



## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUBJECT: 9th Annual Join the Pride: Celebrate Differences, Celebrate Success**

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**WHERE:** Cameron Park Zoo, 1701 North 4th Street, Waco, Texas 76707

**HOSTED BY:** The Waco Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and our partners: Cameron Park Zoo, Children's Special Needs Network, Texas Workforce Solutions, The Heart of Texas Autism Network, The Heart of Texas Young Marines, The Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, The Heart of Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center and No Limitations Athletics.

**SPONSORED BY:** Children's Special Needs Network, Sign of the Times, Focus Behavioral Associates...

**WHAT:** A disability awareness day and resource fair to be held at Cameron Park Zoo open to the public.

The event will offer information on community organizations, agencies and other resources and will be a day celebrating the abilities, potential and achievements of those exceptional people of all ages in our society who are living with physical or other challenges. Up to 80 booths will be there with information on therapy, medical equipment, vehicle modifications, independent living, community resources recreation, caregiver resources, employment and education. Sign language interpreters will be available courtesy of Sign of the Times, and the facility is wheelchair accessible. If an organization is interested in having a booth, they can register at

[www.tinyurl.com/2019JTPBoothSponsor](http://www.tinyurl.com/2019JTPBoothSponsor)

***To volunteer or request free tickets for families or groups of individuals with special needs children, adults with disabilities or veterans with disabilities and a guest, visit:***

[www.tinyurl.com/2019JTPZooTickets](http://www.tinyurl.com/2019JTPZooTickets)

Those who don't receive free tickets can purchase discounted tickets at the door by mentioning "Join the Pride". Adults: \$7.00, Seniors: \$6.00, Children 4-12: \$4.00, 3 and under: Free.

Zoo staff will be available to discuss several of the current and former zoo residents that face unique challenges and Cameron Park Zoo's nationally recognized rehabilitation endeavors. These include multiple birds in the Brazos Exhibit that were injured by hurricanes and oil spills which have recovered and reproduced at the Zoo; as well as both Bald Eagles that have permanent injuries due to irresponsible hunters, Mukah, an orangutan who has a slightly deformed leg due to an injury he sustained as an adolescent, Lurch, a screech owl and Skipper, a Galapagos tortoise each have congenital deformities in their neck and Desi, a male agouti is successfully adapting to the amputation of his rear leg due to an injury. We also honor their extensive rehabilitation work with former zoo residents.

The Waco Mayor's Committee is one of a number of local volunteer committees across the state. The mission of the Waco Mayor's Committee and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities is to further opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy full and equal access to a life of independence, productivity and self-determination by engaging in projects that promote positive awareness about and for people with disabilities.