

**MEDIA ALERT**

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**Local Kids Receive Switch Adapted Toys and Activation Switches  
at Kmart's First Adapt-A-Toy Event**

**WHO:** Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation, Kmart, School Health and Easter Seals

**WHAT:** *Adapt-A-Toy Special Event.*

Ben Smiles and Kmart have partnered to gift specially adapted toys to kids with developmental and motor delays/disabilities. Families/Children could apply through Easter Seals to participate. They will also have the opportunity to receive their new toy gift from Santa and have a special photo taken.

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 26 from 1 -3pm

**WHERE:** Kmart in Norridge, 4201 North Harlem

**WHY:** To make a positive impact with families who would benefit from these toys this holiday season. Some children with developmental or motor delays may not be able to control their arm/hand movements allowing them to play with 'typical' age-appropriate toys. Toys can be modified for use with an activation switch, enabling a child to easily access a toy. These toys can be hard to find and expensive. Families may not have the resources available to acquire these toys, may not know they exist or even how to buy them.

**PHOTO OP:** There will be 8-10 kids/families receiving new switch-adapted toys. Kids with Santa. Representatives from Ben Smiles, Kmart and Easter Seals will be in attendance. Possible toy adapting on site.

About Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation

Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation was founded in partner with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley spring 2017 by Rob & Elizabeth Gerlach close to a year after they lost their son Benjamin Robert. Ben Smiles is dedicated to enhancing the playing, learning and living of special kids and their families by gifting toys and other important devices to kids like their son Ben. More information can be found at [www.BenSmiles.org](http://www.BenSmiles.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bensmiles](https://www.facebook.com/bensmiles)

About Easter Seals

Easter Seals' mission is to enable infants, children, and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum independence, and to provide support for the families who love and care for them. Their vision is that all children receive the developmental services they need to live their best life. [www.EasterSeals.com/dfv](http://www.EasterSeals.com/dfv).