



Freshwater *Splash Buddy* Ministry Invites You to Participate at Freshwater Community Church

The Buddy Ministry is a program of our church that provides a child with a special need one-on-one support person, so the family can better participate in the mainstream programs of Freshwater Church.

What Does a Buddy Provide?

A buddy is a means of facilitating access and removing barriers that might otherwise keep someone from participating in church life. Not every person with a disability will need a buddy, nor will every buddy provide the exact same thing. Buddies provide individualized support that is as unique as the child they are serving. How a buddy serves may vary, but what a buddy provides is straightforward.

Discipleship

Learning to follow Christ as a disciple is what it means to be a Christian! A buddy proves in word and deed that people with disabilities are loved by Christ and essential to the body of Christ—they reflect Christ's heart for people of all abilities! And more than that, they provide access to teaching, worship, and fellowship: a vital part of any believer's walk. Buddies also allow parents, caregivers, and siblings to relax and be disciples themselves. Instead of having to stay with their child (or worry about being called every couple of minutes), parents can trust their child is being loved and cared for. A buddy serves the whole family.

Safety

Certainly, physical and mental safety is a major consideration. But buddies also provide a safety net for people who might be ignored and marginalized. A buddy serves as an advocate and bridge, bringing children with special needs from the fringes into the center of church life in a non-triggering, sensory friendly environment. A buddy helps the person with a need become a part of church life and avoid the danger of being forgotten.

Questions? Contact Nelson at 269.352.7195 or Catherine at 269.568.5879