

## Joshua's Story

At three days old, Joshua was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect (VSD or better known as a hole in his heart). This led to him being in congestive heart failure.

Joshua also had hypotonia (low muscle tone) and didn't raise his head until he was 9 months old and finally sitting up at 13 months old.

At 16 months old, he was diagnosed with a rare chromosome defect called Smith-Magenis Syndrome.

This syndrome causes severe behavior, such as banging his head, biting his hands, and having meltdowns.

Joshua didn't eat solid food or walk until he was 2 ½ years old. He was non-verbal until he was 4 years old. I knew I would need help and advice, so our family attended support group meetings once a month, meeting many families facing the same obstacles we were. This group then dissolved. I then decided I wanted to begin a group to help others the way the former group had helped our family. This is why we began Through Joshua's Eyes.



Through Joshua's Eyes is an organization that helps families in Des Moines County, Iowa with children with special needs.



This material is neither endorsed nor sponsored by any school district in Des Moines County.

## Our Mission Statement

To educate, empower, enhance, and support families with children with special needs.



## Services

### Support Group

- A safe environment for families who have a child of any age (including adult children) with special needs to ask questions and learn from other families
- Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at Westwood Center (building behind West Avenue Church)  
Oct. - April
- 6:00 PM
- Dinner provided
- Whole family welcome

### Financial Help Available

- Provide expenses for items to improve child's lifestyle
- Apply for assistance on the website

## How You Can Help

- Attend our annual Pizza Ranch night
- Donate on our website



## How To Contact Us

Website:

[www.throughjoshvaseyes.com](http://www.throughjoshvaseyes.com)

Email:

[throughjoshvaseyes@gmail.com](mailto:throughjoshvaseyes@gmail.com)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/throughjoshvaseyesdesmoinescounty/>

Phone:

319-759-0552