

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON FEBRUARY 23rd FOR UP WITH FAMILIES**  
**WEEKEND!!**

**TO: STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO ENJOY HELPING OTHERS**

**FROM: Julaine Edwards** and the “Up with Families” Committee

The “Up with Families” Weekend will be held on February 22 – February 24, 2019 at the **Davenport Steeplegate Inn**, 100 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street. It is a weekend for 25 families of special needs children which lasts from Friday evening until noon on Sunday. On Friday evening the families check in and relax to prepare for a busy Saturday. During the day on Saturday there are seminars for the parents and planned recreational activities for the special needs children and their brothers and sisters. On Saturday evening the parents enjoy a formal dinner and social time while the children and volunteers are treated to pizza. On Sunday there is an ecumenical service, brunch, and family time.

Families from all over the area, including Davenport, Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, Eldridge, Muscatine, Blue Grass, Maquoketa, and Clinton are eligible to participate in the weekend. They must have a special needs child ages 0 to 7. Most families find the weekend to be educational and relaxing. Costs are underwritten by donations.

Obviously, it takes more than monetary donations to put on such a weekend. This, I hope, is where your school, agency, or group can get involved. **It takes many volunteers (over 225) to make this event a success. Volunteers are needed throughout the day and evening on Saturday, February 23, to be companions to the special needs children and their brothers and sisters.** Each sibling ages six and under and each special needs child has his own companion, and the older children are placed in small groups. There are planned activities run by other volunteers throughout the day, but volunteer child companions are of vital importance all day.

Students, teachers, and health care providers from throughout the area have assisted with this event during the past 16 years. Last year several North, Central, West, Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, North Scott, Muscatine, Clinton, and Assumption High School students helped. Scott, St. Ambrose, Blackhawk, Palmer, and Augustana students have also helped, often to fulfill an assignment in a child related class, but often just for the joy of volunteering. Several health care agencies in the area have also allowed their staff members to volunteer and have generously not scheduled interested employees to work on that Saturday. **I am again contacting all areas high schools, colleges, and health care agencies to ask if there are groups of students or employees who would be willing to commit four to five hours on Saturday, February 23,** to our weekend. No school advisor or agency supervisor needs to be present on that day, as the **volunteers must make an individual and personal commitment to this activity.** The shifts run from about 8:00 a.m. – 12:00, 12:45 – 4:45, and 5:30 – 10:00 p.m. Volunteers can sign up for any one, two, or all three shifts. Everyone is finished by 10:00 p.m. **Volunteers’ commitments will be confirmed and further explained by phone, e-mail, or note. Walk-in volunteers who have not signed up in advance cannot be used;**  
**all volunteers must fill out a volunteer form in advance.**

I have included a few brochures explaining the weekend and a few volunteer forms, which can be copied. Please call **Julaine Edwards at 563-349-2860** for more information. **Forms can be sent individually or as a group to Julaine Edwards, 6111 North Linwood Ave, Davenport, Iowa 52806.**

**PLEASE HAVE ALL FORMS TO Julaine BY Febuary 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

**Thanks so much for your consideration of this volunteer opportunity!!**