

FAMILY RETREATS

Joni and Friends *Family Retreat* is a week of Christ centered ministry providing a unique service to families enduring the daily stresses of caring for a family member with a disability. *Family Retreat* is a time to embrace the needs of the entire family, offering a full range of activities in an encouraging and supportive environment, where families affected by disability are welcomed, understood and accepted. It is also a great opportunity for networking and building relationships with others who know both the joys and relentless demands of life with a disability.

The day to day realities of caring for a family member with visible and/or invisible disabilities can be overwhelming. Statistics indicate that families with a member who has a disability have extraordinarily high rates of estranged relationships, stress, financial burdens, and despair. Families affected by disability often face social isolation, which compounds their practical, emotional and spiritual needs. Through *Family Retreats*, Joni and Friends shows Jesus' love to the entire family and points them toward Christ, the only true source of strength and joy. *Family Retreats* help to strengthen family bonds, supports the family through a community experienced in coping with disability-related issues and provide hope. Many have testified that *Family Retreat* has provided the strength to literally hold their family together.

Joni and Friends has been holding *Family Retreat* since 1991 and hosts approximately 28 events in 18 locations across the United States, every year. Joni and Friends also hosts approximately 20 *International Family Retreats* each year in 12 countries around the globe.