

Mission

The Rejoicing Spirits ministry reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with developmental disabilities along with their families, friends and other supportive community members.

God's message of love is shared through a meaningful and adapted Christian worship service and fellowship time. Individuals are free to be themselves while actively participating as contributing members in an inclusive faith community.

The ministry shares the Rejoicing Spirits model of religious inclusion with disability and faith-based organizations.

Rather than asking how we can help people with disabilities, Henry Nouwen teaches us, "The more important question is, how can people with disabilities give their spiritual gifts to us and call us to love?"

For more information about this ground-breaking model for spiritual inclusion, contact:



National Office & Model Site
104 S. Village Avenue, Exton, PA 19341
610-363-6264
info@rejoicingspirits.org
www.rejoicingspirits.org

An inclusive,
meaningful
Christian worship
& fellowship
community
that welcomes,
embraces, values
and celebrates
the gifts of our
brothers and
sisters with
developmental
disabilities.

Rejoicing
Spirits®
United in One Body

So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:25

Inclusive Worship and Fellowship Community

Rejoicing Spirits is an innovative ministry which reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of people with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and other supportive community members. This is done by offering a meaningful, inclusive worship and fellowship community which shares God's word and delivers His message of love. The worship service is adapted to be more welcoming to people with developmental disabilities, just as buildings are adapted to be more welcoming to people with physical disabilities.

The service includes lots of music and joyous singing, along with brief, meaningful messages. Especially important is that it's a shush-free environment.



Katie reads a scriptural passage. Worshipers have opportunities to learn, serve and lead.

Rejoicing Spirits is also a popular worship opportunity for families, especially those with young children, since it has lively music; hand-held instruments; and a free, expressive environment. All faiths are welcome.

Meeting Spiritual Needs

Rejoicing Spirits helps meet spiritual needs in several ways:

- Serves as a *stepping stone* for those wanting to take the first step into a faith community.
- Offers *complementary* worship & fellowship opportunities for those who already belong to a faith community.
- Provides an inclusive faith community that may *fully meet* current needs and desires.

Making a Difference

The presence of Rejoicing Spirits within a congregation raises awareness and fosters education, ultimately leading to the genuine acceptance of our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities. As eyes are opened and hearts are changed, attitudinal barriers are removed allowing us truly to be one body united together in Christ.

One of the many blessings that has resulted from Rejoicing Spirits is that worshipers have become role models, demonstrating the true meaning of faith and how to be more Christ-like. Congregation members are welcomed with such warmth and acceptance that all are called to follow

their lead. The eager enthusiasm with which they serve the Lord is contagious. Through this inclusive faith community, worshipers develop a sense of belonging, acceptance and being loved.

Celebrating Gifts

All talents and gifts are valued and celebrated! Rejoicing Spirits offers lots of opportunities to participate, lead and serve. As worshipers actively contribute by serving as greeters, scripture readers and prayer leaders, they are empowered in ways that previously may not have been offered to them. These opportunities serve as building blocks for spiritual growth, improved self esteem and an increased sense of community.

Worship With Us or Start A Rejoicing Spirits Ministry

Visit www.rejoicingspirits.org to learn more about Rejoicing Spirits, to view a video and to locate host churches' worship dates and times.

The *How to Start a Rejoicing Spirits Ministry* guidebook equips and empowers faith communities to share their own Rejoicing Spirits ministry.

As eyes are opened and hearts are changed, attitudinal barriers are removed allowing us truly to be one body united together in Christ.

