

# In His Name

A Place for Children with Special Needs

## Kids Reaching Kids Mission Offering Project 2015 In His Name: A Place for Children with Special Needs

Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5, NIRV)

There is a growing need within our churches today to help provide children with special needs a place where they can experience the love of Christ.

The term Special Needs encompasses a wide range of mental and physical conditions that are becoming all too common in children today. The following statistics reveal the reality of the current situation.

- .14% of babies are born with Down syndrome (1/691)
- 2% of children are diagnosed with autism (1/31 boys)
- 7% of children are diagnosed with ADHD
- 8% of children have a learning disability
- 14% of children have a developmental disability
- 17% of Americans experience a communication disorder
- 19% of Americans are classified as a person with a disability
- 25% of 13- to 18-year-olds are identified with an anxiety disorder\*

This growing reality of children with special needs is something that every local church must be prepared to address with the love of Christ. Whether this includes the construction of special building accommodations or providing teachers and leaders with training specifically designed to address the needs of these children, the need to reach out to children with special needs with the love of Christ is essential.

In addition, a number of Nazarene churches and ministry centers specializing in the service to children with special needs for Christ already exist. Many of these centers have an ongoing need for financial support.

When kids give to the 2015 Kids Reaching Kids Mission Offering Project, **In His Name: A Place for Children with Special Needs**, they help local churches address the special needs of the children in their congregations. Likewise, funds raised through Kids Reaching Kids in 2015 will help enhance current ministry centers and possibly lead to the creation and construction of new ministry centers for children with special needs.

When children support **In His Name**, they are following Christ's mandate to share Jesus' love to children with special needs. By helping churches provide a place for children with special needs, they welcome them with love in Jesus' name.

\*Statistics of Children with Special Needs (2013) from www.theInclusiveChurch.com.



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