

GAUDET FAMILY FACT SHEET

Relationship	AGE	Occupation/Points of Interest
Steve - Husband/Father		Laid off from job as tire store manager; He and Lydia married 27 years.
Lydia - Wife/Mother		Volunteer Coordinator for Easter Seals Heads the literacy program for adults, teaches free parenting classes, member of Down Syndrome Society of Mobile County, United Cerebral Palsy
Joseph	22	Works full time at electronics store to help support family.
Chris	20	College major in occupational therapy
Thomas	17	Senior in High School
Patrick	16	9 th Grade
Michael	13	7 th Grade
Peter	9	3 rd Grade. Down Syndrome

FAMILY STORY

The Gaudet Family has a true passion for making sure that everyone in their community has access to programming and resources that can better a person's life.

Lydia is a very community minded woman and has instilled the same principles in her children. Inspired by their youngest son, who was born with Down syndrome, the family took their community involvement to a whole new level. After Peter's birth, Lydia took a permanent position with the Easter Seals to head the volunteer coordinator position. There, she teaches free parenting classes, with an emphasis on parenting special needs children. Lydia also heads a literacy program to teach adults to read. Outside of Easter Seals, the family works with United Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome Society of Mobile and Camp Smile - a camp for disabled youth and adults. Twenty-year-old Chris has been spending every summer for the past seven years working as a Counselor. The entire family has worked tirelessly to give their youngest brother and other kids like him the best opportunities available.

The family has always put others first, which is very evident by the condition of their severely neglected home. Battered by Katrina, a small pantry fire, and ten kids, their small home is showing big signs of serious distress. A leaky roof, a crumbling kitchen, and a disastrous bathroom are just a few of the many areas of the Family home that need extensive repairs.

Meanwhile, the family has been having some incredible financial difficulties. Steve has been recently laid off from his job as a manager of a tire store. The two oldest boys have taken fulltime jobs and are in college trying to help their parents during this difficult time. Because of medical expenses and education expenses, repairs to the battered home have come to a halt. To top it off, their 15 passenger van just died, leaving this family of 8 sharing one 4 passenger vehicle.