



Celebrating special children.  
Renewing their families.

---

## FAMILY CORNER

Jill's House Families are invited to join us for a special weekend retreat Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>. This extended getaway will be held at the beautiful [Meadowkirk Retreat](#) at Delta Farm in Middleburg, VA. The retreat joins together kids and parents from the Jill's House community for a time of fellowship and relaxation. Jill's House staff and direct care volunteers handle all the logistics so parents can be free to listen to a great speaker, connect with other parents, and of course get some much needed rest!

Here are some comments from parents who attended last year's retreat:

*"The retreat was like an oasis in the middle of a very hectic summer. I believe the reason is because the time we spent at the retreat, we were a family that was just like the other families. On top of that, we were also completely spoiled and well cared for. It was such a relief to not have to worry about anything other than making sure we were showered and presentable. **Another big impact of the retreat was the culmination of a feeling that I have had growing for a while - that raising a child with special needs is not a burden, but is really an example of God's grace.** Greg's talks really drove that point home. [The Elisha Foundation's] work and the way that [the foundation representative] personally reached out to all our family members helped to solidify this feeling. In summary, I felt very special and that I'm doing important work. And I felt like I was amongst a community of people who understood that and who have more in common with me and my family than I have felt since [my son] was born. It was such a wonderful feeling, one that I will not ever forget. Thank you for allowing us to take part in the inaugural retreat, it was such a special time for us."*

*"We wanted to thank you for including our family in the retreat. It was a wonderful experience for all of us. We appreciated the time we had to ourselves, and we loved the fact that the boys got to spend so much time together, as this is not something they do very often, especially without us present. We also appreciated getting a glimpse into the world that [our son] typically visits on his own -- getting to know your amazing and loving staff, and having a better sense of the activities that [our son] participates in at Jill's House/Blue Ridge. **It was also meaningful to observe up close the spiritual underpinnings that animate the work you all do for the children you serve; it was really inspiring.** Finally, it was great to get to meet some of the other Jill's House families, to hear their stories and to discuss our common experiences."*



For more information on the retreat please contact, Deonne Snare, Family Support Coordinator, at [Deonne.Snare@jillshouse.org](mailto:Deonne.Snare@jillshouse.org) or (703) 639-5687.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**Sean Falconi**, works in finance and auditing for the U.S. government. Having served in the military for several years, Sean uses his gifts and talents to help make Jill's House a fun and safe place for our kids.

### **How did you hear about Jill's House?**

A few years ago a friend recommended that I visit McLean Bible Church. One Sunday, I heard Lon Solomon speak about the mission of Jill's House. It sounded like something remarkable, and it never went out of my head. Later, I was deployed to Afghanistan but I still kept Jill's House in the back of my mind, thinking this was something I would want to be involved in. After returning to the area, the conviction stayed with me and I started to volunteer at Jill's House this past September.

### **What is your role as a volunteer at Jill's House?**

I'm a Kitchen Helper. There is a lot of attention to detail in this role. The menu preparation and serving requirements are different for each kid. Some of the dietary restrictions of the kids are very strict. Everything that goes out from the kitchen is checked and cross checked by teammates and then approved of by our supervisor. The kitchen team is focused on getting things absolutely right each time.

### **What do you appreciate about volunteering at Jill's House?**

I really enjoy being part of a team, that sense of purpose is important to me. At Jill's House, everything our team does is absolutely focused on accomplishing the mission. I really respect how things are executed by the organization. Sometimes, in the military, things can get caught up in bureaucracy or process. I would say there's no fluff at Jill's House. Everything I've done as a volunteer, 100% matters and directly serves the children.

We are so grateful to Sean, and individuals like him that make Jill's House a special place to serve and grow. Jill's House relies heavily on the volunteer support of individuals that give generously of their time and efforts to support our children and families. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering at Jill's House, please contact Mary Rachel Robbins, Volunteer and Internship Program Manager, at [MaryRachel.Robbins@jillshouse.org](mailto:MaryRachel.Robbins@jillshouse.org) or (703) 639-5671.

## **FUN AT JILL'S HOUSE**

Earlier this spring, Jill's House was visited by Project Ponies who lead a "Mobile Mini's" program. The kids had an amazing time walking and interacting with these adorable miniature ponies. We are already looking forward to our next visit from these furry friends!



## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all of our Jill's House friends who joined us for an evening of dance and celebration at the Big Band Dance this past April 16th! We are especially grateful to our gracious hosts, Colby and Nina May and the Host Committee including: Robbie and Sherlene Bradbury, Becky Briggs, Rick and Robin Gordon, Jack and Donna Hughes, Curt and Terri Kowalsky, Colby and Nina May, Pam Pryor, and Tom Zeberlein for all their efforts in making the evening a wonderful success.



Over 125 guests danced the night away to the music of Radio King Orchestra. Great fun and generosity overflowed with a raffle and opportunity to "Sponsor a Child for a Night." The evening raised over \$70,000 to support the children and families of Jill's House.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Celebration of Special Children



Saturday, May 14 | 6:00 - 10:30 pm

A Celebration of Special Children, brings together more than 500 guests for a wonderful event to celebrate the impact of Jill's House on the loving families and inspiring children they serve. SONY recording artist Lexi Walker returns to headline the evening that will also feature the spectacular new singing group GENTRI.

[Learn more.](#)

### Ride for Jill's House

Saturday, June 11 | 8:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Ride for Jill's House, hear the thunder of more than 200 motorcyclists as they ride from Manassas, VA, through Middleburg and end at Jill's House with a celebration including lunch and tours of Jill's House.

[Register now.](#)



"Like" or "Follow" us!

