

**Summary of Chat Transcript for May 20, 2020 Disability Ministry Video Roundtable
Virtual Respite: Family Fun Nights & Outreach Activities to Minister to Families During COVID-19**

Websites mentioned

www.BethesdaLC.org (free activities and links for devotions, crafts, music, and links to our music videos concerts on our you tube channel etc.).

www.eastview.church (information about summer camp)

<https://kahoot.com/what-is-kahoot/> (platform for playing games)

myfreebingocards.com (for playing virtual bingo)

nathanielshope.org and link to their Virtual Buddy Break

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5JOeiAuxN-fBly-fcnj_HfSkLeqtUNGy Also, they offer a free birthday club for special needs kids.

soarspecialneeds.com

Attendees from the following locations

Fayetteville, AR	Mt. Airy, Maryland	Rockland County, NY
Orlando, FL	Brunswick, ME	Cincinnati, Ohio
Savannah, GA	Grand Haven, MI	North East Ohio
Chicago, IL and suburbs	Grand Rapids, MI	Kennett Square, PA
Normal, IL	Minneapolis, MN	Greenville, SC
Wheaton, Illinois	MS	Corpus Christi, TX
Iowa	NC	San Antonio, Texas
Kansas	NJ	Richmond, VA
Overland Park, KS	Northern NJ	Cleveland, OH

Questions asked and responses

1 - SOAR Special Needs to Nathaniel's Hope: **What format did you use for the virtual respite? YouTube for the group?** Answer: We're using YouTube for our Virtual Buddy Break. Virtual Buddy Break - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5JOeiAuxN-fBly-fcnj_HfSkLeqtUNGy

2 - **Eastview church leader:** Some of my families are still planning to do "school" during the summer. We are extending our parent care group during the summer via Zoom later in evening 8:15, once a month. We are doing camp in a bag and delivery to homes with a link to worship. I hope to open our sensory rooms for families to schedule time during the summer, waiting on the state guidelines to figure that out. Meal delivery for special needs families go over huge!!!

Several church leaders requested information on these plans and the camp. See website to contact special needs ministry.

3 - Kennett Square, PA church leader: They have created **virtual respite** for special needs families. The 'respite' for the parents is getting the kids engaged on a Zoom call, so the parents get a mental break. This ministry has used breakout rooms, with a minimum of 6-8 people per room. The more people per room made the experience more enjoyable and interactive. Some of the things this ministry has done are scavenger hunts, Simon Says, playing dress up, having quizzes, playing the Freeze game, having Show and Tell of their favorite things, and tower building.

Questions were asked about the number of people per breakout room, the activities done, whether or not the people were split up by age groups, etc.

4 - Respite In Home: Question was asked whether anyone has had success with **in-home** respite. The discussion centered on giving parents a mental break, even if they can't get a physical break from their demands.

Responses to respite question: We have had success reaching out to families, but not in home respite. We had volunteers meet at local parks and play in the parks and eat picnic lunches while keeping appropriate distance. A benefit of this approach prevented having to follow the "two adult rule" to meet with families, and it was in a wide open space.

Another response: Our staff will be meeting with one individual to go for a walk, go to hang out at the park for an hour. We will practice distancing and mask wearing. For some our families more impacted by disabilities, we will have staff go into the home for a couple of hours. We will not utilize volunteers for the remainder of the summer.

Nathaniel's Hope response: Some of our Buddy Breaks have visited homes and stayed outside social distancing to let kids see them and have brought some small gifts, signs etc to just remind them that they are loved and not alone

5 - Respite at church facilities: Question about using church facilities to host individual families or small groups instead of being in the home.

Response: I have been providing a respite for individual families in our facility for those that need a break. I wish I could do more for those that have medically fragile children.

6 - Meal delivery questions:

What time did you deliver meals? Answers: (no responses noted)

What kinds of food and the cost?

We did a pizza delivery last week and families loved it.

Pizza is easy and cheap if there aren't allergies. We actually got our meals donated from a local bbq restaurant that kept most everything gluten free.

Other ministry took cooked pasta and bagged salad.

7 - **Virtual Bingo:** myfreebingocards.com The site provides the cards and families can check off the numbers on their screen or print if needed. The ministry 99 Balloons has used this website and virtual bingo with good success.

8 -What do families need and want now?

Many are asking, not to just assume what is wanted and needed.

We are starting in home respite next week.

9 - How are you making the "typical" ministries (children, teens, adults) accessible during this time? Also includes volunteer involvement statement:

Response: Send mailings to the kids, and include the siblings

Birthday club for kids and for siblings. Also, Nathaniel's Hope hosts a free VIP Birthday Club for kids with special needs. We send kids a Bearing Hope stuffed bear when they first join, and then cards annually on their birthday. Please feel free to invite them to join at www.nathanielshope.org. It's free.

Another response: This is something I am currently revising to allow more volunteer involvement: https://deeperkidmin.com/connect-with-kids-throughout-the-week-with-crew-cards/?mc_cid=6c58bdc7ee&mc_eid=7e83966623

10 - Those of you that are doing support groups for families, **what time has worked best?**

Response from Joni and Friends: We've been doing quite a few of those. For kids and young adults, 2pm has worked well. For whole family or adult sessions, 6/6:30 has worked really well

Another response - after kids are in bed (for parent support groups)