



## Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation

### *Ben's Toy Closet*

*Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation* was established by Rob and Elizabeth Gerlach after their three-year-old son Benjamin passed away in May 2016 after a long battle with various respiratory illnesses. Ben was a happy, smart little boy who had severe physical limitations. He was diagnosed with quadriplegia cerebral palsy and epilepsy, was nonverbal and required a feeding tube. Despite his challenges, he smiled every single day.

**Ben's Toy Closet** is a program where children with *differentabilities* can receive toys, switches or other devices that would enable them to play and learn. Kids of all ages and abilities need access to their environment. They learn, grow and develop through play, but unfortunately not all children have the typical motor movement (ability to grasp and free movement of arms/legs) that allows them to easily access standard toys and their environment. Special equipment, adapted toys and other tools are out there but they can be expensive, hard to find, and many times, are not covered by insurance or come with large copays.

The Gerlach's mission is to gift as many toys and other important devices as possible to special kids and their families.

**To learn more or to request a toy**  
 please visit [www.BenSmiles.org/BensToyCloset](http://www.BenSmiles.org/BensToyCloset)  
[Application form](#)



[www.BenSmiles.org](http://www.BenSmiles.org) | 312.636.2969 | [BenSmiles@yahoo.com](mailto:BenSmiles@yahoo.com)

Monetary donations can be made here: [go.cffrv.org/BenSmiles](http://go.cffrv.org/BenSmiles)

*Ben Smiles Memorial Foundation was created in partner with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, a 501c3 organization.*