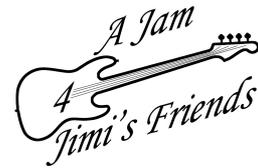




## History of Jam 4 Jimi's Friend's



I am writing this story to tell you about how a very special fundraiser got started.

In 2007, I was in a difficult financial position and needed a hand to get my son Jimi into a much-needed clinic for his Asperger's Syndrome. I, a bartender, asked my high school friend, Chris Powers, a drummer in a band, if I had a fundraiser, would your band play?

From there it was a whirlwind of friends, acquaintances, and total strangers lending a helpful hand. The Logo was designed on a bar napkin; a patron who just happened to be a graphic designer volunteered time and made it a reality. That same hand drawn logo was emailed to me within two hours and it remains our logo today. My faith in humanity was never so strong. We went from one band to ten bands; people came from all over with raffle prizes to help earn money. Friends created tickets, posters and everyone lent a hand. Every time I turned around someone else was helping out in some way. Jimi and I were so blessed to have all of these people open their hearts to us.

Needless to say, the money was raised and then some. Jimi was enrolled in the Empowered Learning Center two weeks after the 'Jam 4 Jimi' in 2007, and he is doing extremely well. He is currently mainstreamed in the 8th grade and no longer requires special services. He was given a second chance and has amazed us all with his strength and unwillingness to give up! He has been honored with "The Mayor's Youth Award" and "Milford's Promise Award" in 2014 for his continued support and assistance with "Jam 4 Jimi's Friends".

There was such an overwhelming feeling of love and selflessness in the room that day, it was overpowering. I decided right then and there that we needed to keep the spirit of giving going and do it again. This time the funds would be donated to other children in need. That is when a "Jam 4 Jimis Friend's" was created.

The first benefit was held in March of 2008, and was held to benefit 2 local families in need, as well as providing scholarships to 'Camp Happiness', a local summer camp for children with special needs. This, our 9<sup>th</sup> year now benefits 16 local children with special needs, as well as several local organization's who assist children with special needs.

Myself, Jimi & Chris, as well as ALL the wonderful volunteers, would like to thank you for all your assistance.

Kristin Wright

Jimi Wright

Christopher Powers