



The Robinson Family

By Grace Horner

“Nowhere in the world was there a piece of heaven more than that week...” Vickie stated when we sat down to talk about Camp Attitude.

The Robinson Family is made up of Rod, Vickie, a few grown children who are now out of the house and their camper, Aaron, who has Down Syndrome. Aaron is a very social and joyful person. Ask anyone who knows him, and they will say the same thing! For his 40th birthday, Aaron had a personal parade with fire trucks, police cars and all his friends were there to celebrate him.

Because Aaron is so outgoing and social, COVID has put a damper on seeing people and doing the things he’s used to and enjoys most. “Since COVID, the challenges are [that] everything in Aaron’s life has been canceled,” Vickie offered. Camp along with two jobs and several hobbies were cut short because of the current situation in our world today, but the Robinson Family is trying to see the bright side and keep their heads high.

On Vickie’s first time to Camp Attitude, a client had invited her to come. She assured her husband it wouldn’t be a good time and that he should stay home, so it was just Aaron and Vickie. She recalled, “In my mind I’m going to be a caregiver for him, and I thought it’s not going to be a fun week... but oh my gosh, it changed my life.” She was overwhelmed and couldn’t help but cry the whole time she was there. “It’s still so mind boggling that there’s a camp like that, like a week of heaven for our precious kids because they don’t get treated like this in the real world. I am so grateful for Camp Attitude and we will never not go, whether we go as campers or we go to serve,” Vickie explained.

When asked about the family’s favorite memories, Aaron, without skipping a beat, said his buddy that they are still in contact with named Dryden. Dryden was supposed to be a member of Core, but there were a lot of campers including Aaron, so Dryden became his buddy. “He told me, ‘your son changed my life!’ and I’m thinking are you kidding me? You changed my son’s life,” Vickie expressed. “It is life changing and I realize that these young people really love what they are doing and love the kids and that really blessed me,” Rod added.

Camp provided and gave Vickie, “A week of showing the love of Christ, a week of rest, a week of I don’t know it’s just amazing it’s hard to put it all in words,” she said. Rod and Vickie also highlighted the enthusiasm around the camper talent show at the end of the week and how the buddies were celebrating the kids for who they are.

For advice for future families or families considering Camp Attitude, “Let your guard down, put your pride aside and go because you won’t be sorry,” Vickie advised. Rod’s words for future families were, “For parents to connect with each other that’s the whole idea, your campers are being taken care of, so why not get together and visit... use the week, make the most of it.”

