

FACES OF

BELONGING



William

For many children, camp is about activities.

For William, camp is about people.

From the moment he arrives, William is ready for the day to begin. He approaches each activity with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine excitement to be part of whatever is happening around him.

Whether it is a game, a group activity, or simply standing alongside other campers, what matters most to him is participation.

Like many children, big feelings sometimes come along with big excitement. Waiting for a turn, managing changes in plans, or slowing down after a favorite activity can be hard when you are eager to do everything at once. At first, those moments could feel overwhelming.

With time, consistency, and supportive relationships, William has begun learning how to navigate them.

At Camp Jaycee, he benefits from close connection with staff who help him pause, reset, and try again. Through patient guidance, he is learning to regulate his excitement so he can stay engaged with the group. The goal has never been to quiet his enthusiasm; it has been to help him participate in ways that keep him included.

And inclusion matters deeply to William.

He wants to play the game, stand in line with friends, and be part of group laughter. When given encouragement and clear support, he returns again and again to join his peers. Each successful moment builds confidence, and each familiar face strengthens his sense of belonging.

William has reminded our staff and campers of something easy to forget: participation is a skill. Some children learn it naturally, while others need coaching, patience, and practice. When a community is willing to offer that support, children who might otherwise stand on the outside are able to step in.

Today, William arrives at camp ready to greet the day, eager to connect and excited to share experiences with those around him. His joy is contagious, and his persistence shows other campers that everyone deserves the chance to try.

Belonging is not just being present in a space.

Belonging is knowing the game is meant for you too, and having a community willing to help you stay in it.



While William is truly one-of-a-kind, the Lawrence Family JCC is here for the entire community thanks to the dedication of our Inclusion team.

Please give today and help us open our doors wider to every child, every family, every ability.

