

Join us as we celebrate and encourage five families living with disability through our annual **Heart for the Disabled** project. Each family will be featured on the Joni and Friends radio program and surprised with handmade cards, pictures, poems, and Bible verses given in the name of Jesus. Below are brief descriptions of each family.

Please send your cards and gifts to: **PO Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA 91376**

If God moves in your heart to give monetarily, please make checks payable to Christian Fund for the Disabled and note HFTD- "Family Name" in the memo line.



Octavia, Raeonna, Obruché, and Ioyona

Octavia is a single mother to Raeonna (18), Obruché (15), and Ioyona (7). Octavia is blind, having lost her vision in college. Raeonna has autism and Obruché was born blind. Doctors have confirmed that mom and daughter's visual impairments are unrelated. Octavia and her three daughters live in a poor area of Jackson, Mississippi. The family loves to attend events hosted by the Joni and Friends Mississippi office! Whenever the Joni and Friends staff reaches out to Octavia about her needs, she consistently shares the names of others who she believes need more help. She is truly a picture of a faithful servant in the face of much hardship!

Peter, Christy, Neima, Neelah, and Olivia

Peter, Christy and their three daughters, Neima (13), Neelah (7), and Olivia (6), were introduced to Joni and Friends through the 2019 *Warrior Getaway* in Texas, and they have been involved in JAF Texas events since then.

Peter is a Purple Heart recipient who served in the Army from 2004 – 2012 as a paratrooper and sniper. He had tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Peter suffers from traumatic brain injuries and severe PTSD, along with other disabilities. Wife Christy is his primary caregiver, and she also cares for their daughters. Six-year-old Olivia has autism, is non-verbal and requires constant care and supervision.

Due to the pandemic, schools closed, and both Olivia and Peter lost access to doctor's appointments and therapies. Daughter Neelah broke her elbow and required emergency surgery. In June, their house caught fire when a propane tank exploded. The family lost nearly half of their house, but had to continue living there without electricity because of insurance difficulties. Christy currently needs a spinal fusion surgery because of a back injury, but she cannot take the time off from caring for her husband and daughters. This family needs your Christian encouragement!





Amy, Isaiah, and Esther

Amy is a single mother to Isaiah (12) and Esther (9). Isaiah has been diagnosed with autism, ADHD and OCD. Esther has a learning disability that requires special assistance, especially with reading. Virtual learning due to COVID-19 has made school especially challenging for Amy and the kids. Amy is not sure if the kids will be able to pass school this year.

In addition to raising Esther and Isaiah on her own, Amy has been battling stage 4 colon cancer for the past four years. It has recently spread to her lungs, and Amy is deeply concerned about her children's future should something happen to her. They have no other family involved in their lives. Thankfully, Amy and the kids have found great support and encouragement at the Joni and Friends *Family Retreat* in North Carolina.

Ryan, Lindsey, Penny, Asher, Shepherd, Truett, Andrew, Benjamin, Elliott, and Evelynne

Ryan and Lindsey are from Tennessee and love attending the Joni and Friends *Family Retreat* in Mississippi. In addition to their four biological children, Andrew (16), Benjamin (14), Evelynne (13) and Elliott (11), they have adopted four children with special needs: Penny (16), Asher (6), Shepherd (7) and Truett (7).

Though *Family Retreat* was cancelled this summer, COVID-19 has not stopped their heart for the Kingdom of God! Ryan and Lindsey committed to serve with their entire family in Guatemala last month. Ryan and Lindsey were thrilled to have Penny, Truett, Shepherd and Asher go as co-laborers for the Gospel, sharing the name and work of Christ in their lives! Truett and Shepherd have a ministry that involves hugging and gathering people in; Asher and Penny have their own unique ways of engaging those that they are around. All of them point people to their Creator by just being present. God has used Joni and Friends and *Family Retreat* in the lives of this family to energize them in sharing the Gospel to all!



Peter, Daphne, Sarah, Pierson, Winston, Cargan, and Moriah



Peter and Daphne and their five children love attending the Joni and Friends *Family Retreat* in Pennsylvania. Four of Peter and Daphne's five children were adopted from China, and they all have disabilities. Pierson (16) helps hold down the fort at home, despite having his own challenges. Winston (16), has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. His smile brightens everyone's day! Cargan (14) also has cerebral palsy. He is bravely facing the many battles facing his family. Moriah (6) struggles with developmental delays, as well as abandonment and attachment issues. Though she had a hard start to life, she recently gave her life to Christ! Sarah (18) has no disabilities, but assists with caregiving, and is now in nursing school. Sarah is a great help now that dad Peter has been diagnosed with incurable, Stage 4 colon cancer. Daphne must keep up with virtual schooling for the kids, chemo sessions for her husband and 10 sessions of therapy per week. COVID-19 has only added to the stress and challenges of this year, but they continue to trust in Jesus!