipient(s) who is/are in need of monetary support due to one or more serious health issues. We pledge to keep our overhead to a minimum.

Our Focus for 2020

To raise \$50,000

By raising \$50,000 this year, COB will reach after 19 years a total of one million dollars.

No mega raffle, no golf tournament, no 5K or fun run, and no basket raffle this year. Just a simple appeal for your generous donations to support and celebrate COB's last year.

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." Kathy Calvin

DONATE NOW
at
COBCARES.ORG



Logan Stokes and Family

Logan Stokes, almost 2, was at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, CHOP, earlier this year waiting for a lung and heart transplant. He's now back home and the family does not know when, or even if, the transplant will proceed. They also don't know what future surgeries Logan will need as he grows. Logan is the son of Adam and Ivelisse "Ivy" Stokes. His sister, Leilani, is 10. They live in the Breinigsville area of Lehigh County. Logan's condition is hypoplastic left heart syndrome with pulmonary stenosis. As part of his care, a feeding tube was placed at birth and he began on "real" food, a slow process. Keeping up his blood oxygen levels is a constant challenge; he has been Medevac-ed to CHOP twice for emergency procedures. The family has health insurance through Adam's employer, CreditSafe, where he works in sales. He had to give up his management position there because of the demands of caring for his family. Ivy gave up her job at CreditSafe to care for Logan. The family's savings have been depleted and their credit cards are "maxed out." Travel back and forth to CHOP costs them about \$150 a week, plus the cost of lodging and meals. (Adam says he has put 80,000 miles on his car since Logan was diagnosed.) Adam and Ivy "tag team" to also look after Leilani and help her in school. Their out-of-pocket costs are more than they can afford. With COB's help, they would like to catch up on their many debts.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. Dr. Seuss

"As one person I cannot change the world, But I can change the world of one person. Paul Shane Spear

Shannon and Richard Leary

Shannon and Richard Leary, both 38, live in Quakertown with their three sons, aged 12 to 17. Shannon's diagnosis is complicated and somewhat uncertain, but it includes colitis and endometriosis. Since the birth of their youngest son, she has endured many cycles of infections and surgeries. Following one surgery at Grand View Hospital, she lost most of the function in her left leg. She uses a power wheelchair and on "good days" can take a few steps. Treatments leave Shannon very weak and tired. Most days, Richard leaves work or takes days off to help her. She also has had surgeries at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. More recently, they are hoping for a definite diagnosis of what causes the infections and a new treatment plan. Richard has worked for 12 years at Worth & Co., mechanical contractors in Pipersville. He has insurance but it has a high deductible and they have depleted their savings and a 401k. The couple estimates their medical debt at \$100,000, but over the years, portions have been written off. They also have fallen behind on their rent, but their landlord has been very understanding and they do catch up. A big thing they would like help with is a van with a ramp to transport Shannon's wheelchair.

