

## God Pours Out Showers of Blessing on Fourth Annual North Texas Expo

With Lake Grapevine nearly nine feet below normal pool this past May, prayers for rain and lots of it were a primary focus of our local prayer partners in North Texas. And as requested, God brought the showers. In fact, it rained over the area 22 of 31 days that month and by the time June came around Lake Grapevine, where we hold the North Texas Expo, was 26 feet above normal pool! Now in Texas you never question when the rain falls because you always need it as the seasons cycle through but with the water at the roofline of both our usual food pavilion and restrooms, we needed to make an audible and relocate things fast.



Once again, God answered our prayers as a local ministry partner, Haven's Horses, who does therapeutic riding for people with disabilities, offered to host the outreach on their 55 acre ranch facility. What a great fit and fun change of venues! Even though we were unable to do

boat rides and kayaking, there was a stocked pond and outdoor pavilion on site allowing us to do all the other activities we normally have at the Expo. As a bonus, we were able to give more horse rides, paint some very patient ponies and even have three hayrides running all at the same time.



The weather that day, while hot as usual for Texas in June, was glorious and without a sprinkle! God brought together 875 participants, volunteers and exhibitors and the smiles, new friendships and presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus were all seen in so many places and in so many ways. In fact, it was as if God were showering blessings on us throughout the whole day. From the cheers at the welcome line with encouraging sidewalk chalk art to the smoked BBQ sliders served with other lunch items, the North Texas Expo, despite being moved to a new location just ten days before, was full of God's blessings.

All in all, it reminds us of both the power of prayer and God's faithfulness. He always goes before us preparing the way and when we follow Him, we find that as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm says: "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life".



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

**Programs:** Access-Life Expos, Access-Life Outposts, Fishing with Friends, Crafting Community and Prayer and Care

**Board of Directors:** Doug Goddard, Ed Nordine, John Deeds, Leanne Goddard, Lisa Deeds, Mary Hayes, Nick Whitaker, Rob Jasper, Tracy Lewis, Vickie Holmes, Wanda Hathaway and Wendy Nordine



## Area Updates

**Jacksonville, FL:** The first annual **Big Wheel Deal** wheelchair basketball game to benefit the **Access-Life Expo** in Jacksonville, FL will be at Christ's Church Mandarin's gym on **November 13<sup>th</sup>**. If interested in supporting, playing, cheering or just attending this free and fun event contact Doug Goddard at [doug@access-life.org](mailto:doug@access-life.org).

**North Texas:** Quarterly **Prayer and Care** fellowships are a mainstay for this area with the next gathering set for **September 29<sup>th</sup>**. If interested in participating and praying for the local disability community or even hosting a future **Prayer and Care** fellowship contact Bill Matheu at [bill@caltexfunding.com](mailto:bill@caltexfunding.com).

**East Tennessee:** Our Outpost Team in this area love fellowshiping and have an old fashioned **Ice Cream Social** set for this coming **September 27<sup>th</sup>**. If interested in volunteering or just attending this free and fun event with family and friends contact Mary Hayes at [mhayes3887@gmail.com](mailto:mhayes3887@gmail.com).