



Life is good:

in Suwanee, Georgia

Information about Project Joy

- Project Joy champions & protects the single most important activity in the life of a child: Play.
- This 501c(3) non-profit organization is dedicated to fostering the healthy development of young children who have been deeply impacted by violence, loss, and other traumatic experiences. Many children served by Project Joy are living in poverty.
- Through innovative training and support, Project Joy offers teachers and childcare providers the tools to strengthen and heal their children through play.
- Established in 1989, Project Joy provides support for children from Boston to Biloxi and beyond. In Louisiana and Mississippi (including in Long Beach, Suwanee's sister city), Project Joy helped children get their play back in the wake of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- Project Joy's programs use a combination of exuberant physical games, story telling, yoga, and movement.
- When children are faced with overwhelming threat, they stop playing. When children stop playing, they stop living and growing. Playful children explore the world with passion and joy; build loving, trusting relationships; and develop the strength and creativity to see possibilities and solutions in the face of adversity.
- Teachers and childcare providers are often the most influential people in a young child's life. It is essential that these providers have the skills, insight, and artistry to help their children maintain a sense of playfulness, community, and joy.
- Project Joy is the Life is good Kids Foundation's designated charity for 2008. 100 percent of proceeds from Life is Good festivals across the country – including the one at Suwanee Town Center Park on June 14 – will be donated to Project Joy.
- Through the support of Life is good festivals like the one in Suwanee, Project Joy is working to extend its message and services throughout the United States.
- Over the next five years, Project Joy will become an international model for delivering community-based mental health services for children impacted by poverty and trauma. The organization's goal over the next five years is to equip more than 2,000 teachers with the tools to ensure the healthy development of more than 100,000 children throughout the United States.

www.projectjoy.com