

RTBI Monthly: May Momentum & Milestones

Happy May, RTBI Family!

Things are getting pretty busy around here, and we are watching the seeds of our mission bloom into action across our community! From the bustling streets of local art festivals to the serene waters of our lakes, May has been defined by one thing: **the joy of community without boundaries**. As we look across everything that has happened over the last few weeks, we are reminded that when we work together to remove a barrier, God opens up a floodgate of blessing. Thank you for making these moments possible!

StirringWaters Milestone: The Comfort Station Plans are Set!

We have some monumental news to share regarding our permanent home at **StirringWaters**. On Friday, May 22nd, the **Friends of StirringWaters** gathered for a special site visit and dinner on-location at Lake Aurora.



The energy on the ground was electric as we officially announced that the blueprints and plans are coming together to **break ground on our ultra-inclusive Comfort Station!** This comprehensive facility will feature a fully accessible bathhouse, a central mechanical room, universal locker rooms, and dignified restrooms.



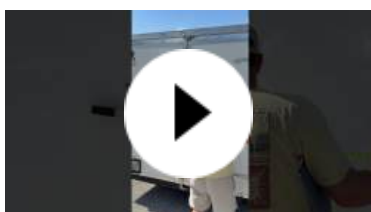
The Journey Continues: While we are celebrating this incredible milestone, the work is just beginning. We are actively continuing our fundraising efforts to support both the physical construction phases and the long-term operations of the park. It takes a community to build a sanctuary, and we invite you to stay on this journey with us as we turn blueprints into reality.



How You Can Help Build the Dream: Whether you want to provide a one-time gift to lay the foundation for this construction phase or partner with us for long-term operations, your financial support changes lives.

[See Who Is Stirring The Waters](#)

[Invest in StirringWaters Today](#)



Trailer Progress: A Huge Day of Faith in Action!

Last week was a massive milestone for our **Calming Corner and Comfort Station trailer!** We hitched it up and went straight to work:



First, we stopped by **Native Imagery** right here in Lake Wales to get the trailer precision-measured for its custom, mission-centric exterior wrap.

Immediately after, we drove over to Lakeland to drop it off at **The Mobility Store** for the official installation of the hydraulic wheelchair lift!



Welcome New Readers! What is this Mobile Sanctuary? For our new friends who have just joined our newsletter family this month, here is a quick look at what this project is all about: When families who have individuals with sensory or physical disabilities attend big community events, the environment can quickly become overwhelming, and standard public restrooms simply do not meet their medical or hygiene needs.



Moving Forward in Faith: We are actively moving forward to get this sanctuary on the road, confident that God's people will come through to help us cross the finish line. We are still fundraising to completely close our **\$8,700 gap** for the wrap and lift installation. If you would like to help us close this gap, you can give directly or purchase essential interior supplies from our Amazon wish list!

Help Us Bridge The \$8,700 Gap -To Finalize The Build

Shop our Wish List - Help Us Stock the Interior

May Impact: Serving with Joy

The Shining Star Award: One of the absolute highlights of our entire month was sponsoring and presenting the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce **Shining Star Award** to our wonderful friend, Robert! Robert is a fifth grader at **Victory Ridge Academy** right here in Lake Wales. Seeing his hard work, determination, and bright spirit honored was an incredible joy. Congratulations, Robert—you truly shine bright!



Sunday Picnic & A New Big Wheel Partner: We kicked off the week by providing accessible golf carts and track chairs for **Christ's Church on the Move's Family Picnic!** This was an incredibly special milestone because they have officially become our very first *All God's Families Disability Network* "Big Wheel" partner!



A Magical Mayfaire: Mother's Day weekend was a spectacular success at the **Lakeland Mayfaire Art Festival**. Our team and dedicated volunteers provided wheelchair-accessible golf cart services all weekend, ensuring that every mother and family member could experience the art without limitation.

Circle of Friends Art Exhibition: Our amazing friends with **Circle of Friends Ministries** are having their artwork displayed at the **Lake Wales Art Museum!** The showing takes place this **Thursday from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**. Massive thanks to the Lake Wales Arts Council for providing this inclusive opportunity. Go check it out!

Special Touch Ministries Arrives: Just today, **Special Touch Ministries** arrived at camp! We are overjoyed to fully equip their week with an abundance of adaptive gear, including Track Chairs, Water Chairs, Golf Carts, and our mobile adult-sized changing table.

Community Sharing: We swung by the **Language and Learning Academy for Literacy** to pack up the Inflatable Axe Throwing and Corn Hole games they borrowed for their end-of-the-school-year celebrations. We love being able to help our local schools celebrate inclusion!



Reservations for Track Chairs at Tiger Creek are Available

The 1,000 Stroke Challenge: Buddy Paddle Update



The water has been busy! On Friday, May 22nd, we completed a highly successful dry run for the **Ridge Area ARC's Buddy Paddle**. Everyone is primed, pumped, and ready for the main event!

This Friday, May 29th, the official **1,000 Stroke Challenge** kicks off early! The paddle starts promptly at **8:00 AM** at **Lake Jackson at Veterans Park**.

We want to extend a massive thank-you to the **Mason G. Smoke Foundation** buddies for their invaluable partnership, and to the **City of Sebring Fire Department** for their incredible support in keeping our paddlers safe, secure, and cheered on. Additionally, we thank Advent Health, Chick-fil-A and Alan Jay Automotive for their support. Come out early this Friday and help us cheer on the ARC consumers as they conquer the water!

June Jumping: A Peak Look Ahead

Summer is officially here, and June is shaping up to be one of our biggest deployment months of the year! We are gearing up to bring adaptive equipment, freedom, and fun to:

The Family Cafe Disability Conference: Family Café has brought Floridians with all types of disabilities together for three days of information, training, and networking. With a great range of individual breakout sessions, with dozens of vendors, and a series of special events including Keynote speakers

Joni & Friends Camp: Providing specialized equipment for these life-changing family retreats.

Camp Friendship: Lake Aurora's Camp Friendship is designed to remove barriers and provide the camp experience for our friends with mild developmental and physical special needs. Registration is still open - click for a link to the PDF application.



Register Family
Cafe'



**Fueling the Mission:
Peer-to-Peer Fundraising & The Big Wheel**

As our calendar expands, so do our operational needs. Every track chair ride, camp deployment, and accessible golf cart shuttle is provided at **no cost** to the families and ministries we serve.

Are you running a 5K? Lace up for RTBI! Did you know you can use your personal milestones to fuel our mission? If you are training for an upcoming 5K, marathon, or cycling event, **why not run on behalf of Removing the Barriers?** We can help you set up your own peer-to-peer fundraising page so your friends and family can sponsor your miles. Reach out to us today to get your personal campaign set up!

Join the Hub as a Monthly Partner Want to follow the blueprint of our Big Wheel partners? If a "Full Wheel" feels like a large commitment for one person, remember that it is simply **8 "Spokes."** When individual family members or friends each commit to their own \$25 monthly "Spoke," the wheel fills up quickly, providing the sustainable support we need to keep moving.

Become a Spoke Today

A Closing Thought for May

To all the moms, grandmothers, and maternal figures in our RTBI family: **Thank you.** We know that for many families, mothers are the primary advocates, the "spokes" that keep the family moving, and the ones who first dreamed of a world without barriers for their children. We honor your heart and your strength!

"And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof."
— **Zechariah 8:5**

Our prayer for this summer is that our parks, our camps, and our lakes look like heaven—full of laughter, play, and belonging for *all* of God's children. Thank you for moving the barriers out of their way.

With Gratitude,
The RTBI Family

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