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September is Craniofacial Acceptance Month

Our kids' greatest desire is to be accepted for who they are, not how they look



Dallas, Texas. The vision of Children's Craniofacial Association (CCA) is very simple: CCA envisions a world where all people are accepted for who they are, not how they look. Working through our network of families and volunteers each September, CCA takes this message to the larger community as part of National Craniofacial Acceptance Month. The theme of this year's campaign is "Choose Kind," which corresponds with our educational outreach program, the Choose Kind Initiative, bringing the message of kindness and bullying prevention to schools across the country.

Each year approximately 25,000 children in the United States are born with or develop some form of facial difference. In many cases, reconstructive surgeons can correct these problems early—often while the children are still infants. In other cases, however, reconstruction is not so easy or even possible. The average CCA Kids has 25 surgeries, but many of our children have 40 or more before age 18.

That's why, during the month of September, we celebrate acceptance. We express gratitude for our friends and family, especially our siblings, who help our children navigate the curious and often cruel world they face each day. Stares, comments, and teasing are realities our kids endure, but with a strong support network, our kids are advocates to the public at large that we are "more alike than different," and that message extends to all physical, social, economic, and religious differences, too.

Children's Craniofacial Association (CCA) is the premier organization that supports children and families with facial differences. CCA offers programs and services including Patient Financial Assistance for Medical Travel, the Annual Family Retreat & Educational Symposium, and presenting kindness education and bullying prevention resources in elementary schools across the country (through our Choose Kind Initiative).

Currently, there are 5 CAM Acceptance Picnics and events scheduled around the country to commemorate the month and continue to raise awareness by talking to each other and the community. Picnics will be held in California, Michigan, New Jersey, and Texas, and more events will be announced soon.

The local Craniofacial Awareness Picnic will be held September 9, from 11am- 1pm, at Sandy Lake Amusement Park, 1800 Sandy Lake Rd, Carrollton, TX 75006. There will be a DJ, snacks, and plenty of time to network with local families. Contact Annie Reeves, Program Director, for more information about volunteering or attending, at 214-570-9099.

To learn more about CCA and its programs, please visit www.ccakids.org. END.