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## **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.

<u>Programs:</u> Access-Life Expos, Fishing with Friends, Crafting Community and Prayer and Care

<u>Board of Directors:</u> Doug Goddard, Ed Nordine, John Deeds, Lisa Deeds, Leanne Goddard, Nick Whitaker, Rob Jasper, Wanda Hathaway and Wendy Nordine



ACCESS-LIFE (\*), its programs and events: ACCESS-LIFE EXPOS, FISHING WITH FRIENDS, CRAFTING COMMUNITY, PRAYER AND CARE were founded and are directed by Doug and Leanne Goddard.

Please submit all correspondence to: ACCESS-LIFE, INC. PO Box 99, Altoona, FL 32702

\*Access-Life, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit Christian ministry (EIN: 27-2299578). All gifts to Access-Life, Inc. are tax deductible.

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## The Presents of His Presence, Deep in the Heart of Texas



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Expo in North Texas this June was an amazing God blessed success as He brought over 900 participants and volunteers, 8 churches and 7 ministries together for time of wholesome and Christ centered fellowship and connection!

We went through over 1,000 hot dogs, 2,000 bottles of water and 1,900 pounds of ice during this year's outreach, as well as lots of popcorn, cotton candy and of course snow cones, too. From the joy on many faces as they caught their first fish or

took their first boat ride to the Prayer and Care team praying with folks, and Bible crafts being made available in both English and Spanish, God's presence was evident in so many ways that day.

Here is a testimony of a family who came out to volunteer that expresses the heart of God's grace and mercy that was experienced by so many this past June 15<sup>th</sup>. "John, the girls and I had a great time serving at the Access-Life Expo again this year. We were buddies with a man and his three young



kids. The oldest child had autism and was quite a handful! John hung out with the dad and the daughter with autism to offer him support and assistance while Olivia, Willow and I took the younger siblings around to whatever booth brought them delight. Then we hooked up periodically and ate lunch together. I really felt that the two younger siblings could breathe, relax and enjoy things that they would like on their own timing rather than everything always revolving around the older daughter's needs! We got the impression that there was not a mom in the picture of this family so I know that the Expo and the buddy system (if only for a few hours) was a much needed respite for this tired but loving family! What a divine idea you have with these Expos and with the buddy system. I know that it really fed and breathed life into this precious family that needed some love and support."

God's presence was also felt through this year's weather as many volunteers had been fervently praying for God to give us a break from the near 100 degree temperatures during set-up the day before. In turn, at 4am Saturday morning a brief storm blew through bringing cloud cover that kept temperatures below 90 degrees throughout the entire event! Like Psalm 137:5 says: "He causes the clouds to rise over the whole earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from his storehouses."



All in all, God was everywhere we looked this year in North Texas. His surrounding presence brought so many presents to us all, volunteers and participants alike. Even in the food pavilion after lunch there was a volunteer praying with his buddy and family. They were not saying grace either. They were all standing around the young boy with Spina Bifida and lifting him and the rest of the family up to the Lord in a mighty way! That was this year's event though: God showing up quite often and especially where you'd least expect to see Him. ©