

SHF-Purchased Transit Van With Wheelchair Accessibility Helping Ashland Special Needs Ministry Serve Local Families



Ashland Special Needs Ministry provides family respite care for local families with special needs, including respite care in local churches, sending families to a family retreat with Joni and Friends, and serving the individual respite needs of each family on a case by case, family by family and disability by disability basis.

To support all of these activities, last year the Samaritan Hospital Foundation purchased a Ford transit van with wheelchair capabilities that enables the ministry to transport families as part of their respite care services. The new van is essential as it allows for:

- The whole family to take part when needed

- Transportation to doctor appointments and therapies
- Social distancing in the vehicle to keep friends safe
- Easy cleaning seats and accessories
- Handicap ramp for wheelchair accessibility to allow ALL friends to be safely transported for respite
- Special bikes to be transported via trailer for recreation via hitch
- Delivery of specific needs to families (e.g., food, special need necessities, diapers, formula, equipment, etc.)
- Travel for families to Joni and Friends Family Retreat in southern Ohio
- Travel to local attractions for respite (e.g., Columbus Zoo, Cosi Museums, etc.), especially for those with autism and specific interests

Christina Teevan, Executive Director of Ashland Special Needs Ministry, explained, “Receiving this van has made a huge difference in the lives of those we serve. The excitement on the faces of our friends and the thankful hearts of their families as we bring food, appointment transportation, care and often the respite they so need, is why this van is such a blessing to our community.”