



***Behind the Scenes  
and John 3:16 at the  
North TX Expo!***

**by Tracy Vecchietti**

One of those stories is about Kevin and his son, Dylan. Kevin is a vendor who brought out a portable rock wall (accessible rock climbing was a new activity for us this year and it was a big hit!). As the Expo was winding down I got a chance to talk with Kevin who shared that seeing all the families having so much fun together, not letting any limitations hinder their experience, really impacted and encouraged him. He went on to share about his 20 year old son, Dylan who at the age of 13 had a massive heart attack. In the years since, he has had many medical complications, one of which led to an infection in his leg that required it to be amputated a little over a year ago. The loss has been devastating for Dylan. Kevin told me that after being at the Expo he now had more hope and encouragement that he would share with Dylan. What a great testimony of how the Expo is so much more than all the activities, it's about PEOPLE who need to know there is hope in Jesus!

During my time in Texas, I was also humbled to meet and hear the stories of some of our wonderful North Texas volunteer leadership team, as well as some of our Expo volunteers like Jodi, with whom I had been corresponding via email as she gathered medical supplies to donate to Belize. She was a delight to meet in person and after the Expo she was excited to share about the family with whom she had been "buddied". Yulee is a single mom with two children—a 6 year old daughter, Jules, with autism and who is nonverbal, and an 8 year old son, Josh, who is healthy, happy and all BOY! While Jules was content to be with the horses, Josh wanted to be part of all the action. He loves to fish and hit it off with one of our volunteers named

Freddy, a retired school teacher and grandfather. During the day Yulee shared about her struggles as a single mom and how nice it would be to have someone like Freddy to invest in Josh as she sometimes feels he gets left out because of Jules' high needs. Long story short, by day's end, Freddy offered to continue to invest in Josh and take him fishing once in a while with his two grandsons.

It is so encouraging to know that there are so many stories like these from each and every Expo. From the two PEOPLE who prayed to receive Christ to the twenty youth who came all the way from Clovis, NM to serve on both Friday and Saturday, God was working in so many ways at the North Texas Expo. With boating and kayaking adjustments needed per the high lake levels and coordinating food and fun for the nearly 900 folks attending in the 100+ degree heat, I don't want to down play the importance of logistics to put on any large event, but ultimately it's about PEOPLE. PEOPLE who need to feel cared for, listened to and reminded that God loves them dearly!

Attending my first North Texas Expo this past June 18<sup>th</sup>, I was reminded once again what a blessing it is to be a part of all God is doing through Access-Life! My job is mainly to help with all the behind the scenes aspects of the ministry so I sometimes get caught up in the details and I forget that what we do is about so much more. It is really about PEOPLE. Everyone, from the volunteers, to the exhibitors, to the participants, is someone who God loves and who also has a story to share.

