

## Join our Respite Ministry and make a difference in the life of a child and their family.

Our Respite Program is a loving and faith-filled ministry designed for families who have a child with special needs. Through friendship, compassion, and God's love, we create a safe and joyful environment where every child is celebrated, included, and cared for as a precious gift from God.

Each participant is paired with a trained, dedicated teenage volunteer who work together to provide companionship, encouragement, and fun. The program has a committee which includes leaders whom many are special educators. Together they enjoy games, music, activities, entertainment, and the simple but powerful gift of friendship.

For families, Respite offers support, understanding, and a caring community rooted in faith. For children with special needs, it provides opportunities to build confidence, form lasting friendships, and experience joy in a welcoming and loving environment.

Volunteering in this ministry is equally transformative. Teen volunteers grow in compassion, patience, leadership, communication, and service to others. Many discover a calling toward careers in education, healthcare, counseling, ministry, or special needs support — while deepening their faith and learning the true meaning of serving others with love and kindness.

We ask our volunteers to make a commitment to this ministry by being dependable, present, and engaged. Volunteers are expected to arrive at 8:45 AM, and the program concludes by 12:30 PM (cleanup and breakdown). Your commitment of time and heart helps create consistency, trust, and meaningful relationships for the children and families we serve.

Whether you are seeking support for your family or feel called to serve, we invite you to become part of this extraordinary ministry where lives are touched, hearts are changed, and God's love is shared through every smile, conversation, and act of care.

To volunteer or learn more about participating, please contact Maria Ryan at 631-754-9045 or email [mryan@olqmparish.org](mailto:mryan@olqmparish.org).

*"Let all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14*



### 2026-2027 Respite & Special Care Ministry Saturdays 9:30am – Noon in the Community Room

September 12, 2026

October 17, 2026

November 21, 2026

December 19, 2026 – Santa Visit

January 9, 2027

February 6, 2027

March 20, 2027

April 10, 2027

May 22, 2027

June 12, 2027 – End of Season Gathering