Jubilee
ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

Connections

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Vacation Dreams Come True

Donors Support Unique Program

Visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater was a lifelong dream for Sue Murray. Jubilee's vacation program turned Sue's dream into reality.

"It was just so simple and yet so magnificent! Jubilee helped me finally get here," she said.

Robust year-round programming helps combat loneliness and makes friendships bloom through shared activity. Jubilee vacations are the highlight. **For some people Jubilee supports, these trips are their only vacation all year.**

Donor support makes these trips possible, and our frontline workforce makes dreams come true on these trips. Nearly half of the people Jubilee supports joined one of our vacations this year.



Sue Murry and Suzanne Williams visit Fallingwater.



"Our community members help choose the vacation locations, and each person can plan what they want to do," said Julia McCune, Jubilee's Director of Community Engagement.

This year, Jubilee hosted vacations to three locations to meet demand and provide variety. A trip to perennial favorite Ocean City, Md., one to Williamsburg, Va., and our first trip to Pittsburgh.

"Thank you to everyone who had a hand in creating these unforgettable experiences," Julia said. "They would not be possible without the incredible support of Jubilee's donors."



A Sacred Space. I was especially excited to welcome people to Laurelville Retreat Center where I was born and raised, and where my journey in the disability community began. It is my most sacred space and it filled me with immense joy to share it with the Jubilee community. **—Julia McCune**, pictured left. Above: Vacationers enjoy Laurelville's Sunset Hill near Pittsburgh.



Stephanie Sugg delights in Ocean City's amusement park rides.

MEET Stephanie Sugg

Getting to Yes with Helen's Help

My face lit up like a Christmas tree when we got to the amusement park in Ocean City! I hadn't been on a ride in a very long time. I was excited. I ran right to the swings. Then the bumper cars.

Helen [Okoye] had to work hard to keep up with me! She's so nice. Then we went to the Boardwalk and rode a giant Ferris Wheel together.

I was nervous before the trip. My mom and I talked to the people planning the trip for Jubilee. They assured us that I would get to do what I wanted.

I'm the type of person who can never get enough beach time. Being in the water is like therapy for me. I'm a great swimmer. I know not everyone wants to be on the beach or in the pool all day. It was important to me to know I could make my own choices on the trip.

Since I began working with Helen I've started to do a lot of things that I felt too shy to do before. I got to "yes" for the beach vacation thanks to her. She knows I don't like to sit still for a long time, so she drove us to the beach and we could stop whenever we wanted.

Another thing Helen and I have started doing together is going to Jubilee events. **I'm even singing in public. Yes, me!** You know ABBA? Dancing Queen is my favorite song. I sang it at karaoke night with the Jubilee gang at TGI Fridays and then again at the talent show.

It feels good to do things. I think I might even go to the beach again next year. ●

Your Gift. Their Best Life.

Community programming at Jubilee is 100% funded by donors like you!

Nation-wide, nearly one third of adults with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64 report persistent feelings of loneliness.

Your gift helps create community and connection for more than 200 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Use the QR code or visit: jubileemd.org/donate to make a difference.



"I was happy on vacation. I liked all the rides and getting ice cream! Being with my friends was the best." —**Jordan Gould** , front go-kart, with pal Curtis Cooper.