



**For immediate release**

**DATE 4-XX-18**

**Contact:** Heidi Matthews  
Program Marketing Coordinator  
The Woodlands  
724-935-6533  
412-608-6120 Mobile  
[hmatthews@woodlandsfoundation.org](mailto:hmatthews@woodlandsfoundation.org)

## **Family Fun and Inclusion for All Abilities at The Woodlands' Backyard Bash**

**Wexford, PA – The Woodlands** will host its annual Backyard Bash, a celebration of inclusion and family fun open to all, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21st. In addition to spreading awareness about enrichment programs for children and adults with disabilities, The Backyard Bash provides the opportunity of inclusion for people of all abilities during this community event. “Our adapted activities during The Woodlands’ Backyard Bash offer everyone the opportunity to try new activities, develop attitudes and beliefs that support inclusion, and are helpful in forming social relationships and friendships with others,” says Jesse Solomon, Woodlands’ Director of Programs and Marketing. And, regarding the role of inclusion in society, “When recreation programs are truly inclusive, it only benefits the entire community and gives our community an opportunity to directly reduce or end the isolation and exclusion that many people still face in their daily lives.”

The free, family-friendly event will include archery, field games, zip line rides, indoor swimming at The Wellness Center at The Woodlands, crafts, and sensory-friendly activities. Guests are welcome to enjoy complimentary food and to participate as judges in The Woodlands’ Staff *Dip Derby* Cooking Contest. Live musical performances will be presented by The Chiodi Trio, Spectrum, and a group of Woodlands participants, Notes from the Heart Music Ensemble. A highlight of the day will be a scavenger hunt across 32-acres of The Woodlands’ campus, planned and coordinated by doctoral candidate volunteers from The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Center of Pittsburgh.

The Woodlands Backyard Bash is an open-house event that welcomes people of all ages, from children to seniors, to view the facilities and participate in activities on the campus at their own pace. The Woodlands' mission is to enrich the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness.

###

### **About The Woodlands**

The Woodlands mission is to enrich the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness by providing adapted therapeutic programs that support and strengthen the development of skills in socialization, creative expression, environmental awareness, recreation, and spirituality at its fully-accessible Wexford, PA facility. Further information and a schedule of Woodlands' programming are available at [www.mywoodlands.org](http://www.mywoodlands.org).



A Woodlands' visitor enjoys a ride on the zip-line.