

# What is the Aiden McVicker Charitable Fund?

The Aiden McVicker Charitable Fund is a local, grassroots charity whose purpose is to assist children with special needs and their families. The Fund was born out of respect for Aiden McVicker, the 15 year old son of Jamey and Amy McVicker. He resides in their Cameron home with two siblings, Avery 13, and Addison 10. Aiden's extraordinary spirit and unmatched love of life is a true miracle to witness.

Aiden was born on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 with bilateral anophthalmia. This means that he was born without eyes or any eye structure (optic chiasm, nerve, etc.). As a result, Aiden does not possess vision or light perception. Aiden also must overcome the challenges that neuromuscular scoliosis of the spine brings. Thus, he has spinal rod implants to correct this issue. With all the obstacles life has thrown at him, he continues to smile and bring so much joy to the lives that he touches.

To date, thanks to our donors, supporters and volunteers, the Charitable Fund has donated nearly \$90,000 to local area children and students. We are so happy and proud of the following:

- \$29,000+ in scholarships to graduating students continuing their education in a field that will benefit these children.
- \$56,000+ in grants to children and families.
- \$3000+ to organizations such as UCP and CCVI.

Hearing aids, residential therapy and care, van modification for a wheelchair, parental attendance to an Autism Conference, an adaptive jogger, an inclusive and wheelchair accessible playground and a custom power chair are a few of the grants that have been awarded since our inception. A second goal of the charity is to increase the professional workforce in the region that would play a major role in the life of these children. Finally, in an effort to align ourselves with other organizations who share similar fundamental goals, another \$3000 has been given to assist our missions.

Aiden is the most fun-loving, trusting and hard-working kid one could meet. The moment you hold him, see him smile or hear his giggle, you realize that he gives so much of himself to you. He cannot verbally express his strong spirit, but he knows how to love even though he has had to fight for every second to do it! Aces Fore Aiden was established to honor him and his spirit. It is the wish of his parents that he understands love, touches as many peoples' lives as possible and that his All-American spirit be witnessed and duplicated.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit The Aiden McVicker Charitable Fund, which assists specialized schools & organizations, such as CCVI of KC, and UCP of St. Joseph, etc. Monies will also be used to assist families in the area needing assistance for educational classes/conferences, adaptive devices, etc. for their child's special needs. Other donations to include but not limited to: Assistance for camps, competitions, other sports/cultural booster activities, and scholarships.

Our organization could not exist without the sponsors, volunteers and participants that support and believe in Aiden and our mission as the Aiden McVicker Charitable Fund. We are truly blessed by all each of you and truly appreciate your support.