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Camp Aldersgate's Fish Fry Returns to In-Person Fall Family Festival

Aldersgate announces new activities and Fish Fry Family

LITTLE ROCK, AR: With the return of fall, comes the return of <u>Fish Fry</u> – but after two-years of a drive-thru only set-up, the 39th annual event is back in person with more than just delicious fried fish meals.

This year's event will take place on **Sunday, October 16th, from 11:30am-3:30pm at Aldersgate's campgrounds on 2000 Aldersgate Road**. While the freshly fried catfish with all the fixins is certainly a big attraction of the event, there will be **several new components to this year's festivities**. Attendees are invited to come and go as they please to explore the beauty of the campgrounds while participating in adaptive yoga, hitting the lake for the youth fishing derby, visiting furry friends at the petting zoo, riding the historic carousel and more.



"The structure of this year's event is a 'game changer.' Getting so much external involvement will not only grow Fish Fry this year but sets the stage for years to come. I see this year as a jumping off point," says Cathy Engelkes, Fish Fry Event Chair.

Another large component that Aldersgate is bringing back this year is the Fish Fry Family. "Recognizing and sharing the story of one of our camp families is a special tradition. It helps share our mission with the community and gives people a better understanding of what we do and how to get involved," says Sonya Murphy, CEO.



Rashon, Ruth, Tammy & Mirande (left to right)

Camp Aldersgate announced today that the Eyres family is this year's honoree. Meet Ruth, Tammy, Rashon (19) and Mirande (16). The Eyres have been involved with Aldersgate for several years starting when Ruth served as a youth volunteer. Since then, Rashon and Mirande have enjoyed being campers for several years attending summer and weekend camps.

"Camp Aldersgate's impact on both kids revolves around independence, confidence, and building relationships. If Camp Aldersgate didn't exist, the kids would miss out on many opportunities," says Ruth.

The Eyres not only enjoy the programs at camp, but Ruth says Fish Fry is a family-favorite event for them, too, and encourages people to enjoy the event and learn more about the organization: "Everyone should come to the Fish Fry not only for the wonderful fish but also to see how beautiful Camp Aldersgate is and to meet many of the campers, their families, and camp staff. You will learn how passionate camp staff and volunteers are about making a difference in the lives of every camper."

Tickets can be <u>purchased online</u> or at the event for \$20 (individual tickets) or \$65 (family pack for four). Kids under six years old eat for free. For those looking to grab their fish to-go, a drive-thru option will be available at OrthoArkansas.

ABOUT CAMP ALDERSGATE: Camp Aldersgate provides barrier-free experiences for individuals with special needs. While <u>summer camp</u> is at the core of its services, Aldersgate also offers year-round programming including <u>Weekend Camps</u> in the spring and fall. With the continued support of surrounding communities, businesses and friends, Aldersgate is able to provide the best possible atmosphere, equipment and facilities for its campers. Camp Aldersgate is one of eight camps in Arkansas accredited by the <u>American Camp Association</u>, and it continues to be the only accredited camp in Arkansas designed for children with special needs.