

## Background

Father's Joy was conceived by Kristin and Shannon Tassin based on their experiences after the birth of their first daughter, Abigail, on February 24, 2000. It was that day that they were told by a hospital doctor that Abigail had Down syndrome. The doctor proceeded to give them some clinical, mostly negative, information about what they should expect of their daughter. Other than what they were told that day, they knew nothing about what Down syndrome was or what to expect in raising a child with a disability. They asked the hospital for additional information and were told that they had none to give. The couple spent the first night of their daughter's life grieving, uncertain of what to expect from their beautiful baby girl. They were left confused, heartbroken and wondering why God had decided to give them this special child.

They soon learned what a true blessing God had given them. Abigail is a beautiful, independent child with a wonderful personality and terrific sense of humor. She is growing, learning and excelling in ways her family never thought possible. Her life has strengthened her family's faith and inspired the creation of Father's Joy as well as its name. Father's Joy was named first, because it is the original Hebrew meaning of "Abigail" and, second, because it expresses the profound joy that all children, particularly children with special needs, bring to God, our Father.

We hope to spread the joy and blessings that Abigail has inspired to all families of children with disabilities and encourage faith in Jesus Christ as a source of strength.

Father's Joy is a Non-profit Corporation under the Texas Corporation Act and has obtained 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service Father's Joy is a Christian organization whose message is based on the Bible and whose ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to minister and provide support and information to families and prospective families of children with disabilities.

## Services

Our primary goal is to help establish or strengthen faith in parents and families of children with disabilities. We also hope to provide alternatives for parents considering abortion of an unborn child diagnosed with a disability.

We hope to accomplish these goals by providing the following:

- Brochures that encourage and provide accurate information on various disabilities
- Support and help with coping and living with your child's disability from other families of children with disabilities
- Guidance on what the Bible teaches us about God's view of and purpose for all children
- Information on where to turn for early intervention services
- Recommendations on how to begin helping your child reach his or her full potential
- Suggestions for toys, books and other tools that can help with your child's development
- Information on adoption for parents considering abortion of an unborn child diagnosed with a disability
- Testimonials and guidance from God's Word on the value of all human life

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