

# lift TALK

disability network

## NEWS FROM LIFT DISABILITY NETWORK

dear friend,

### Resilience!

Not that it needs to be repeated any further, but man, has this been a crazy year. In our wildest dreams or nightmares would we have been able to foresee the events of 2020. But here we are. COVID-19 has changed our focus and has left each of us in a world of uncertainty.

For Lift Disability Network the challenges of 2020 began prior to the international events of a pandemic. In January the ministry offices in Missouri were officially closed. With the inability to underwrite the program financially, our staff members and families began the process of discovering new opportunities. This was not an easy decision by our board or leadership, but one that we felt was necessary for the future of our ministry.

Following these decisions there was a personal loss for our cofounder Rhonette Hukill. She lost her grandmother, 94, a staple and influential part of her life. Shortly after returning from the memorial services, the pandemic began to spread through our country. As with everyone, this added a whole new level of uncertainty and challenge.

Through all of this, our board and leadership had three guiding statements. First, we wanted everyone to know that the ministry was here, and we were activated to serve. Secondly, during this time we knew the struggle was going to be intense, and that loneliness was going to immensely impact the families we serve. Finally, we were determined to let the voice of resilience be heard. Our families know the struggle of adversity. They know the power of resilience.

As you read this newsletter, we hope that you will see engagement, freedom from isolation, and hear, loudly, the voice of resilience. We will overcome!

In partnership,  
*shannon*

Shannon Griffith  
Board President

*jim*

Jim Hukill  
Executive Director



## BREAKAWAY SUMMER CAMP

**Five day retreat experience for families and individuals living with disabilities.**

Lake Yale Conference Center  
June 29-July 3, 2021

## MONTHLY/ WEEKLY EVENTS

**Monthly and weekly events for families and individuals living with disabilities. Currently all events are being held virtually.**

### Bible Journaling Class

Saturday - Every 3 weeks,  
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

### BOOST

1st Fridays 6:30-8:00 PM  
3rd Saturdays 4:00-5:30 PM

### Game Time w/ Andrew

Every Wednesday  
2:00 PM-3:30 PM

### Lunch with Lift

Every Monday  
12:00-1:30 PM

### PTPT - Parent Group

2nd Saturday,  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

For more details on any of our events email us at:  
[lift@liftdisability.net](mailto:lift@liftdisability.net)

**Fall 2020**

# MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring families and individuals living with disabilities to discover a new vision for their future

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

**Shannon Griffith**  
Chair

**Kerry Moynihan**  
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**Rhonette Hukill**  
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**David Benson**  
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**Christine Sacco-Bene**  
Officers



## 2020 Summer Breakaway Camp Went Virtual!

One of the most difficult decisions our leadership team has ever made was to cancel our annual Breakaway event. Without a doubt it is the most popular program and ministry outreach we do each year. But, as the Coronavirus marched across our land, we knew that it just wasn't going to be possible to have everyone join us for Breakaway 2020.

Never in our wildest imagination could we have dreamt of what was about to take place when we began to cast the Breakaway vision in the summer of 2019. As is our tradition, we announce our theme for the following year at the conclusion of our annual event. July 2019 we announce that our theme for 2020 would be **RISE**.

As we spent time praying and considering our next step (often with tears in our eyes), hope began to emerge from our team. Two months away from our targeted event date, hunkered down in our homes, we decided to not just take it on the chin. We decided to **RISE** from our ruin and try something different with our camp. Man, are we glad we did!

Below you're going to read the effects of our virtual camp and see the impact that four, 12 hour days, on the computer can make. It was, simply, a week of miracles. We are so grateful to the many volunteers, technicians, and leaders that worked tirelessly so that we could **RISE**.

*"Now that breakaway camp has come to an end, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some thoughts.*

*We've been in quarantine since March 12th. In the beginning Britt was adapt-*

*ing as she usually does to anything in life, but as the months passed, I started to see a decline in her demeanor, her thought process, and her beautiful personality.*

*Truth be told I didn't know what to expect out of an online summer camp, partly because in person camp was way beyond my expectations. How could anyone pull off a summer camp via Zoom?*

*You always seem to pull a rabbit out of your hat, and once again you didn't disappoint. Camp brought my daughter back to life in ways I can't even describe.*

*She was laughing, engaged, excited. The way you and your staff worked tirelessly to ensure every person had the best time was beautiful. Listening to the voices of the other kids going through my house all day was so uplifting and joyful. Those kids had the best time! I don't know where you pull this out of, but wherever that is, don't ever stop."*

*- Jan and Britt*

*"So I just wanted to say how much Virtual Breakaway Camp changed my life! I wanted to say thanks to Pastor Ryan and Pastor Chris. I was so happy to be part of it making new friends and be able to rededicate my life to Christ! It was the best camp I have ever been to. I can't wait till next year!! Thanks to Mrs. Rhonette and Mr. Jim and Pastor Ryan and Pastor Chris."*

*- Chelsey*





# More of what people are saying about Virtual Breakaway...

*Breakaway 2020 couldn't have come at a better time for our family. On June 23rd we found ourselves staying safe at home for close to 15 long weeks. Our camp box of supplies had arrived a few days prior and Kristin excitedly sifted through the materials in anticipation of her very first 'camp'.....and Lift did not disappoint!*

*These four days provided our family with times of much needed prayer and quiet reflection, fun crafts and activities, and a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones!*

*We thank Lift Disability Network for being there for our family during these uncertain times.*

- Costanzo Family

*Difficult times are often a blessing in disguise. There is no doubt that 2020 has brought difficult times to everyone. It has been a year like no other in our lifetime. But, God tells us in His Word, that He works all things together for good. Our family began to experience a more difficult season in June 2017 when our daughter, Katie, became ill. Despite our efforts, and those of her many physicians, she has remained ill and medically complex since that time. Katie and I have spent many days, nights, and even weeks at a time in the hospital. With the arrival of COVID-19 this year, our time away in the hospital became even more complicated. Spending days and weeks in the hospital isolated from friends and family can be difficult, but in true GOD fashion, He showed up in an amazing way, to turn our difficult time into a blessing. If Breakaway would have been held as usual, there is no way that Katie and I would have been able to participate. In fact, we were actually experiencing one of those hospital stays during the week of camp. But, God had a much better plan. He takes what the enemy intends for our harm and turns it into something beautiful. He turned it into Virtual Breakaway.*

*Each day I logged into the Virtual Sessions in the morning and was able to participate in all the activities. We were able to watch chapel services, participate in breakout sessions, and feel connected to friends we have missed. In fact, we were even able to share Breakaway with Katie's Therapists and use their assistance to help Katie participate by painting our family banner. God's provision never ceases to amaze me.*

- Feran Family



## 2020

### Breakaway - The Numbers

#### #PEOPLE

More than 110 individuals attended Virtual Breakaway



#### #HOURS

Over 48 hours were logged on ZOOM

#### #AREAS

6 States and 2 Countries were represented





## NEW VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

### A Whole New World

The experience and subsequent results from our virtual Breakaway gave our ministry a lot to consider. First, it was amazing how many people really built relationships through a virtual experience and that we could reach people from many places of life. Not only did we see an increase in participation, but the involvement came from many states and, even, countries.

Secondly, we saw that we were missing a whole group of folks that we were not reaching. Many individuals and families cannot leave their home, even outside of a pandemic experience. We discovered that we must look at alternative ways to touch people. Going forward we needed to develop opportunities through virtual connections and new technology interfaces with our programs. This discovery will change everything we do from now on.

So, we began to design new programming to keep our families engaged and to expand our outreach. The impact of this newsletter will be the result of many of our new ministry approaches. We are changed by this experience and many

of our adaptations are here to stay. Check out our website and all the new weekly and monthly programs.

*"I didn't realize how much I missed silliness. Just intentional fun. And randomness! And all that is required of me is to show up. It's been a great way to break up the monotony of our weekly routine. And to talk about something other than the very serious issues our country is facing. It's a nice break from reality and a great way to connect with some amazing individuals. In March our schedule went from being overflowing to almost nothing. At first it was a welcomed break. But I didn't fully realize how the void of casual human contact had taken a toll on my mental health. Breakaway Camp brought such a needed revival and restoration of joy and life. After Camp it was like I went through withdrawal. These scheduled fun events on my weekly calendar are just the fix I need!"*

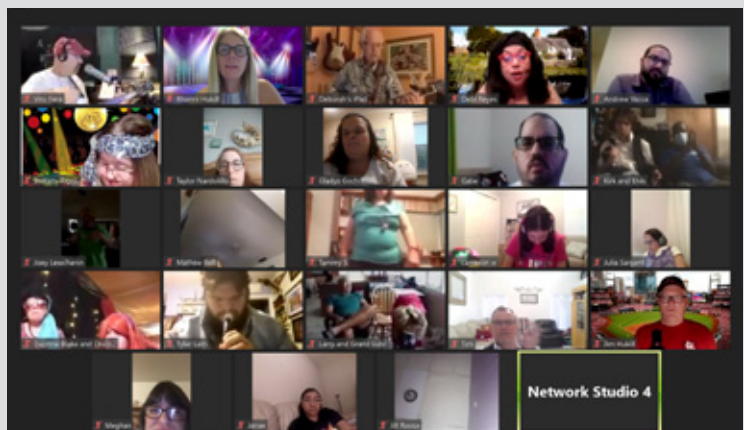
- Nicolette

### Join us for one of our ongoing virtual programs...

We have multiple weekly and monthly programs guaranteed to make you laugh and bring you joy! It's a chance to develop new and old friendships.

Look a program that fits you:

[liftdisability.net/together-in-spirit](http://liftdisability.net/together-in-spirit)











# reMARKable

## 2020 Fall Campaign

Despite the present day, crazy time we are in, Lift Disability Network is committed to leaving a MARK on our community. Our team, our volunteers are all committed to making a difference in the lives of families living with disability. Together, with a strong support team, this ministry will survive and thrive through the immediate and long-term crises impacting our country and world. Will you empower lives to live reMARKable! The moment to leave an impression is now!

As COVID-19 has left its 'MARK' on our world, it is also writing a new script for our ministry. Primarily, our program delivery models are changing. Check out our article on new virtual programming. Additionally, our fundraising methods have been changing as well. The pandemic has impacted our ability to do normal, in-person events that have traditionally produced needed supplements to our budget. The pandemic has limited our access to build new partnerships and corporate involvement through our normal in-person practices. Finally, one big issue is that many of our personal/private donors have experienced loss of jobs and impaired income. That is why we have launched a fall campaign to bridge the gap in our fundraising efforts.

Lift Disability Network is a reMARKable mission! We hear that through the stories and lives of those we touch and the partnerships we gain along the way. Now, more than ever, we need others to raise their voice and champion this cause by giving from their heart to help us continue our mission. Specifically, we are graciously asking for individuals and families to make a monthly commitment of any size to Lift.

It has been a devastating year for our operating budgets and has required us to find resources to meet the challenge. Now we turn to, you, our community and extend our hand for you to join in this vision.

Be reMARKable by linking arms to reach the goals of this campaign: Goal #1, 20 new monthly donors; Goal #2, Raise \$30,000 by October 31. See additional information about our campaign and the objectives we are trying to reach by visiting our website; <https://www.liftdisability.net/remarkable-fall-2020/>.

*Please give today.*



## Virtually Volunteer!

We need your help! Want to jump on the Zoom call and hang out with a cool group for folks? During this uncertain time many of our friends are more comfortable meeting online than in person. Come join us and help build community and fun. Share in the fun and meet some new friends. It's that easy. No experience need. Just sign up on our website for one of our many online activities.

[liftdisability.net/together-in-spirit](https://liftdisability.net/together-in-spirit)

## Needs List

Thanks to the generous support of our community, we can acquire the needed supplies that will help get our office up and running in no time! Needs list donations will assist Lift Disability Network in setting up our office space to function as a connection hub for the community. Thank you for each donation!

Walmart Gift Cards

Gas Cards

Printer Ink

Reams of Paper

Telephone System

Find out more on Amazon Wish List:

<https://a.co/9dtAX01>

Lift Disability Network is a 501c3 organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

## Connect with us

Lift Disability Network

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407.228.8343

[www.liftdisability.net](https://www.liftdisability.net)

F: LiftDisabilityNetwork

I: Lift Disability

Y: LiftDisabilityNet

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