

## “God Moments” from the Access-Life Expo in East Tennessee!

Beyond all the numbers and details from the Access-Life Expos, our favorite thing about the outreaches are the “God Moments” that happen at each event, the reminder and evidence of His presence moving and working among the volunteers and families and even by-standers.

This year we have added a special welcome to the Expos where volunteers line the entrance at each venue much like you would see a cheerleading squad line the tunnel right before the football team runs onto the field. Every individual and family is welcomed with cheers as they enter accompanied by a volunteer “buddy”, who is their new friend and host/hostess for the day. It is especially encouraging to continue to hear those welcome sounds from the far corners of the event throughout the day as families arrive.



At our Expo in East Tennessee the activities are held at a marina and the entrance is right beside the marina’s restaurant. After we were several hours into this year’s event there, a woman emerged from the restaurant with tears streaming down her face. She shared how her heart had been touched by watching from the window as every participant was cheered for like super stars - which on that day they were!

Another “God moment”, or several combined into one for Leanne personally at the Expo in Dandridge, TN this August was when she chatted with a couple, who has two children with disabilities that she knew from previous camps in which we had been involved. As they stood there surrounded by the flurry of activities catching up and enjoying each other’s company, she was impacted by watching the parents observe their children interacting with their buddies.

Several times the mom stopped in the midst of their conversation to point something out with great joy and astonishment, like how her son’s buddy was actually enjoying chasing the youngster all over the Expo instead of it being a chore. Leanne turned to see first-hand what the mom was experiencing and witnessed what is now a perfect picture forever etched in her mind – the young child running with a grin from ear to ear as his buddy followed right on his heels, allowing him the freedom to run while occasionally scooping him up and swinging him around as a part of their game.



In that same moment this mom also saw her teenage daughter in the craft booth nearby and noted excitedly that her buddy was from her daughter’s school. She then voiced that maybe, just maybe her daughter would now have a new friend at school and not get teased quite so much.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

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- Fill-out the enclosed response card and return it today!

#### Mission Statement

*To develop and execute programs and events for people living with disabilities that share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as connect them to Christ honoring churches, organizations, resources and people within their community.*

#### Programs

Access-Life Expo  
 Fishing with Friends  
 Crafting Community



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ACCESS-LIFE (\*) and its programs/events ACCESS-LIFE EXPOS, FISHING WITH FRIENDS, CRAFTING COMMUNITY and CAMP REFRESH were founded and are directed by Doug and Leanne Goddard.

Please submit all correspondence to: ACCESS-LIFE c/o Doug and Leanne Goddard, 5200 Watervista Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

\*ACCESS-LIFE, INC. is a 501c3 nonprofit ministry which previously did business as Fishing with Friends, INC.