

Saturday nights are best known for fun, recreation and friends. Whether it's a trip to a bowling alley or staying in to play cards with a few close friends, Saturday nights are a welcomed break from a busy week.



For persons with developmental disabilities, there's no better way to spend a Saturday night than with **Recreational Respite** at Catholic Charities Community Services/Summit County. Designed specifically for persons with developmental disabilities, Recreational Respite offers participants a wide variety of activities, field trips and socialization with their peers. Participants thrive as they make new friends, increase their self-esteem and enhance their social skills.

“ For our daughter, the program gives her a sense of feeling like she is part of something on her own. She has her own circle of friends at Recreational Respite. ”

Catholic Charities Community Services
Summit County 

Recreational Respite

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Catholic Charities



United Way
of Summit County

Financial support for Recreational Respite is provided primarily by the County of Summit DD Board. Additional funding is provided by the United Way of Summit County, foundations and private contributions.



Recreational Respite

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When not on a field trip, the program is held at a local site where participants enjoy activities like dancing, games, arts, crafts, cooking, music appreciation and social interaction. All activities are "by choice" allowing participants to exercise decision making skills and practice self determination.



Educated, Compassionate Staff That Knows Each Participant

The staff at Recreational Respite is committed to providing the highest level of service to our participants. With a ratio of not more than four participants per staff member, the program is able to provide supervision at a level that is appropriate for most participants. Throughout the year, the staff learns about each participant's likes and dislikes, and is able to customize the program to fit the needs of most individuals.

Recreational Respite has a reputation for retaining long-time employees which provides a greater level of comfort and familiarity to our participants. Many of the staff have earned degrees in areas such as education, special education, and psychology. Additionally, each staff member must be fingerprinted and pass a criminal background check.

The **Recreational Respite Program** believes that inclusion in community activities allows each individual to observe, evaluate, and form opinions based on doing rather than listening or being told about an experience or place. All activities are "by choice." Participants are encouraged to join in on activities that they find interesting and fun, but no one is forced to participate. Activities include:

- Swimming, basketball, bowling and other physical games and activities which get the group up and moving.
- Crafts, board games, and cooking provide activities that practice fine motor skills, promote good decision making, and encourage the development of practical life skills. Participants enjoy expressing creativity and imagination.
- Picnics and field trips including festivals, amusement parks, train and boat rides, restaurants and theaters allow participants to enjoy the rich experiences of living in Northeast Ohio.

Who Can Attend:

Participants are individuals who are eligible for services through their county board of developmental disabilities and range in age from 13 – adulthood. At the program, individuals are grouped according to age to maintain appropriate peer interaction during sessions. Staff will assist participants in meeting and cementing friendships with same age peers with similar interests.

Due to the program's active schedule, participants must have basic personal care skills and be capable of demonstrating appropriate behavior, especially in public places. Assistance is available to dispense medications and minor medical treatments throughout the session. Recreational Respite welcomes persons of all religions.

Cost:

The program fees are noted in the fee insert. There may be additional charges for some field trips, but these fees will also be posted in advance. The Recreational Respite Program will work with families to find the most cost effective way to participate in the program.

Discover the Difference

Experience That Keeps Getting Better

Recreational Respite (formerly named CYO) began in 1989 at the request of families who needed a break from the 24-hour a day care they provided to their family member with a disability. Over the years, the program has continued to evolve, grow and change to best meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Using Northeast Ohio as a playground, Recreational Respite continues to add new adventures and locations each year.

Variety and Choices Keep Our Participants Coming Back

Recreational Respite offers a wide variety of activities and social interaction. Frequent field trips throughout the year are the most popular activities among participants. Participants have enjoyed visiting places like Cedar Point, The Wilds, Cleveland Zoo, Lake Farm Park, Put-In-Bay, and Hartville Flea Market and Restaurant. They have enjoyed train rides through Sugarcreek and voyages on the Atwood Queen.

