INTRODUCING

Joni’s House...

Join the Movement!
Having traveled to 57 countries, I’ve seen countless disabled people in impoverished places trying desperately to eke out a living. Once when I was in the Philippines during a monsoon downpour, I saw a paralyzed woman drag herself through a muddy street to the back door of a small restaurant. I was told she was hoping to receive leftover food. Our Filipino host shook his head and lamented, “Things shouldn’t be this way.” On the flight home, I kept praying, Oh, God, if you would graciously use my life to make a difference, I’m all in!

Begging for food? Denied medical treatment? Dragging useless legs through the dirt for lack of a wheelchair? Things shouldn’t be this way. It’s why when it comes to the needy and the afflicted, the Bible constantly uses words like ‘rescue,’ ‘defend,’ ‘help,’ ‘speak up for,’ and ‘care for.’ God doesn’t want us to simply ‘remember the afflicted,’ or ‘pray for the poor,’ although both are important. He calls us to be his hands and feet to actually do something. He calls us to “lift the needy from the ash heap” (Psalm 113:7).

It’s what Jesus would do. Especially now in a world of pandemics where people with disabilities are at even greater risk. But our precious Savior has not abandoned them! He has shown us a way to give his salvation message and deeds of mercy through a new initiative we call Joni’s House – centers which adorn the Gospel of Christ by serving as hubs for wheelchair distribution and repair, international Family Retreats... and much more. Joni’s House is partnering with evangelical churches and local hospitals to provide medical help, evangelism, Bible study, food distribution, dignity kits, and physical therapy. I couldn’t be more excited!

Tears are welling even as I write. I have long prayed for a breakthrough like this. To me, Joni’s House is my legacy. Unlike a new program, Joni’s House is a place – a disability center where the disabled, like the woman in the Philippines who had nowhere to turn, can come and find spiritual healing in Jesus, as well as his practical help from his people.

From the Heart

Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel [the disabled, lame, and poor] to come in, so that my house will be full.”

Luke 14:23

See history in the making!
Watch Joni as she signs our official Joni’s House documents, making her legacy a reality, at joniandfriends.org/???
Joni’s House answers the call of Luke 14 where Jesus said, “Go out, find the disabled, and bring them in... so that my Father’s house may be full.” Thank you for serving with us on the front lines as we share the love of Christ and meet the deepest spiritual needs of the world’s wounded and disabled. Your love and prayers send the tangible love of Jesus to the darkest corners of the earth, transforming the souls of people, as well as the heart of their village.

Worldwide over one billion people suffer with disability. Joni’s House breaks the barriers of isolation and rejection, giving whole families a welcoming place of belonging. At Joni’s House, children and adults living with disability come to understand their value as God’s image bearers, and social stigmas are removed as whole communities come to see that we are all equal in the eyes of Christ.

People impacted by disability long for the opportunity to earn a living for themselves. At Joni’s House, vocational training is provided so people living with disabilities can learn trades like farming, gardening and sewing — restoring dignity and purpose to their lives. And once parents can provide for their own families, they will no longer feel forced to send their children out into the streets to beg for food; an unthinkable option that often results in the tragic exploitation of God’s little ones.

You are ministering to the spiritual, physical, social and economic needs of the least of these all over the world! May the Lord repay you for your incredible kindness!

Visit jonandfriends.org/jonis-house for more about Joni’s House.
Introducing the first Joni’s House!

**El Salvador**

The very first Joni’s House is in San Salvador. It serves as a spiritual beacon of light to the lost and disabled in El Salvador and provides sustainable holistic ministry to and with people living with disabilities in cooperation with local church, community and government partners.

Your support is making Joni’s dream - and legacy - a reality! This remarkable mission is being built on your prayers and generosity!

Jesus lived, worked and interacted with the members of his community. He spoke their language and understood their culture. He shared their way of life. And at Joni’s House, we are following the very model that Jesus gave us when he walked this earth.

At Joni’s House El Salvador, children and adults with disabilities get the ongoing physical therapy needed to live their best life, and family members receive education on proper hygiene, pressure sore prevention, and God’s view on disability. The complete, Christ-centered care provided at Joni’s House addresses each physical, social and economic need in people’s lives, and does so in a way that opens hearts to the Gospel.

The love of Jesus is our motivation for every act of ministry at Joni’s House El Salvador. Your partnership makes it possible to feed the body and the soul! And because of your continued prayers and support, families living with disability in El Salvador are being given a new vision and hope for the future!
If the growl in a child’s stomach is so loud that he can’t hear the Gospel message, then we must feed his body before even attempting to feed his soul. And in places like Uganda, people fear starvation much more than COVID-19. Joni’s House treats children and adults with disabilities with the honor they deserve; feeding them, caring for them, placing them in seats of dignity and giving them the eternal hope of Jesus. Because it’s hard to believe you’re a valued child of God if you’re never picked up off the ground and given a nourishing meal.

In places like Uganda, nearly 80% of children with disabilities will not survive to adulthood. Only 2% have access to basic medical and therapy services; the rest are dying due to treatable medical conditions. But Joni’s House is activating a network of Christian doctors and nurses to reverse this trend. No longer will the sick and injured be discriminated against by the medical community, left to die silently at home. Joni’s House is literally breathing new life into families suffering with disability.

Families impacted by disability in the rural villages of Uganda live in mud huts with little or no electricity and primitive outhouses. Through the ministry of Joni’s House, those mud huts will be transformed into fully accessible brick houses with wheelchair ramps and cement outhouses – dramatically improving health conditions and the overall quality of life.

Every act of mercy and compassion is coupled with the truth of God’s Word and the Gospel message of Jesus. At Joni’s House, we care for the body and the soul! Thank you for linking arms with us as we deliver complete, Christ-centered care – to families living with disability in Uganda and all over the world!
From New Mexico

DeAnn, who has cerebral palsy, attended Family Retreat in New Mexico prior to the pandemic. There she gained the confidence needed to serve in leadership roles herself, and now DeAnn uses her spiritual gifts in the special-needs ministry of her church. DeAnn is empowered weekly through Joni and Friends New Mexico’s online Bible studies and prayer groups. Thank you for equipping her to use her gifts to serve other families living with disabilities, too!

From Central California

Cecelia and her son, Luis, have experienced the transformational power of Joni and Friends first-hand. Luis, who has autism, is non-verbal and is prone to tantrums due to his severe difficulty with social situations, extreme sensory sensitivity, and a fear of leaving his mother’s side. But at his first Family Retreat prior to the pandemic, Luis was comforted by God’s love and participated fully in all aspects of the retreat. “I can only describe it as miraculous,” explained Cecelia.

Cecelia has found ongoing encouragement through the many Joni and Friends Central California programs since that first Family Retreat, including an online Mom’s support group, virtual respite events and Bible studies, and a Family Fun Drive Thru that gave families the gift of connecting with others while remaining in the socially distanced safety of their cars. Please pray for our Central California Family Retreat scheduled for March. If coronavirus restrictions won’t allow us to do another in-person retreat, we’ll switch gears and provide the same fun, fellowship and faith building through our Family Retreat at Home!

From Minnesota

Colton, a young man with multiple disabilities including Down syndrome, autism, Hirschsprung’s disease, Graves’ disease and Tourette syndrome, loved being part of Family Retreat. And so did his parents, Rob and Cyndi. “That first day of retreat changed my life,” Cyndi explained. “It breathed new life into my world of disability with the message of God’s deep love for my child and our family.”

And Cyndi loves our online Mom’s support group, too! “I really have no words to describe the gift it is to connect with the other moms who understand what I’m going through,” shared Cyndi. And our other programs like Family Retreat at Home and Respite at Home are blessing Colton, Rob and Cyndi on a continual basis. While two Short Term Missionaries share Bible stories and do activities with Colton each week, Cyndi gets a much needed break from her non-stop caregiving demands. “We hadn’t heard Colton laugh in over six months,” Cyndi said. But that was before Respite at Home brought fellowship and fun back into his life. “I just couldn’t believe that in the midst of everything going on in our country, Joni and Friends would serve us in such a meaningful and personal way.”
More Stories From the Field!

**From Mississippi**

And in Mississippi, God redeemed the life of single mom Emily through our Barnyard Dance and Single Parent Retreat at Home. After her son Christopher was born with spina bifida and multiple additional life-threatening disabilities, Emily walked the long road of caring for him and being by his side throughout seven surgeries all within the first year of Christopher’s life. Her hopelessness and confusion drew her to atheism, but Joni and Friends Mississippi showed her the truth about Jesus, and now Emily has faith in our Savior! We’ve also connected her to a local church for ongoing discipleship. “I feel like I can handle anything coming at my life right now,” declared Emily with newfound hope. God is using your prayers and support to save souls and transform lives!

**From Tennessee**

Joni and Friends Tennessee wanted to find creative ways to help the combat veterans at our Warrior Getaway express the guilt, shame and regret buried deep within their souls, so we brought in award winning songwriters from Nashville to help put words to their pain. “Songwriting opened up a way to talk without talking,” explained one veteran. Another shared, “Songwriting was like opening up a gate to finally express myself.” And since silence is the true enemy of healing, releasing their traumatic memories set our veterans on the path to spiritual and emotional health. Thank you for giving back to the servicemen and women who gave everything for us!

**From Ohio**

When Isaac was only 6 months old he spiked a high fever, went into convulsions, and was left with permanent brain damage and symptoms similar to cerebral palsy. Now, at 4 years old, Isaac had waited his whole life for a wheelchair. But 2020 was his year! When his mother, Rosa, brought little Isaac to our Wheels for the World outreach in El Salvador, he was all smiles as he received his own custom fitted wheelchair. And Rosa received new faith in Christ as our Joni and Friends Ohio team shared the Gospel with her and gave her a Bible and the Joni book in her own language. Your prayers and support are providing the gifts of mobility, dignity and an eternity with Jesus!

There are lots of exciting events happening in your area, too!

In addition to Family Retreats and Wheels for the World outreaches, our Field teams are offering Respite Events, Support Groups, Church Trainings and all sorts of Family Fun gatherings.

Visit jonifriends.org/events today and find out how you can get involved!
We gratefully acknowledge contributions given in memory or in honor of loved ones to further ministry in the disability community. To give a gift in memory of one loved one in a special occasion, visit joniandfriends.org/donate or contact Joni and Friends at 818.707.5664.

IN MEMORY/ Given By

PAUL AND ELEANOR ANDREW BREWER ANN THORPE
GARY ALBERTO DONNA ARNAUG DAVE ANDERSON
DAN ARNAGRA DANA CENTI
MARGARET HARRIS RITA & ERIN OLLIE BROEMEGE
EMILIO GRIMM ZINNIA TILLEN
ERIN POOLER DAVID BARTON Services
JOHN ROBERTS ABBEY JENNAHRENE
SHERRIE JEAN TRICIA & JIMMY PAUL & MARIE TAYLOR
BERGMEYER KEVIN KEVIN & LINDA HUGGINS
MICHAEL R. IRVINE WALTER HETT
CAROLYN GAYNOR BOBBY DAVIS BRAD & KATY KAMPFMAN
ANNETTE DAVIS DONNIE WALTER DAVID & ERIKA RUGL
HEIDI DROOSHNER ANNA MARIE MARY E. RYG
JACOB BROWN DARREN PERRY JENNIFER BERNIE
ANNITA GUTRUS RYAN JENSEN ARLENE ROYAL
CHRISTINA STAMER RYAN LEE BROWN SCOTT & JENNIFER
CATHERINE HARRIS MACK REED DAVID & BARBARA
CHRISTINE MAINEY BRIAN MILLER WALT & LIZ BARKER
R.K. & RUSSELL LEAH SINGH RONALD & INMEGENE
LUCY BRESLIN GEORGE KRISTI ANNE
CATHERINE MUNROE ROBBY COOK WILLIAM & LINDA
LUKE MILLER ENRICA RICHARD & LISA
MICHELLE CRAGG ANDREW BURGHER ANITA & THOMAS
BETH SHEPHARD ANDREW BURGHER CATHARINA CAREY
CHARLES ROSEN BRIAN MILLER ROBERT & LINDA
PERRY GREGGS LORI CAREY CRISTINA STAMER
LUKE MILLER KATHY ANN E. RYERSON
LUKE MILLER DEANNA TEW ERIC & JOAN
ROBBY COOK ERIC & JOAN MICK ELIZABETH
SHERRY JEAN WHITE

IN MEMORY/ Given By

CATHY HARRIS JEFFREY & LISA RODGERS
LYNDA HULL DAWN A. Hobson
DAVID & BASHA DAVID & RONALD
JANET ARBOGAST HALEY BADGER \nJANICE BLOOM \nJANICE BLOOM \nJANICE BLOOM

PO Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA 91376 • 818.707.5664 • joniandfriends.org This newsletter is published by Joni and Friends, a not-for-profit organization advancing Christian ministry in the disability community. © 2021 Joni Eareckson Tada, publisher. All rights reserved. Permission to reproduce any material herein must be obtained in writing from Joni and Friends.
Joni’s Brand New CD Available Now!

In Joni’s brand new 12-track CD, Never Alone, you will find an array of Joni’s favorite songs to sing to the Savior! From some of her favorite hymns like Praise my Soul, The King of Heaven to original never before released singles like The God I Love, you will be reminded of the ever present comfort of Jesus.

Product Details:
• 12 songs
• Booklet containing song descriptions by Joni
• Vocal performances by Joni with some of her favorite artists, such as Tommy Walker and the Gettys

$22

“God did an ingenious thing when he placed it in our hearts to sing. Especially when we are glad. The Spirit even tells us in James 5:13, ‘Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.’ And that’s exactly what you’ll hear in this wonderful, new collection of my favorite songs and hymns. It’s true - when I am singing to my Savior, I am Never Alone. And I pray you will experience the same!”

JONI EARECKSON TADA

100% of all profits go directly to support disability ministry!

TO ORDER: • Mail order form • Call toll-free: 800.736.4177
• Online: joniandfriends.org/store • Phone: Text ORDER to 818.707.5664