



July 2017



Life

Liberty

Happiness

Our Mission Road Declaration of Independence:

Mission Road Ministries, a family of agencies, is a community-based, church sponsored organization with a Call from God to minister to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities by challenging them to achieve their full potential for

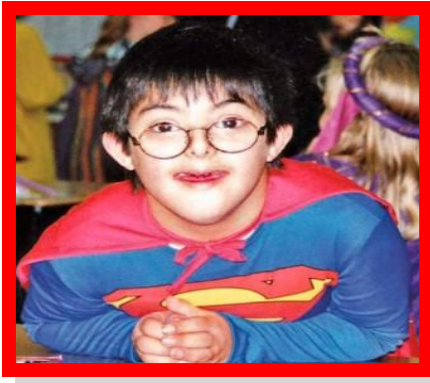
Independence,

productivity and inclusion in the community.

Mission Road Ministries.

Celebrating Independence since 1947.

S.O.A.R-ing in to a Super Summer



SOAR, our Summer Outreach And Recreation program, is specially designed to give our campers a healthy and active summer dedicated to their continuing progress and personal achievement. This fun and important program is available to our children residing on our campus, in addition to the children living throughout Bexar County all of whom share a primary diagnosis of IDD (intellectual developmental disabilities.)



The Top 5 things our kids love about S.O.A.R

1. Camping in a tent in the Gym. I like it 'cause it's not hot and no bugs!
2. Making my purple and green crown in Arts & Crafts with Maria and wearing it all day.
3. Singing "I've Got the Joy Joy Joy Joy Down in My Heart" song with Pastor Jim in Chapel
4. Going down the water slide in the pool
5. Cody says... Playin' outside with my best friend, Zach.




This is a bigger deal than Cody makes it sound. Cody finally arrived at Mission Road this March after he was removed from his 'home' by CPS in 2015. His home was filthy; he often went hungry and had not been to the doctor in years. After nine foster homes placements, Cody finally found hope, fun, encouragement and care at Mission Road. **Best of all, Cody found Zach, his new best friend.**

Mission Road Volunteers



**Concordia Lutheran Church
College Interns.**

These college students come from UTSA, UT-Austin, Texas A & M, Abilene Christian University and Texas Tech and spend their summer serving others. While volunteering at Mission Road they served as camp counselors with our S.O.A.R. kiddos... swimming in the pool, playing basketball in our gym, making 3-D glasses and more. We asked them about their time spent on the Mission Road campus. 

It's More Than Just a Job.

Find out why our employees love what they do!

- I am super grateful for the flexibility to care for my family and be successful at my job...
- I see opportunity to move up and grow both personally and professionally...
- I am in school right now at Our Lady of the Lake University, and Mission Road is a great place for getting experience working with children of all ages with special needs...
- I need a summer job and my experience has been exciting and challenging...
- I finally feel like I belong...
- This is my first job and I'm loving it...
- As a U.S. Marine, I served my country & my fellow Marines for 20 years. Also, my brother, Charlie, has Down Syndrome. Working at Mission Road brings my professional & personal life full circle.

To join our team, call HR at (210) 924-9265 or lpalmer@mrmsat.org



Mission Road Volunteers

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at Mission Road?

1. The kids' smiles are great. They remember us, and are so excited to see us Day 2! It's a great feeling!
2. Learning how capable kids with IDD are. They have so much potential, and can do lots of things you might not expect.
3. Working with the non verbal kids is such a mind expanding activity. They can definitely communicate in their own way, and we were able to use Ipads to increase this capability... giving them a audible voice.

What would you say to people who might be hesitant to volunteer?

1. The unknown is scary but you can observe for as long as you want to then engage when you are ready. The staff take excellent care of the children so we are really just here to play and help out.
2. These kids are like any other kid. We were playing basketball in the gym and one boy wanted me to guard him. When I was going to easy on him, he dribbled through my legs, so I stepped up my game!
3. Any volunteer work can be intimidating at times but that is when God shows himself. He is always here to help as you do His work

Save The Dates!

S.O.A.R Closing Ceremony
Friday, August 11, 2017
9:30am
Mission Road Gym

Shindig 2017
Friday, December 1, 2017
Mays Family Center, The Witte Museum

Partnering with Families makes Happier Homes

We are all living longer and better. This goes for both ‘typical’ adults and adults with IDD (intellectual developmental disabilities – formerly mental retardation). Many aging adults prefer to live in their own home with family members or live with non-relatives in a Host Companion Family (formerly Foster Family) well into their senior years.

Parents caring for adult children with IDD often prefer to keep their child at home as opposed to alternative living arrangements such as moving them to a community home, apartment or nursing home. Likewise, there are many loving Texas families who have chosen to welcome a non-relative adult with IDD into their home and join in their family activities.

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) makes it possible for adults with IDD to live with their biological family or non-relatives, and the cost to Texas tax payers is about 1/3 the cost associated with “Group Home” expenses billed through Medicaid. Also, the IRS allows this income to the family to be non-reportable/non-taxable. Mission Road is honored to participate as a provider for Adult Host Companion Care (formerly Foster Care).

Our **Mission Road Host Companion Care program** partners with families to provide professional training, oversight, and often immediate and urgent assistance. We help families and caregivers create and maintain a safe home environment where adults with IDD can flourish socially, emotionally and physically.

What assistance is provided in **Adult Host Companion Care**?

- Meal preparation
- Medication management
- Social interaction & activities
- Transportation services
- Personal care (toileting, bathing, dressing)
- Aiding in daily recreational & vocational activities

What’s the first step?



Establishing and running a Host Companion Home for an adult family member with IDD or a non-relative adult with IDD is a major responsibility - complete with financial and regulatory responsibilities and obligations.

When deciding to consider Adult Host Companion Care, potential families are encouraged to contact Mission Road and speak with our Host Companion Care director, Rita Sanchez at (210) 924-9265 or rsanchez@mrmsat.org.