

Church's 'Heavenly' Special Needs Ministry Makes Incredible Spiritual Impact on Families

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A New Jersey church's incredible effort to serve its community is inspiring hearts and minds, helping families thrive and creating a blueprint for how houses of worship can serve people with special needs.

Tim Lucas, founder and lead pastor of Liquid Church in Parsippany, New Jersey, recently told Daniel Fusco's "You're Gonna Make It" podcast about the church's phenomenal outreaches.

"We've always had a heart for [special needs ministry]," Lucas said, noting Millennials and Gen Z members of the church help drive the special needs ministry. "We just have a great ministry opportunity."

The church's efforts range from placing people with special needs "on the front lines" to preparing for the official launch of a coffee shop entirely staffed by those with disabilities.

"You will find some of our friends with Asperger's, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, you name it, serving on the front lines, greeting people, hospitality, working in the café," Lucas said. "We actually just opened a full-time café that is entirely employed by special needs adults."

Listen to Lucas reveal the stunning ways Liquid Church is helping people with special needs and their families:

According to Lucas, too many of these individuals “age out of the education system” and don’t have a place to learn, grow and offer their services to the community.

“They have extraordinary abilities and spiritual capacity to know Jesus,” he said.

Liquid Church also hosts a special needs prom each year, turning the sanctuary into a massive, inspirational party.

“It’s a little taste of heaven on earth,” Lucas said.

The impact on families has been profound. For instance, the parents of one little boy with special needs drive 90 minutes from New York to New Jersey each week to take part in Liquid Church’s Sunday services. These parents told Lucas how important the ministry has been for their family.

“[They said], ‘Not only is our child being loved on, we get respite for an hour and 15 minutes. We actually get to sit in a service, hold hands ... and we get to have our souls restored,’” Lucas recounted.

The church’s “Buddy Program” pairs each special needs child with an aide. This one-on-one attention serves both the children and their families.

Find out more about Liquid Church’s special needs services, which are becoming a model for other churches, [here](#).

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