



Celebrating special children.  
Renewing their families.

---

## DO MORE 24



TOMORROW (June 2nd), you can help kids with special needs #DoMore at Jill's House! Jill's House is partnering with United Way's "Do More 24" Campaign, to spread the word about the amazing kids we serve and their loving families.

[Click here for more information.](#)

---

## FAMILY CORNER

Jill's House families enjoyed a meaningful time of fellowship and rest this Memorial Day weekend at the beautiful [Meadowkirk Retreat](#) at Delta farm in Middleburg, VA. The retreat provided the whole family time to connect and be replenished.

Parents and kids roasted s'mores over the campfire, played badminton, swam, fished, caught frogs, and just had quality time together. Moms were pampered at an afternoon tea complete with finger sandwiches, fruit, and chocolate. Dads hiked the great outdoors while enjoying the scenic river views.

Special thanks to the [Elisha Foundation](#) and [Meadowkirk Retreat](#) for partnering with Jill's House to provide our families a life giving weekend

Both Moms and Dads also shared a special time to hear speaker, Michael Gerreau, talk about his experience living with Guillian-Barre Syndrome, and connected with other parents in the Jill's House community. The children had the most fun of all participating in staff-led activities-such as an outdoor safari treasure hunt, talent show, and hay ride. There was no shortage of laughter from both kids and parents.



A parent shared:

"What an amazing blessing this weekend has been. A 'village' filled with people who accept and love us and especially our children, unconditionally. A weekend where we can let our guard down and not worry about meltdowns or behaviors some might find bothersome. A weekend we could let our younger kids run and be kids playing outside, screaming down the hall during a game of tag, choosing the activities they wanted to pursue rather than the constantly busy schedule and strict structure required to keep our son's anxiety at a minimum. And knowing they were safe and with people who would not only play/do nearly any activity their heart desired...they would do it enthusiastically as if they had nowhere else to be and nothing they'd rather be doing. A tea party for the moms, a hike for the dads. Wonderful, encouraging, thought-provoking speakers. Time to rest and recharge for the parents. These people are amazing. They are walking the walk and living God's love. What a gift this has been for our whole family!"

## SO LONG, FAREWELL...

The time has come for us to say a difficult goodbye to our graduating Fellows Class of 2015-16. We are incredibly grateful to all the fellows for their above and beyond dedication and compassionate service to the children and families of Jill's House.

Andrea Perdomo, the supervisor for the Fellows program, shared her gratitude and enthusiasm for the class:

"[The Fellows] have taught me so much about what sacrificial love looks like by the way they give of themselves to others. Their love for the mission and vision of Jill's House is compelling and I have been personally marked by their desire to love others toward Jesus. I absolutely love our Fellow class and while it stings to see them go, I could not be more proud of the people they have become. Jill's House is a better place because of their time here."



**Front Row:** Katherine Allison, Alexa Hallen, Karina Irizarry, Kristen Phillips

**Back Row:** Emily Womble, Elizabeth Andrews, Haylee Stump, Carley Castaneda, Ciara Bush

One of the most important aspects of the fellowship program is to educate and equip leaders to go back into their home communities, where they can continue to change the face of disability ministry in America and around the world. It has been a privilege for the Jill's House staff to support the 2015-16 Fellows Class. Their legacy of loving service will have a continued and lasting impact on the kids and families we serve.

## A NIGHT TO BELIEVE

On May 14th, 374 friends and families of the Jill's House community gathered for a night of celebration at the Ritz Carlton, Tyson's Corner. The theme of the evening was Believe, a powerful reminder of how our shared belief in providing respite care has blossomed into the growing ministry of Jill's House. Inspired by stories of how Jill's House has so profoundly impacted families within the community, over \$89,000 was raised throughout the evening to support our continued work.

One of the highlights of the evening was an interview of Brian and Deb Riley, whose 12-year old son Tucker regularly stays at Jill's House. The Rileys opened their hearts and shared about the joys and challenges of raising Tucker.

Brian & Deb Riley  
and Brenda Solomon



During the interview, Deb shared a note she received from one of the Jill's House Fellows, Kristen Philips, which illustrated the loving community that regularly celebrates her son:

"I had the privilege of working with Tucker on my very first weekend at Jill's House and since then he has only continued to have the most profound impact on my life. Tucker has taught me that love is a language universal to all, he has taught me to listen even when words are not spoken. I have learned so much from Tucker, simply from who he is. I am so thankful for him, so thankful for your family and can't wait to see him this weekend!"

In the words of Jill's House President, Joel A. Dillon, thank you for having "the courage and vision to believe that a brighter future was possible for families raising children with intellectual disabilities." That brighter future *is* possible, and together we can make it a reality!

## 2016 RIDE FOR JILL'S HOUSE



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](http://JILLSHOUSERIDE.COM)

"Like" or "Follow" us!

