



joniandfriends.org

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES:

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More than one billion people worldwide live with a significant disability, making them the world's largest minority.

They face isolation, stigma, poverty, and barriers to care.

Fueled by a deep and abiding belief that people with disabilities are created in the image of God, Joni and Friends continues the legacy of Jesus Christ's ministry among the disabled community.

We're an international disability ministry that envisions a world where every person living with disability finds hope, dignity, and their place in the body of Christ.

Our outreaches include wheelchair donations, respite retreats, and spiritual support.

Our work aims to fulfill the Luke 14 mandate: "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.... Compel them to come in, so that my house will be full." Luke 14:21, 23 (NIV)

At Joni and Friends, we won't rest until God's house is full.

As of Spring 2025, Joni and Friends has:

Distributed
233,000
wheelchairs and Bibles

Organized mobility outreaches in
90 countries
around the world

Hosted nearly
90,000
individuals at respite events

[Discover our impact here](#)

Our Beginnings

It was a hot July day when Joni Eareckson Tada took a fateful dive into shallow water in the Chesapeake Bay, breaking her neck on the bay's sandy bottom. Seventeen-year-old Joni did not know then how her resulting quadriplegia—and God's faithfulness in the midst of it—would become a testament to the power of the Gospel, upholding the dignity and worth of individuals living with disability worldwide.

The seeds for Joni's ministry were planted during her rehabilitation. Without use of her hands, she learned how to paint high-detail fine art by holding a brush in her mouth. She was interviewed on the Today Show because of her unique ability, which opened doors for her to share the Gospel through her life story. Her autobiography, *Joni: An Unforgettable Story*, was published in 1976 and has sold five million copies in 38 languages since. Billy Graham's production company produced her book into a feature length film, introducing the message of Jesus Christ's redeeming love to millions more.

People living with disability began to write to Joni for prayers and guidance, revealing a desperate need for Christian ministry in the disability community. Joni founded Joni and Friends in 1979 to answer those desperate calls for help.

Today, Joni and Friends has over 200 employees in over 20 locations across the United States. We operate locations and offer programming on six continents.

And yes, we still answer letters.

[Read Joni's full story here.](#)



Why Disability?

God has always had a plan for the lives of people with disabilities. Yet all too often, people with disabilities and their families suffer from isolation, stigma, and poverty.

Anyone can have a disability, and disability can occur at any point in a person's life—especially as they age.

Individuals with disabilities face higher risk for premature death and chronic conditions. This isn't because of their disability, but because disparities in health care systems create barriers to care.

Sadly, barriers exist within the church, as well.

People with disabilities are less likely to attend church than their typical peers, as only 10% of U.S. churches offer any tangible support to people with disabilities.

One in three children with autism will never attend church.

Individuals on the autism spectrum experience loneliness and isolation at rates four times higher than their typical peers.

Less than 10% of the world's disabled are effectively reached with the Gospel.

World Health Organization (WHO); World Bank; UNESCO; National Organization on Disability; Clemson University.

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)

Our Approach

Practical help is our platform for sharing the Gospel. All of our Christ-centered programs and services are designed to address the practical, spiritual, and social needs of individuals with disabilities as they are the image bearers of God who deserve equal treatment in our communities.

Joni and Friends is a loving and supportive resource for families living with disability, even if they just need an understanding and compassionate person to talk to.



The Need

Visibility: An estimated 1.3 billion people around the globe, or one in six human beings, live with significant disability.

Access: Four out of every five disabled individuals living in low and middle-income countries have limited access to health services.

Mobility: 80 million people worldwide need a wheelchair but in developing nations, less than 10% have access to one.

Well-being: People with disabilities have twice the risk of developing conditions such as depression, diabetes, and stroke.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

MATTHEW 25:40 (NIV)

Our Programs

Wheels for the World™ distributes both new and restored wheelchairs, along with a Bible, to people in need. The donated wheelchairs we collect are restored in volunteer work programs in correctional facilities.

Joni's House programs meet the needs of people living with disabilities through local support. In the U.S., Joni's House offers respite care to families. At international locations, Joni's House provides medical, economic, spiritual, and social support.

Family Retreat provides respite to families living with disability in a fully accessible camp environment where they are cared for, rejuvenated, and encouraged in Christ.

Warrior Getaway serves Veterans who have visible and invisible injuries as the result of military service. Each member of the Veteran's family is included in this unique retreat.

Marriage Getaway strengthens and refreshes the relationships of couples living with the disability of a spouse or child. We also offer **Single Parent Getaways**.

Church Trainings equip congregations to develop a culture that sees all people as indispensable parts of the body of Christ, created in God's image and worthy of dignity and respect.

Missions and Internships equip students for leadership in disability ministry through hands-on service as they provide care and advocate for all people living with disability.

The Christian Institute on Disability provides authoritative guidance on the biblical view of disability as well as Gospel-centered truth on issues pertaining to life, dignity, justice, and equality. It also offers online courses, certificate programs, and internships.

Joni and Friends also delivers daily inspirational media through radio and podcast programs including *Joni Eareckson Tada: Sharing Hope*, *A Moment with Joni*, and the *Joni and Friends Ministry Podcast*.



Leadership

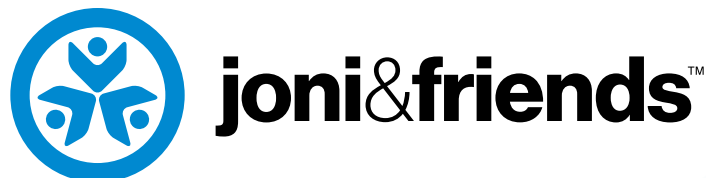
Joni Eareckson Tada*Founder and Chief Executive Officer***Shawn Thornton***President***Donna Lucas***Chief Marketing Officer***Jason Holden***Chief Operating Officer***Christopher Sue***Chief Financial Officer***Steve Bundy***Senior Vice President, International Ministries***Liz Carey***Senior Vice President, Accounting and Finance***Amy Hurtado***Vice President, Marketing and Engagement***Andrew Grumm***Vice President, Information Technology Services***Greg Greer***Vice President, U.S. Ministries*

Branding

When some people look at our logo, they see the wheel of a wheelchair. Others see people raising their arms in praise or sharing the Gospel around the world. Still others see a group of believers studying the Bible together.

Our logo reflects a lot about who we are, so please respect these simple branding guidelines.

The Joni and Friends logo should be produced in Joni Blue (HEX #0075C9) while the wordmark should be produced in black (HEX #000000), all sitting on a bright white background (HEX #FFFFFF). Never alter any aspect of the logo. Always use the original and approved art. Do not attempt to redraw or recreate the logo.





Connect with us

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