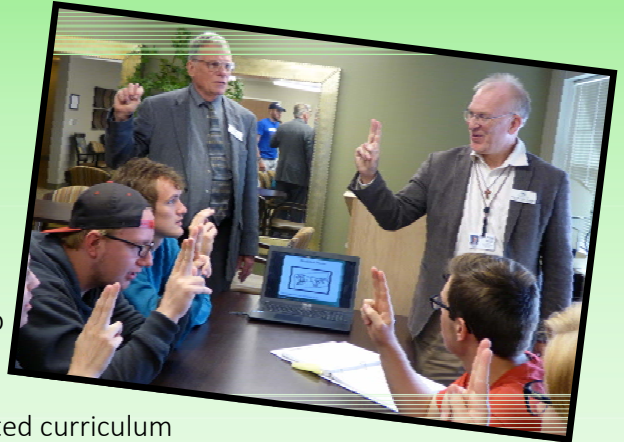


VOICE OF CARE:

In Christ among people
with disabilities

Voice of Care's mission is to equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ

Outdoor Ministry: Special Needs Training for Staff & Volunteers a VOICE OF CARE story



Outdoor ministries and church day camps can offer enjoyable opportunities for people with disabilities. Voice of Care trains camp staff and volunteers to create concrete experiences that can be beneficial to adults and children with a broad range of physical and developmental abilities. This is achieved through a dedicated curriculum that features disability awareness and targeted techniques for working with people with common types of disability. In addition to learning accommodations and inclusive methods for a variety of special needs, Voice of Care camp staff training incorporates the REST (Respite Education and Support Tools) curriculum.

Voice of Care has provided training for Walcamp Outdoor Ministries and Retreat Center in Kingston, Illinois, which offers six weeks of special needs camp each summer, along with seasonal retreats in spring and winter. Ben Konrad, program director, reported enthusiastic response from his staff to the Voice of Care camp training program. One camp employee who had never worked with those with special needs was unsure what to expect, but after going through the training with Voice of Care stated, "I feel more confident in my ability to relate and care for our campers." Another staff member had previously worked with children special needs, but said, "The training opened my eyes to all the issues surrounding working with the adult population. I feel better equipped than I did before the training to take care of our campers."

Voice of Care Ministry Facilitators Rev. Phil Gruenbaum, Rev. Paul Klopke and Deaconess Sarah Gaffney work hard to help participants understand how differently-abled people might experience certain activities, whether from a wheelchair, in a non-verbal capacity or with any type of impaired cognition.

"Even after working the last year with our campers with special needs at retreats and weeks of camp, I still wasn't completely comfortable with how to handle certain situations," shared one camp worker. "Pastor Phil and Pastor Paul were wonderful at answering my questions and helping me feel better equipped to run our programming for those with special needs in the future. I would recommend REST training to anyone who is looking to be better equipped to serve this community."



In Christ among people with disabilities

VOICE OF CARE

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The VOICE OF CARE Story

Voice of Care is a ministry helping the Church provide spiritual care to people with disabilities and those who care for them. Voice of Care works with churches to train ministry workers and lay volunteers to serve at their own congregations and in the community. In turn, these volunteers share Jesus' love through church and community site programming and special needs camps.

Voice of Care relies on the financial and volunteer support of congregations, service groups and individuals who value this outreach to people with developmental disabilities.



Collaboration with Lutheran Church Charities enables K9 Comfort Dogs to be present at many Voice of Care training programs and events. JoJo and Susie, like all the K9 Comfort Dogs, offer unconditional love and acceptance.



VOICE OF CARE provides churches, ministry organizations, schools, and individuals with...

- Congregational Training and Awareness
- Spiritual Care in Residential and Day Programs
- **Outdoor Ministries**
- REST (*Respite Education and Support Tools*) Training
- Networking and Resources

voiceofcare.org

VOICE OF CARE

is a Recognized Service Organization of



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod



Spotlight
On...

Outdoor Ministries

Voice of Care offers training for those who work with people with disabilities in camp, day camp and Vacation Bible School settings.

Camp staff and volunteer "camp buddies" learn how make curriculum and activities accessible and inclusive, receive an overview of common disabilities and are taught techniques to facilitate interaction with people who have specific special needs. Participants also receive REST (Respite Education and Support Tools) training.

Voice of Care seeks to bring these dedicated camp programs tools that increase both the educational and spiritual benefit for campers and staff as they experience God's love and care in these special settings.