



Five Years of Faith, Fellowship and Fun in East Tennessee

This year's Expo in Dandridge, TN was the fifth one in as many years in the Volunteer State. Since 2010, there have been 2,761 attendees including 679 this August 25th which is definitely a blessing worth celebrating!

To mark this milestone event 5th anniversary canvas bags, Access-Life lanyard name badges and classic campaign style buttons with the special logo were given out along with the usual Bible, snacks and local resource information as participants came through the registration area to check-in.

The celebration did not end there either as buggy rides pulled by a donkey, a cupcake decorating booth, and various special animal and resource exhibitors were onsite along with the annual kayaking, fishing, boating, archery, arts and crafts activities. Oh, and of course there was a hot dog supper, snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy, too!



It was such a heavenly sight to see so many folks fellowshiping together as new or old friends regardless of their abilities or disabilities. With such a large number of participants and volunteers returning year after year there is common bond that develops as folks share the experience of God's gracious presence in such a wholesome and safe atmosphere created by Him.

God was also present working mightily in so many ways touching the hearts and minds of those who attended as always. One small but memorable God moment this year came when one of the volunteers was giving out prizes for the fishing activity. After awarding the biggest fish, most fish and most dedicated fisherman, she still had one prize left. As she searched for just the right participant she saw a family who had tried fishing earlier but had not caught anything. They were in the parking lot on their way to their car when she caught up to them and asked if they would like the free oil change certificate. The mom stopped and said, "Are you kidding?" The volunteer replied, "No ma'am." Then the mother of the child with the disability said, with tears in her eyes, "I just shared with my Sunday School class this morning how we needed an oil change but could not afford one." Wow, God at work meeting needs and answering prayers!



God moments like these happen at every Expo. Sometimes we are privileged to hear about them or even experience them ourselves. These are such encouragements and faith builders, as we get to see or hear exactly one small way in which God is working. However, how much more powerful is the assurance we have by faith that there are so many more God moments happening around us about which we are completely unaware. This is the blessing of God's still and quiet voice saying "I am here."

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, Nick Whitaker, Rob Jasper, Tracy Lewis, Wanda Hathaway and Wendy Nordine



Area Updates

South Florida: The third annual **Wild Life Dinner and Auction** to help fund the Pembroke Pines Expo is coming up on October 25th. If you would like to join us for this fun fundraiser email doug@access-life.org. Also, **Prayer and Care** gatherings continue to be the focus of the South Florida Outpost so if interested in starting a prayer group or participating in an existing one contact Michelle Federico at mdfederico@bellsouth.net.

North Texas: Monthly **Prayer and Care** gatherings were launched this September in North Texas with the next meeting set for October 22. If interested in hosting one of these monthly prayer fellowships or participating in one contact Bill Matheu at bill@caltexfunding.com.

East Tennessee: An ice cream social was the highlighted activity for September locally in East Tennessee with kayaking and a day of pampering for caregivers possibly on the schedule for 2015. If interested in getting involved with this fun loving group contact Tracy Lewis at tracyelewis@charter.net.