



For more information or to speak with someone about your own situation, please call Kristin Tassin at (281) 630-2885 or email us at info@fathersjoy.org.

To be on our mailing list to receive brochures and/or newsletters, please email us at info@fathersjoy.org. Brochures and newsletters may also be downloaded from our website at www.fathersjoy.org.

Father's Joy is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*"Children are a gift of the Lord...." Psalm 127:3*



Father's Joy  
4510 Plantation Colony Drive  
Missouri City, Texas 77459



# NEWSLETTER

4510 Plantation Colony Drive, Missouri City, TX 77459 · (281) 630-2885 · www.fathersjoy.org



## Thank You to Our 2005-2006 Donors & Volunteers!

What an amazing year we have had! 2005 brought for Father's Joy new volunteers, new relationships, new endeavors and a new French brochure. Thanks to our donors, we were able to raise the funds to send a team of four people (2 parents, an educator and a music therapist) to help parents, children and educators at a school for individuals with disabilities in Agadir, Morocco. Our team was able to provide support and positive information, and demonstrate the love of Christ to people searching for answers. We also created a new French brochure that was distributed to families and educators in Morocco.

None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of our donors. Thank you for being a part of our team and helping to spread the love and hope of Christ to those who have not heard.

Allyson Attuso  
The Arthur & Sarah Merrill Foundation

Jeff & Michelle Blanchard  
Brad & Tammy Breau  
Michal & Blanka Brhlik  
Gil & Ellen Bryant  
John & Laura Dailey  
Chris & Cassandra Dickerson  
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Nadine Kittrell  
Scott Kittrell  
Don & Emma Lou Nichols  
Jackie Rabalais  
George & Nelda Ross  
Melissa Ross  
Bill & ReNae Scott  
Rhett & Sue Smith  
Justin & Rebecca Tassin  
Kathy Tassin  
Shannon & Kristin Tassin  
Stefan & Katie Tassin  
Ray & Zana Thompson

We would also like to say a special "thank you" to our

team that went to Morocco and their families who made it possible for them to go, and to those who volunteered their time and talents to help us prepare for the trip. We could not have done it without you!

Jabir Al-Hilali & Jan Ross  
Gil & Ellen Bryant  
Brandon & Veronica Butler, and Family  
Caroline Duplantier  
Tommy & Susan Duplantier  
Don & Debbie Heath  
David & Patti Kittrell  
Nadine Kittrell  
Herb & Nan Robinson  
George & Nelda Ross  
Melissa Ross  
Jan Stailey  
Shannon & Kristin Tassin  
Stefan Tassin

Joe & Beverly Taube  
And all staff and families at the Rise School who supported us and allowed us to use photos of your children on the trip. You and your children are such an inspiration!

August 2006

### Inspirational Corner

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16, NIV

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Father's Joy is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to minister and provide support and information to families and prospective families if children with disabilities.

## Father's Joy Charity Golf Classic

Father's Joy will have its First Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, October 30, 2006. We need sponsors and players to make this fundraiser a success. You may participate by registering for the tournament or making a donation online. You may also register by emailing Erica Henicke at [erica.henicke@fathersjoy.org](mailto:erica.henicke@fathersjoy.org) or by mailing in a registration brochure, which you will receive in September.

The tournament will be held at Sienna Plantation Golf Club in Missouri City, Texas. Registration fees are **\$125 for an individual or \$400 for a team of 4**. We will also have a silent auction. To donate an item for the auction, please contact **T a m m y B r e a u a t**

[tammy.breau@fathersjoy.org](mailto:tammy.breau@fathersjoy.org).

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

7:00 a.m. Registration, Silent Auction

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

12:30 p.m. Lunch, Awards, Prizes

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**\$100 Hole Sponsor**

**\$500 Par Sponsor** (Team of 4, Hole Signage)

**\$1500 Birdie Sponsor** (Team of 4, Hole & Event Signage, Distribution of Company Materials)

**\$2500 Eagle Sponsor** (Team of 8, Hole & Event Signage, Distribution of Company Materials, Name in Press Releases)

## Goals for 2006—2007

**Outreach** - We are planning another trip to Morocco in 2007! The trip is scheduled for March 9-18. We will be raising funds and seeking volunteers to go on the trip, so please keep this in your prayers. We will also continue to distribute brochures through hospitals, doctors' offices and other organizations.

**Scholarships** - We plan to launch a scholarship program in 2007 to support

students with disability seeking higher education. We want to support and encourage these individuals by helping them realize their dreams. We also hope to start a scholarship program for children in need who attend The Rise School of Houston.

**Education** - We plan to begin an advocacy workshop program to educate parents regarding inclusion, special education and the school evaluation

## 2005 Finances

Income	
Donations	3,577.22
Interest	0.20
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,577.42</b>
Expenses	
Business Supplies	100.00
Reimb., Bus. Supp	(100.00)
Office Supp	103.36
Printing & Reprod	152.50
Website	289.70
Professional Develpmt	200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>745.56</b>
<b>Overall 2005 Total</b>	<b>2,831.86</b>

## Editorial Corner—"Do not fear or be dismayed."

When we set out for Agadir, Morocco, I was filled with questions and concerns. How would Muslim people treat Christian Americans? How do Moroccans view and treat their children with disability? How do you portray Christ to people who do not know Him? Would we be able to make a difference? It was obvious at the outset that my fears and doubts would be my biggest obstacle on this trip.

Part of our mission while there was for Shannon and I to give a presentation to parents of the children attending the school we were helping. We did not expect a big turnout because we had heard that parent involvement was low. However, on the day of the meeting, I watched the room fill with Muslim parents. I became fearful of how our message would be received. It was our intent to share our testimony concerning our

daughter who has Down syndrome and share that it was our faith that got us through the difficulties. At one point a woman walked into the room fully covered with the traditional Arabic Hijab. She was the first woman I had seen fully covered, so I assumed she would be more conservative than others we had encountered and, therefore, less likely to receive what I had to say. I was scared to death of her.

We got through our presentation and received incredible affirmation and acceptance from the parents, to my surprise and relief. On the night following our presentation, we had dinner with some of the educators and parents. The same woman, again fully covered, came and began a conversation with me (through a translator). She shared with me how much she related to my testimony and how her experience with her

and IEP process.

**Support and Mentoring** - In 2006, we began a Bible study program to support families of children with disability. We will continue this program and will begin writing a Bible study targeted for families of children with disability.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*  
*Philippians 2:3, NIV*

daughter (who has cerebral palsy) was similar to mine. She began to weep as she told me how her society does not accept or support her daughter or her family. My heart swelled for this woman and I asked if she would allow me to hug her. She nodded and I walked around the table and embraced her as if she were a dear friend or sister. It was such a powerful moment that the others watching began to applaud.

God, in His perfect and divine wisdom, used this woman I feared to show me that He is in control, and I have nothing to fear! When we go in God's name, we cannot fail. For it is He who will make a difference. -Kristin Tassin

*It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8, NIV*

## Father's Joy Goes International

In October 2005, Father's Joy was approached by a Christian mission organization, Innovative Mission Opportunities, Inc., about participating in a trip to Morocco. Our mission was to gather a team of parents and professionals to provide support and instruction to parents, students and educators at the Centre Rose du Sud, a school for individuals with disability. We excitedly accepted the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who do not know Christ.

After five months of preparation, in March 2006 a team of two parents, Shannon and Kristin Tassin, an educa-

tor, Beverly Taube, a music therapist, Veronica Butler, and a missionary, Don Heath, made the journey to Agadir, Morocco. The trip was an incredible success, in that the team was able not only to provide much needed information and support for parents and educators, but also built life-long friendships that we hope will have an eternal impact.

Father's Joy will continue its relationship with The Centre Rose du Sud in Agadir by returning in

March 2007. We hope to expand this ministry and reach out to families in other parts of the world, as well.



Parent, Kristin Tassin, with Centre Rose du Sud student.

## Father's Joy Brochure Distribution

In addition to being distributed at The Rise School of Houston and various hospitals and doctors' offices in Texas and Louisiana, Father's Joy's brochures are now being included in literature distributed by the Down Syndrome Association of Houston ("DSA"). In 2005, DSAH began including Father's Joy's "Down Syndrome" brochure with its "New Parent" packet. The packet is a collec-

tion of materials containing information related to Down syndrome and disability resources. It is distributed by DSAH to new families having children with Down syndrome.

Also, in preparation for the trip to Morocco in March 2006, Father's Joy created a French version of its "Having a Child with Special Needs" brochure. This brochure was distrib-

uted in Agadir and will continue to be available to families at the Centre Rise du Sud school.

We pray that these brochures will be a source of hope to those in need.

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

*Psalms 119:105*

## Prayer Requests

- The educators, students, and families of the Centre Rose du Sud in Agadir, Morocco, that they will come to know Christ, that the parents will know the value of their children as God's gift and the educators will be encouraged to continue their work.
- The ministry of Father's Joy, that God will continue to guide us in our endeavors to do His will and His work, and that we will be able to



Educator, Beverly Taube with Centre Rose du Sud students

make an impact for the Kingdom.

## Volunteer Spotlight

We are proud to announce the addition of two new volunteers in our organization. **Erica Henicke** is volunteering as our new **Development Coordinator**. Erica will be heading up fundraising efforts such as our Charity Golf Classic in October. **Tammy Breau** is volunteering as our new **Events Coordinator**. Tammy will be coordinating various events for us such as the silent auction at our golf tournament. We want to say a special "thank you" to Erica and Tammy for opening their hearts to us and for their hard work!