

# Defining Joni and Friends' U.S. Ministry Affiliate Program

## **Purpose**

The Joni and Friends Ministry Affiliate Program affords organizations of like-mindedness, calling and mission the opportunity to enter into ministry collaboration with Joni and Friends, while networking with similar ministries to “*accelerate Christian ministry to families affected by disability*” (Vision Statement, Joni and Friends).

## **Affiliated Organization - Description**

Christian Non-Governmental 501 (c) (3) Organizations (NGO's) that are separate organizations from Joni and Friends, having as part of their mission or solely as their mission a commitment to serve those affected by disabilities. These organizations will maintain their own full non-profit, 501(c) (3) autonomy, but will be given permission to use the term “Affiliated with Joni and Friends.” Affiliates are interested in organizing and/or participating in disability initiatives, projects, programs, conferences, or seminars. They may seek the assistance of Joni and Friends in developing disability programs and/or projects. They may want to utilize Joni and Friends' resources in teaching on Christian disability ministry at seminars, conferences, and special events. They will benefit from networking with Joni and Friends and its array of ministry alliances.

## **Two Categories of Affiliated Organizations**

1. Christian ministries *whose primary focus is not disability ministry*, yet they have a desire to implement or enhance disability awareness or a disabilities program or disabilities ministry. They desire to utilize the term “Affiliated with Joni and Friends” as well as the resources and good will of Joni and Friends to promote disability awareness and training in their organization and to their local communities and/or constituencies.
2. Christian *disability ministries* that wish to use the term “Affiliated with Joni and Friends” and utilize the resources and good will of Joni and Friends to assist in the growth and fruitfulness of their already established disability ministry.

## **Affiliate Application Process**

Request a Ministry Affiliate Introductory Letter (MAIL). Review, sign, and return the MAIL letter responding to the following:

1. Review our ministry information in a thorough manner – either on our website (please see the "About Us" section at [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org) ) or from an information packet that can upon request be sent to you – giving special attention to the description of the ministry of Joni and Friends. To assist you in becoming familiar with the ministry of Joni and Friends, we request that you review our Vision and Mission Statement, Statement of Faith, and our Field Services Executive Summary, which are attached (enclosed) for your convenience.
2. Write a letter of application seeking the use of the title “Affiliated with Joni and Friends,” which would include the applicant organization's CEO or other appropriate corporate officer affirming the organization's agreement to the Joni and Friends Statement of Faith.
3. Read/study the following materials to be in keeping with Biblical principle, “Unless two be agreed how can they walk together,” and to help you understand our founder's heart and calling, our ministry philosophy and mission, and the theology of suffering as we understand it: 1) Joni by Joni Eareckson Tada (Zondervan); 2) When God Weeps by Joni Eareckson Tada

(Zondervan) or When God Weeps Bible Study & Video. We also recommend (not required) Through the Roof by Joni Eareckson Tada (Joni and Friends) and Barrier Free Friendships by Joni Eareckson Tada (Zondervan). These materials can be ordered from our website or by calling 800-523-5777.

4. Provide with your letter of interest a copy of your organization's IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination, Mission Statement, and its Statement of Faith, noting in your letter of interest which of the requirements you have completed that are listed in this document. An application check list of requirements can be provided to assist you with the application process.
5. It is expected that the chair person and the executive staff of a Ministry Affiliate are Christians, who agree with our Statement of Faith and are in good standing with a local church. A letter of recommendation from the applicants' pastor is required for the Chief Executive Staff Member and the Chairperson of the applicant organization.
6. Please mail with your letter of interest any appropriate books or other literature that would help us become more familiar with your ministry.
7. Agree to assist or participate with one of the major program areas of Joni and Friends – Wheels for the World, Special Delivery, Family Retreat or Church Outreach. This agreement is formalized in an Annual Ministry Plan of Cooperation (AMPC). Commonly known as a Memorandum of Understanding, the AMPC is not a contract but rather mutually developed goals and objectives identifying how the organizations will collaborate in the cause of Christ.
8. In order to insure coordinated ministry efforts, an applicant organization within 100 miles of a Joni and Friends Field Office will need to have its application and AMPC approved by a local Joni and Friends office.

**For more information contact:**

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