

You Lifted This Family Up Through Heart Transplant Recovery

Family Spotlight: Meet the Wests



Gary, Jeremy, Jason and Kristen West stay lifted up through difficult times, thanks to your Jill's House support.

"Our family has had many challenges over the past few years," said Kristen West. "Our son, Jason, has an intellectual disability with no real known diagnosis. He has a history of seizures, trouble growing, eating and moving around. He is also non-verbal. We recently went to a geneticist to see if we could learn anything new, but there is still no answer.

"This summer has been especially challenging. My husband, Gary, had a heart transplant seven-and-a-half years ago and has done well until recently. This summer he was hospitalized and unable to work. Like many other people in our economy, I was laid off four years ago and have struggled ever since to find gainful employment, at times working two jobs. It's all so unpredictable. But there is one constant in our lives: Jill's House. Jill's House brings constant joy to Jason and peace of mind to my husband and me.

"Jason started going to Jill's House when it first opened. He has enjoyed his teenage years with frequent visits, and he just celebrated his birthday last week with the friends and Jill's House staff he has learned to love. Jason needs help with all basic self-care needs, and sometimes I feel embarrassed to ask the nurses and childcare specialists to do one more thing. But the Jill's House staff is incredibly intuitive and seem to know what he needs before I tell them. It brings me such comfort. And Jason has so much fun!

"Jason especially loves the music room, dancing and swimming. He is very social by nature and loves being with other people. He attended the Jill's House Joy Prom this year and had fun watching everyone dance, and he even danced himself. Just last night he came home from Summer Days at Jill's House and he couldn't stop laughing or smiling. He was exhausted, but he laughed himself all the way to bed.



Jason loved dancing at the Jill's House Joy Prom!

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"Jason also goes to Jill's House during day camp when schools are closed. This helps me so much because sometimes I work two jobs. We are so grateful to the generous donors who make Jill's House affordable to us so that Jason can enjoy experiences he can't get anywhere else, and my husband and I can focus on the other challenges facing us. Please know that you are lifting up this family."

Jill's House has hundreds of families like the Wests on our waiting list. To donate now, visit jillshouse.org/donate.

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