

Children With Disabilities Have Able Souls

Volunteer Spotlight: Brad Phillips



Children like Andrew enjoy singing, praising and praying in the Jill's House chapel.

Brad Phillips, better known as "Mr. Brad" during his volunteer time at Jill's House, understands first-hand what it is like to be the parent of a child with disabilities. His adult son has an intellectual disability, which has given Mr. Brad immeasurable compassion and insight to help this servant's heart share the love of Jesus with our young guests. He recently shared his belief that the children we serve are whole, healed, and perfect.

Our Heavenly Father, in His great wisdom, created each of us with the ability to praise, thank and worship Him. As we learn in the book of Revelation, all of the faithful will one day be around the throne of God in worship. It's what Our Lord deserves. It's what all of us were made to do. Children with severe disabilities are no exception. They need to experience worship and learn how to praise and give thanks. These children do not have disabled souls! God sees them today as they are in heaven . . . whole, healed and perfect. My approach is to see all of the friends of Jill's House as God sees them!

Jill's House is a unique place. Jill's House chapel is also unique. Few churches offer worship services designed especially for children with severe disabilities. Jill's House chapel services are designed to create an environment that is friendly, welcoming and safe for the children. I work for smiles as we all learn how to worship.

There are four parts to chapel, but we are always flexible to accommodate the children's special needs. We sing, we pray, we hear God's Word and everyone in attendance receives a blessing. Some of our attendees are sensitive to touch or to sounds. We plan for that. We rarely have musical instruments. We use our voices. We sing quietly if anyone in the room has sensitive ears.

I am so blessed to do God's work at Jill's House in bringing these children to Christ, and I consider Matthew 19:14 to be my mission statement: "But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.' "

Editor's note:

As a reminder, Jill's House never coerces chapel attendance or participation, and always provides alternate activities for those children whose parents request them.

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Mr. Brad meticulously crafted mini versions of the Jill's House chapel Bible out of matchboxes.