

## **What are Respite Events?**

Community churches offer 3-4 hours of fun for children affected by disability and their siblings, allowing parents and caregivers a few hours of quiet and refreshment. These events typically occur on Friday evenings or Saturdays, but should primarily meet the need of the community.

## **What is the Cost?**

Respite events are free to the families. They are staffed by trained volunteers who enjoy serving and church costs are minimal.

## **What is the Need?**

Parents of special needs children tend to be stressed, tired, and isolated. Marriages are often stressed, and many are single parents. Far too few of these families have found welcoming churches that understand a biblical perspective on disability.

## **How Often Does Respite Occur?**

Ideally, a church provides respite on a monthly basis. If possible, network with other local churches to provide a monthly calendar of respite for families. If each church covers one week, it would allow families multiple opportunities to experience the blessing of respite ministry.

## **How Does a Church Get Involved?**

Go to the [Joni and Friends Area Ministry locater](#) to find the Joni and Friends office nearest to you. Our staff can walk alongside your church as you plan your first event. The book and resources in our [Irresistible Church Series, We've Got This!](#) provide the details and training to get started.