**Gift Exchange**

I had been waiting for this day for many months. The day when I would finally get my long awaited gift. Oh, how I had bragged and planned for this gift. The day was finally here. My gift was brought to me: all wrapped up and waiting to be opened. And that I eventually did. I unwrapped my gift. It looked absolutely beautiful and I loved it. But as the months rolled by, I realized that this was not the model I had requested for. Sure, it looked the same as the other model, but it just was not the same. This was a gift without a warranty. Infact, it was non-refundable, non-returnable and non-exchangeable.

Sound familiar? There are many children born with disabilities all over the world. That’s not statistics to some of us. It is our reality as parents of children with disabilities. The important thing to remember is that although these gifts may not have been the gifts we were expecting or hoping for, they are gifts all the same - gifts whose values are waiting to be discovered.

I am reminded of the story of Kodi Lee, a young man who won America’s Got Talent 2019. Kodi Lee was an individual who was born blind and also had autism. Imagine the gift his mother got when she unwrapped the present. Many of us cannot imagine how she felt when she discovered the ‘disabilities’ he had. However, in that gift was also hidden talents Kodi’s mum and more importantly the world were waiting to uncover. He is a gifted pianist and singer.

At SEN Pro Initiative, we know the feeling of unmet expectation but also the victories of realizing that children with special needs are exactly that: they are SPECIAL. They are children whose talents are waiting to be tapped and whose dreams are waiting to be actualized. You have a valuable gift.

#Nogiftexchange #stirthegift #treasurehunt #kodilee #unravel #special