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FIRST EVER "Fishing with Friends"



Synergy Sports, a division of Synergy (www.synergybusiness.net) in conjunction with Joni & Friends (www.joniandfriends.org), an international non-profit ministry dedicated to helping kids, individuals and families affected by disabilities, held the 1st of many "Fishing with Friends" wish grants at the recent Texas Outdoor Expo (www.texasoutdoorexpo.com) on Lake Grapevine in the heart of the Dallas-FT worth area this May 6th & 7th.

"I have to tell you it has taken a lot of work by a lot of people to get this program going but it was truly a blast this weekend and to see the appreciation and enjoyment of God's great outdoors by all the participants was really awesome" said Barbara McNeely of Joni & Friends.

On Saturday and Sunday, four (4) well deserving disabled individuals, Frank Early, Travis McNeely, Becca Touhy and "Bennie" along with several of their family members were taken out by Synergy/Joni & Friends Pros Wesley Burnett & David Meeks to fish Lake Grapevine for a few hours and ALL had fun on the water fellowshiping and catching fish!

Each disabled individual participating also received a gift bag courtesy of Bass Pro Shops (www.basspro.com) that included a hat, t-shirt, tackle bag with boxes, a rod and reel combo, line, and extra lures for all occasions. To top it all off, Kistler Rods (www.kistlerrods.com) graciously donated a premium lightweight rod to each disabled participant making sure everyone was equipped for any future fishing trips.

"Wow is about all I can say" stated Doug Goddard of Synergy Sports, "this is one of the coolest things I've ever been a part of...you start out thinking your doing this just to help out others and then God turns around and blesses you more than you could have ever imagined through the kids and families involved".

Both the youngest and the smallest of all who participated, Becca Touhy, caught the biggest fish of the day - a 16 pound Drum and while many anglers might not consider this a wall-mounting trophy fish, to her it was the catch of a lifetime!

FLW Co-Angler of the Year and Everstart angler of the Year, Wesley Burnett who was in the boat with Becca said "she fought that fish hard...it was such a long fight she had to stop and rest for a minute before she reeled it in the rest of the way".

A special thank you goes out to the generous and great hearted sponsors credited with making these dreams come true such as: Hamby (www.hamby.com), the FIRST resilient keel protector on the market which is 100% US made and used by the United States Coast Guard, Sports Spectrum (www.sportsspectrum.com), a national publication that has been featuring Christian athletes for 15 years both in print and on the radio...where sports and faith collide, Putt for Funds, (www.puttforfunds.com), a turn-key interactive fundraiser that allows participants the opportunity to play miniature golf at their school, church, charity group or any other group, Minn Kota (www.minnkotamotors.com), the oldest manufacturer of electric fishing motors in the world with nearly 70 years of hard-earned experience in the lab and on the water, Black Rhino Boat Products (www.boatbra.net) makers of the finest boat, outboard and tire covers in the industry as well as Southwest Office Systems (www.sostexas.com), 9 to 5 Office Products Center (www/9to5texas.com), Sartin Marine (www.sartinmarine.com), ProWearOne (www.prowearone.com), Kistler Rods (www.kistlerrods.com), Bass Pro Shops (www.basspro.com), Tyson (www.tyson.com), Bass Medics (www.bassmedics.com), Izorline (www.izorline.com), Cracker Barrel (www.crackerbarrel.com), The Healthcare Store and Check-It t-Stick.

If you are interested in becoming a wish grant participant, volunteering or learning more about sponsoring the Joni & Friends Pro-Team and "Fishing with Friends" wish granting program please contact Doug Goddard at doug@synergybusiness.net.