

An adaptive stroller would assist Bound Brook boy

MaryLynn Schiavi, Correspondent 4:06 p.m. EST November 27, 2015

Wish 4: Adaptive stroller and educational materials — \$1,500



(Photo: Ed Pagliarini/Correspondent)

Giovanni Alexander Demetrio-Espinosa is a happy go lucky 18-month old boy and the only child of Miramar Espinosa and Misael Demetrio, residents of Bound Brook.

Despite the challenges the young boy has faced since birth, his mother describes her son as a smiling child who is always laughing.

Born 25 weeks premature and without the bottom portion of his right leg, the boy was first hospitalized for two months and after his release, returned again for three months due to fluid accumulation in his brain. At this time he has a shunt on the left side of his head to drain the fluid.

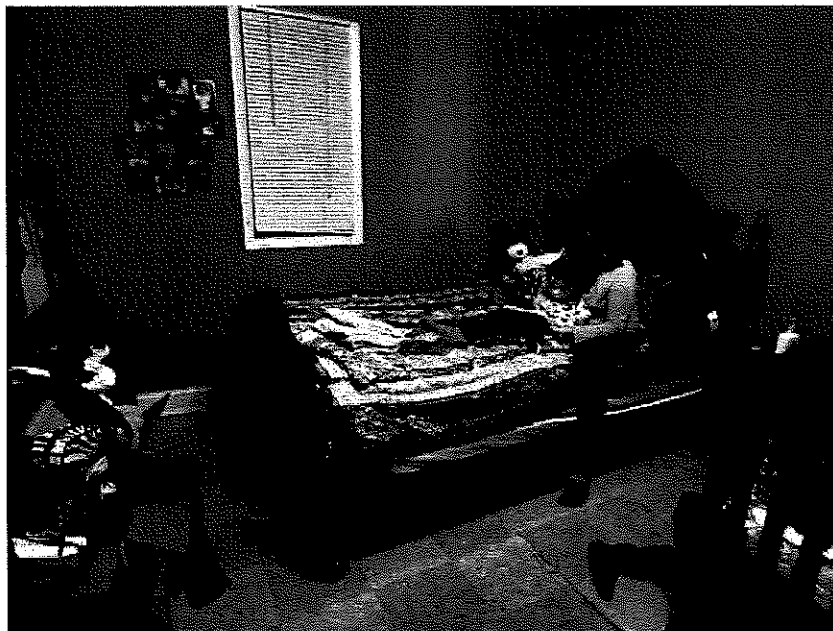
Shortly after his discharge from the hospital the second time, his parents enrolled him in The Arc of Somerset County's Early Intervention Program when it became apparent that he was not meeting his developmental milestones.

He sees several specialists and is currently enrolled in occupational and physical therapy with a developmental intervention social worker in the home supporting the family's needs.

"At this time he needs support for almost all of his daily activities. He also needs educational materials to promote cognitive development," said Jill Glassman, director of the program.

She said as he grows, an adaptive stroller will be extremely necessary for him to be mobile and participate in the daily activities of life. Due to the cost of prosthetic devices, she said the family will not be able to purchase one for him anytime soon.

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Giovanni Demetrio-Espinosa, with his mother, Marimar Espinosa, was born 25 weeks premature, is a client of The Arc of Somerset County. He was born without the bottom portion of his right leg. The family needs an adaptive stroller and educational material. (Photo: Ed Pagliarini/Correspondent)

Glassman praised the couple for their hard work and dedication to their son.

Espinosa works as a supervisor in the cleaning services department of a local hotel, and Demetrio works in the kitchen of a local restaurant.

Espinosa said she is grateful for the help she receives from The Arc of Somerset and from her mother-in-law who cares for her son when the couple is working.

“With the help of an adaptive stroller, my son would have the assistance he needs to hold his head up – which he is not able to do now,” she said.

Despite the obstacles the boy has faced from the beginning, his mother said he is always moving and seeking to explore. She hopes that with some assistance, he will be able to experience life and venture out into the world in whatever way is possible for him.

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