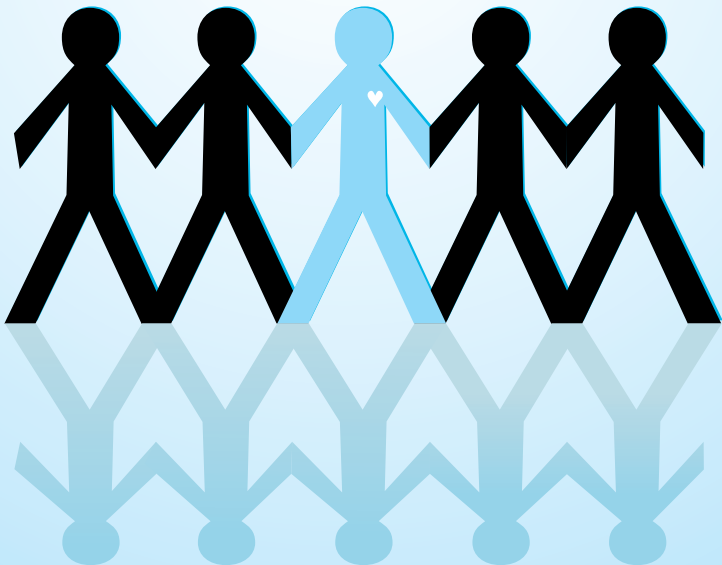


# friends of Happiness



*Experiencing the Love of Christ through Happiness Retreats*

Special Education Sunday 2009



# friends of Happiness



The young man stood up from his wheelchair and a helper on each arm steadied him. He looked out over the crowd and sang. Each word was labored, every phrase a challenge to articulate. Yet, the words came and the audience wept as he sang, “when will they ever learn, people need the Lord.”

Experiences like this happen all the time at Happiness Retreat. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina sponsors five retreats each year for people with developmental disabilities. Last year more than 900 people attended these retreats, which give churches, group homes and families an opportunity for their special needs members to experience a spiritual camp designed around the abilities of special needs people.

Two years ago, a group of North Carolina Baptists formed the group “Friends of Happiness” and set up an endowment fund with the North Carolina Baptist Foundation to raise money to support Happiness Retreat.

The endowment fund is designed to keep the cost of Happiness Retreat affordable. If you or your church would like to help with this project contact Donnie Wiltshire at the Baptist State Convention at [dwtlshire@ncbaptist.org](mailto:dwtlshire@ncbaptist.org) or contact the president of “Friends of Happiness,” Eric Vernon, at [eric.vernon@wachoviasec.com](mailto:eric.vernon@wachoviasec.com).

If your church would like to know more about Special Needs Ministry or about Happiness Retreat call Donnie at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5630 or visit [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org).



North Carolina Baptists  
*Caring. Sharing. Daring.*

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