



## Helping Adults with Cognitive Disabilities Deal with Tragedy

By Jim Pierson

After the horrible shootings at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, I had a call from a friend who teaches a Sunday school class of adults with cognitive disabilities. She wanted to know if I had any advice on dealing with her class members' questions and reactions to the event.

As we chatted, it occurred to me that I had more ideas than I initially thought. Over the years of working with my own Sunday school class for adults with special needs, we have worked through several bad times. There have been death of family members, serious illness, September 11, floods, hurricanes, murders, and other events in their own lives and others reported on television.



(Click the [Helping Adults with Cognitive Disabilities Deal with Tragedy](#) link to read the entire article.)

## Joe's Debut: Easy, Natural Inclusion

By Jim Pierson

My home church has included people with disabilities for years. It is a routine with us. Among those who are part of our fellowship is a wonderful family with four beautiful children—two boys and two girls. Because of a rare gene that the parents carry, one boy and one girl have serious vision problems. Watching Joe's and his sister's integration into the life of the congregation has been a blessing.

As I observed this superior example of inclusion, the trainer in me came out. What were the ingredients that made it so easy for Joe to be so successfully included in this church activity?

(Click the [Joe's Debut: Easy, Natural Inclusion](#) link to read the entire article.)

## CCFH Residential Programs Work with Others to Promote Independence

Residents of both Riverwood and the CCFH Independent Living Program work in various areas of the community. Many receive training from and are employed by Goodwill Industries-Knoxville, Inc.

\*"Goodwill Industries-International was founded 100 years ago by Edgar James Helms, a Methodist minister in Boston, Massachusetts. In Boston, Helms sought ways to assist residents in the city's impoverished South End. Helms collected used household goods and clothing in wealthier areas of the city and then hired and trained the poor and immigrants to repair the used goods. These donations were resold or given to the people who repaired them.

Since this time, Goodwill's mission has grown into an international movement, improving the quality of life for disabled and disadvantaged individuals around the world."

This local division was started in 1971 when Knoxville Mayor George Dempster felt a need for a community program for the young disabled population. Goodwill Industries-Knoxville, Inc. has grown into nineteen retail locations and six employment training and rehabilitation centers throughout its 15 county service area.

Annually, Goodwill recognizes employees, employers, and workers who are a part of their training program. This year, we were pleased that two CCFH program residents, Ryan and Don, received awards.

Ryan participates in the CCFH Independent Living Program and was awarded the Employee of the Year. Ryan is an employee of Jewelry Television. Rhonna Sanford, CCFH Director of Services, recalls Ryan's reaction: "An article about the award presentation was published in a special section of a local newspaper, the Knoxville News Sentinel. Both Ryan and Don were pictured in it. Ryan asked me to get him 10 extra copies of the paper so that he could share his accomplishments with his friends. For several days, Ryan had a constant smile on his face."



Don, a Riverwood resident, was awarded Worker of the Year from the Community Rehabilitation Associations-state use. Rhonna says, "Don loves to work and is so very proud of his award. Each time we have a group come to Riverwood, Don quickly runs to his room to get his award so that he can show them his achievement. Don makes the same statement to each of the groups, 'I got this because God lets me work, and I like working!'"

\*Source: [www.gwiktn.org](http://www.gwiktn.org) Goodwill Industries-Knoxville, Inc.

For additional information see: [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org) Goodwill Industries International, Inc.

## Visit our blog and Meet Friendship Unlimited

### Friends for Heaven's Sake

Roberta Lowenthal and Dave Morsch lead a ministry for adults with developmental disabilities at Northport Baptist Church, Long Island, New York. Read about their ministry in our blog under *Tell Us About Your Ministry*

CCFH Ministries, PO Box 9869, Knoxville, TN 37940  
Phone:865-546-5921, Fax:865-525-2282, E-Mail: [info@ccfh.org](mailto:info@ccfh.org), Web: [www.ccfh.org](http://www.ccfh.org)