



## James Karl Stendal

April 24, 1974 - July 16, 2023

James (Jamie) Karl Stendal, age 49, passed away unexpectedly on July 16, 2023. Born on April 24, 1974 in Edina, MN, Jamie suffered a brain injury at birth resulting in severe physical limitations and was a quadriplegic throughout his life, with speech limited to a few words.

However, Jamie's life was a testament to the adage that success and happiness in life are not determined by the cards you are dealt, but rather by how well you play the cards you were given. Two of the cards in Jamie's hand were a beautiful smile and a zest for life, and he played them brilliantly. Even with his limited vocabulary he had a marvelous ability to make friends wherever he went. "Hi" and his infectious smile was always a winning hand!

Jamie lived with his parents for 36 years in Minnetonka and then Eden Prairie. He graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1996. In 2010 Jamie moved into a Homeward Bound group home in St. Louis Park when his parents could no longer meet his health care needs in their home. He loved it so much at Webster House that his mother had to be reminded that it was actually a good thing that Jamie was ready to live semi-independently, and he thrived there. He also enjoyed going to his Monday-Friday 'job' at Midwest Special Services in Brooklyn Park.

Special thanks to: David and Nancy Gilbert, who were Jamie's personal care

attendants for many years; Scott and Lorie Noland, who accompanied Jamie to Arizona earlier this year to visit his parents at their winter home; the staff at Homeward Bound and Midwest Special Services; the many devoted volunteers, family, and friends who provided in-home therapy to Jamie; and Courage Center and Gillette Children's Clinics.

Jamie was preceded in death by his grandparents, Pastor Karl Stendal and Christine (Johnson) Stendal, and Robert Smith and Ruth (Morrison) Smith. He is survived by his parents, David and Sharon Stendal; brothers, Christopher (Sandra), Lance (Stephanie), Brandon (Michele); nieces and nephews, Mitchell (Andrea), Cassandra (Charles Houghton), Andrew (April), Emma, Ella, Olivia, and Ava; great-nieces, Maren and Kaija; and many aunts and uncles and cousins.

A visitation will be held on Monday, July 24th, from 4-7 PM, at Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel. The funeral service will take place the following day at 11 AM, with visitation one hour prior, at Plymouth Covenant Church, 4300 Vicksburg Lane N, Plymouth. Interment to follow at 2 PM at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Homeward Bound, Midwest Special Services, or Plymouth Covenant Church in Jamie's honor.

Jamie's life may not have been easy or perfect, but it was extraordinary, filled with love, laughter, joy, and a strong faith in his Lord. His unforgettable smile and joyful spirit should serve to remind us all of the joy, love and worth that can be found in every life, regardless of its challenges.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 24. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel  
7625 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

## Visitation

JUL 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Plymouth Covenant Church  
4300 North Vicksburg Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55305

## Church Service

JUL 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Plymouth Covenant Church  
4300 North Vicksburg Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55305

## Graveside Service

JUL 25. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)  
3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *Stendal Family Photos*



Chris Stendal - July 24, 2023 at 10:48 AM

AL

*This is really beautiful, Chris! Thanks for sharing. Jamie is so loved.*

Andrea Liddell - July 24, 2023 at 11:00 AM

GS

*What an awesome and amazing Tribute!! Jamie touched so many lives!*

Gary Smith - July 24, 2023 at 04:20 PM

RS

*This video was amazing and showed how Jamie filled every life that he encountered with love. His memory will fill our hearts with joy for the way he lived his life. Jamie always had a smile for everyone. A lesson that we all can learn from him. Love, Ross Heidi, Jenna and Leah*

Ross Smith - July 25, 2023 at 01:54 PM

EB

*Sending comforting prayers to Brandon and the Stendals. What a beautiful tribute video to honor Jamies time on this Earth*

Eric Brandenburg - July 26, 2023 at 09:30 PM

GK

*My Love and deepest sympathy to Sharon, Dave and All the Stendal's. Jamie was a rock star. The biggest smile of anyone. He saw the humor in so much. He laughed and squealed! He was aware of his surroundings and all of us. I am blessed to have had Jamie in my life. He reminded me that his disabilities made him more lovable than the rest of us. I know I will see him again and that brings me much joy. It gives me great comfort knowing he is with My Mom and Dad, my sister Holly, my brothers Greg and Larry, and so many loved ones. I can only imagine Jamie up in Heaven Pain free, running around and talking to the Lord Our King. I'll love you forever Jamie K❤️*

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**Gayle Kitchel** - July 27, 2023 at 05:13 PM

SB

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Stendal family on the loss of James.*

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**Steve Birkeland** - July 23, 2023 at 09:23 AM