



Dear ,

I am writing on behalf of children in our community that are, and that have suffered from the physically debilitating neuromuscular disease **Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)**. One special family, the McWilliams, lost their beautiful twins, Luke and Meagan, at 6 and 8 months of age, to SMA in 2007. This disease robs children of a chance at life, but does not steal their dignity or their spirit.

SMA is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two, and strikes all ages, genders, and races. One in 40 people carry the gene that causes SMA, resulting in one child in 6,000 born with this disease. Most adults don't know that they carry the gene, and are crushed when they are told that their newborn baby or child has SMA. **There is no cure, but there is hope.** We need your help to raise funds for essential research.

To help find a cure, local SMA families united to develop an organization to support FSMA, Pathways of Promise. We are hosting our third annual benefit dinner, dance, and auction on March 5, 2011 at the Elks Tower Grand Ballroom in Sacramento, CA. 100% of the proceeds from this event will be donated to **Families of SMA (FSMA)**, a volunteer-driven organization that funds research for a cure. Research to find a cure depends almost entirely on private funding.

To make this event a success, we are asking for your support in the way of:

- a tax deductible monetary donation, or
- the donation of an item for our auction

By contributing to FSMA/Pathways of Promise, your business will receive:

- exposure for your business to over 250 attendees
- valuable advertising in on-site auction materials and pre-auction advertisements
- the chance to make a difference in saving the life of a child

We invite you to participate in our inaugural year of this benefit to help give our children a future. Thank you for your consideration and support of this worthy cause. Together, *we will* find a cure!

Sincerely,

Glenn and Colleen McWilliams
Meri Stratton-Phelps
Carrie Manriquez
donations@pathwaysofpromise.org
www.pathwaysofpromise.org

Make checks payable to: FSMA / Pathways of Promise
Please mail donations to: FSMA c/o The McWilliams
1180 Jacob Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608

For questions, call Colleen McWilliams at 916-570-2770.