Lanierland Helps Special Olympics Bowlers

Lanierland Civitan in Gainesville has begun giving support to a group of avid bowling participants at the Gainesville Bowling Center. Many in this group belong to Gainesville’s “Randy and Friends,” headed by Civitan Randy Owens, which trains and prepares young adults with disabilities for employment.

Several years ago, Lanierland Civitan changed both schedule and meeting place in order to provide additional backing for this Special Olympics bowling league. After each meeting, we gather to watch the bowlers and cheer them on.

Several actions by the Civitans have enhanced the bowling experiences for the young bowlers. Once monthly, we buy pizza for all the bowlers. In addition, we occasionally buy food for the bowlers when they have parties.

Several times, we have purchased shirts for each bowler to wear in state Special Olympics contests. Much of this activity is coordinated through their sponsor, Bobbie Young.

Newest plans are for Lanier to sponsor these bowlers as potential Civitans for our club. We would like to pay their bowlers’ fees for one night per month. They in turn might use the money they saved to pay part of their Civitan dues. They will also get a special dues fee, which is available for all members who have a disability, and which will make it easier for these adults who have limited income to become Civitans.

Our actions have proved to be a rewarding experience for Lanierland members as well as bowlers, as the youths are quite interesting and have much enthusiasm. As some have already expressed an interest in joining, much interest is expected from them.