



## Executive Summary

Over 60 million Americans and nearly 5 million Floridians live with a disability and many of them are left sitting on a deck or on their couch. **StirringWaters** is a needed project to bring joy to dreary lives and improve their mental and physical health. It will be an intentionally and fully inclusive aquatic adventure experience specifically designed by therapists and aquatic professionals to encourage healthy activities for people with disabilities.

In the beginning we asked families living with disabilities three questions: In the great waterparks in Florida what works for you, what is difficult for you, and what are the deal breakers? **StirringWaters** emphasizes the experiences that work, seeks to remove the barriers from the difficult, and found solutions for the deal breakers — making the impossible possible.

Some of the largest waterpark developers have come to the table to help create or adapt features to eliminate the deal breakers and make the difficult easy. However, everything has a price and families living with disabilities typically have little money — thus the need for the nonprofit, governmental, and business communities to cover the construction costs. When families living with disabilities in Florida and New York were asked, “If **StirringWaters** existed, would you come?” 67% said they would come quarterly or more often.

**StirringWaters** will include many features — features like underwater wheelchair experiences in the deep spring, an island with a therapy trail, and an ultra-inclusive restroom and bathhouse. It will have The Rainforest, an inclusive and interactive splash/play experience like no other, complete with therapy stations and calming areas. Special hotel style housing will be provided and built to a standard far beyond the requirements of ADA.

It will sit in one of the world’s most ideal locations — Central Florida. Its Polk County location is centered between both coasts and convenient to the Orlando and Tampa airports. Yet, it is in a rural setting near the historic town of Lake Wales.

Lake Aurora Christian Camp and Retreat Center, one of the finest youth camp and retreat centers in Florida, has welcomed it to their campus and they will assume responsibility for its operation.

**StirringWaters** is intentionally focused on individuals and families living with disabilities thus it will be able to be enjoyed by people of all abilities.

History. **StirringWaters** began as the vision of retired Camp Director Bill Redmon. Its mission is to provide a safe and comfortable place where families living with disabilities will be able to have shared experiences and to allow the community of people with disabilities to be safely interactive with the world of those who are more typical. In its development, four universities have given assistance and it has captured the attention of some of the world’s largest waterpark developers.

It will be the place in Florida where no one is left sitting on the deck, but everyone can get into the fun.

