

The Joy in Service - A Special Trip to Goyal Water World

Sometimes service comes in the form of food, sometimes it comes in the form of medicine or education, and sometimes it comes simply in the form of fun. This is the form it took when we brought 108 people to a day of excitement at Goyal Water World. Half of the attendees were mentally disabled kids from Uttan Talim Kendra, a school run by the very dear Bhavana Pandya and her dedicated staff. The other half came from Manav Sadhna's Khakra program, designed to provide employment and support for women living in the slums.



It's hard to quantify the significance of such a day. Almost none of these attendees had ever been to a water park before or likely would have ever had the opportunity. Just knowing that the day was coming up brought with it a mounting excitement; the day itself was filled with joy and happiness; and it's clear that the memories of this day will be cherished and spoken about for years to come.

It was thrilling to see kids with Down's Syndrome, autism, and brain damage splashing and playing, staying within their comfort zones, and often challenging themselves to adventure out more, going down slides, while supporting one another.



Just knowing that this would be one of the best days in many of their lives makes such an excursion priceless, but the day became even more priceless when Kiranbhai, the owner of the water park, declared that not only would everyone be admitted for free and given swimwear at no cost, but he even went so far as to provide a complete lunch for all 108 attendees!

The motivation for this day originated when a donor in America wanted to make a difference with their donation. Although the costs went down significantly because of the generous water park owner, all the other costs, particularly the rented buses were covered by this donor.

This day was a great lesson in the power of giving. Sometimes, the motivation to bring smiles to others is all that is needed. Following this, the doors around us naturally open up, allowing more and more people to join in and partipate in the incredible joys of service.



John Silliphant