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## RTBI Monthly: April Renewal & Impact

Happy April, RTBI Family!

This month has been a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do. As the season of renewal is upon us, we've seen barriers fall in profound ways. From the quiet dignity of a baptism to the high energy of community fundraisers, your support is making a way where there once was none. We are so grateful you are walking—and rolling—this journey with us!

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### 30 Days of Awareness: Autism Acceptance Month



*Click Icon to Follow  
Us on Facebook  
and to see the  
Daily Posting.*

April is **Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month**, and we have been busy across our social media platforms! Every day this month, we've shared daily posts featuring practical tips for sensory-friendly living, encouraging reminders for families, and awareness spotlights to help our community better support our neurodivergent neighbors.

The response has been powerful! We encourage you to visit the **Removing the Barriers** or **StirringWaters** Facebook pages today to scroll through our daily posts and share them with your own circles. Let's keep the conversation going long after April ends!

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### StirringWaters: Building the Foundation

While our team is busy on the ground this month, the vision for our permanent home at **StirringWaters** is moving steadily into a new and exciting phase. Following our "Vision Re-imagined" announcement last month, we have some key milestones to share:

#### **Next Steps: May Site Visit**

The month of May will be a pivotal one for our leadership. The StirringWaters Board of Directors has a scheduled site visit and formal board meeting on-location. This is a time for our leaders to walk the ground, pray over the mission, see firsthand the potential of the refined site layout, and to assure that everything is consistent with the Lake Aurora Board's vision.

#### **Focus on Dignity: The Comfort Station**

We are thrilled to report that active discussions have begun with our contractors regarding the Restroom Building (Comfort Station). In any inclusive space, the "basics" are the most important. Designing a universally accessible comfort station is the first step in ensuring that when families arrive, their most fundamental needs are met with dignity and ease.

#### **The Path Forward**

While our focus is currently on these essential structures, discussions regarding the final aquatic features remain ongoing. We are taking the time

to ensure that the water experience is perfectly scaled, sustainable, and transformative.

Your patience and continued prayers during this "blueprinting" season are invaluable. We aren't just building a park; we are building a sanctuary where barriers simply do not exist.

[See Who Is Stirring The Waters](#)

## The Calming Corner: Progress Report



We are thrilled to share some long-awaited news: **The trailer for our Mobile Calming Corner and Comfort Station has officially been delivered!** Seeing it parked and ready for its transformation is a beautiful milestone, and we can't wait for you to see it out in the community.



**The Heart of the Mission: Why This Matters** For many families, the decision to attend a local festival or a community park isn't a simple one—it's a calculation of risks. What happens if the environment becomes overwhelming? What happens if a private medical or hygiene need arises? For too long, the answer has been to simply stay home.

The "barrier" isn't just a lack of a ramp; it's the fear that a person's dignity might be compromised in public. This trailer is our promise to change that. It is a portable sanctuary where a child can find peace when the world gets too loud, and where an adult can find a private, sanitary space to be cared for with the respect they deserve. We are building a **Safety Net of Dignity** that allows families to say "Yes" to community life, knowing they have a place to retreat, reset, and refresh.



**A Foundation of Gratitude** This progress would not be possible without the incredible support of **Peace River Electric Cooperative (PRECO) Operation Round Up**. Their generous grant provided the bedrock for this project, and we are profoundly grateful for a partner that understands the value of local impact and inclusive service.



**The Final Bridge to the Finish Line** Now that the trailer is here, we need your help to make it mission-ready. To transform this shell into a fully realized sanctuary—complete with the specialized interior finishing, the mission-centric exterior wrap, and the essential wheelchair lift for total access—**we need to raise approximately \$8,700.**

When you give toward this project, you aren't just buying materials. You are purchasing peace of mind for a parent and providing dignity for an adult. You are ensuring that "all of God's children" can stay for the whole celebration. **Help Us Get the Sanctuary on the Road:**

[Provide a Financial Gift - Help Us Bridge The \\$8,700 Gap -To Finalize The Build](#)

[Shop our Wish List - Help Us Stock the Interior](#)

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# April Impact: Making a Way

## Faith Without Barriers: Shelby's Mobi-Chair Baptism

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."  
— Isaiah 43:19.

At **Removing the Barriers Initiative (RTBI)**, we believe physical challenges should never stand in the way of a life-changing moment. Shelby had a deep desire to be baptized by full-body immersion, but access was a barrier—until now.



Witness the beautiful moment Shelby declared her faith, proving that God's grace is accessible to everyone. We exist to get "all of God's children" off the deck and into the water!

**Community Fun:** We provided Archery and Axe Throwing for the **Airboaters for Autism Awareness** fundraiser and Archery for the **Lake Wales Care Center 5K**.

**Camp Life:** Our **Voyageur Canoe** visited the **Rotary Boys Camp**, giving campers an inclusive experience on the water.

**Explore the Wild:** Our Track Chairs at **Tiger Creek Preserve** continue to be a favorite!



[Tiger Creek Preserve Track Chair Reservation](#)

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## May Momentum: Mark Your Calendars!

Happy  
Mother's  
Day

**Mother's Day Weekend | Lakeland Mayfaire Art Festival** What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than by ensuring every mom can enjoy the beauty of the Mayfaire Art Festival? RTBI will be on-site all weekend providing **wheelchair-accessible golf cart services**. If you're at the festival, look for our team and say hello!



**May 29th @ 10:00 AM | 3rd Annual Heartland Peacemaker Paddle:** Join us at **Lake Jackson at Veterans Park!** We'll have a dry run on May 22nd, and then we paddle on the 29th with the Ridge Area ARC and Mason G. Smoke Foundation. Come out and **cheer on the ARC consumers** as they take to the water!

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## The Splash is Set: Ski Clinic Full!

We are thrilled to announce that all participant spots for our **2nd Annual Adaptive Water Ski Clinic on July 11th** have been filled! While the clinic is full, **we invite you to come and watch**. There is a profound blessing in witnessing these breakthroughs—seeing barriers fall and joy take over is an experience you won't want to miss.



## Fueling the Mission

All RTBI services are provided at **no cost** to the families we serve. We believe that finances should never be a barrier to joy, but we rely on your support to keep these

programs rolling.

**Celebrating Our First "Full Wheel"!** We are overjoyed to announce and thank **The Redmon Family** for officially becoming our very first **Big Wheel Family!** By committing to a full wheel with ongoing monthly donations, they have ensured that all 8 "spokes" of that wheel are strong and steady. Thank you, Redmons, for leading the way and providing such a vital foundation for our growth.

**How to Build Your Own Family Wheel** The Redmon family has shown us a wonderful blueprint for success. If a "Full Wheel" feels like a large commitment for one person, remember that it is simply **8 "Spokes."** You can reach this goal by involving your own family—when individual family members each commit to their own \$25 monthly "Spoke," the wheel fills up quickly. It turns a visionary goal into a shared personal commitment that honors the mission together.

**Will You Join the Movement?** Whether you want to challenge your family to fill a wheel or you want to join as a single "Spoke" at **\$25 per month**, your partnership ensures that the joy of the water remains accessible to everyone.

**Become a Monthly Partner:** Recurring support provides the stability we need to grow.

**Sponsor an Event:** Help cover safety gear, fuel, and maintenance for all our programs.

Become a Spoke Today

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## A Closing Thought for April

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.* — **Isaiah 43:19**

As we look at the work being done this month—from the trails of Tiger Creek to the waters of a baptismal pool—we see God making a way. Thank you for being the hands and feet that help clear the path.

**With Gratitude,**  
*The RTBI Family*

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