

WHY HUG WAS CREATED

Help Us Gather (HUG) is a nonprofit dedicated to people with disabilities. Founder Robin Lally's brother Rick has autism. While trying to help him find friendships and become active in the community, Robin realized a huge gap existed in social outlets for people with special needs. So, she started HUG to advocate for inclusion and connect people with disabilities to a vibrant social life. When people are connected, they are happier, live longer, and lead healthier lifestyles.



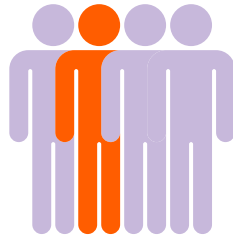
Learn more about the man who inspired HUG by scanning this code with your phone's camera.



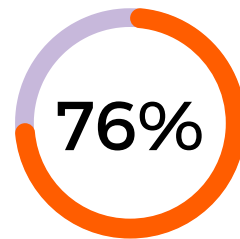
See more HUG stories by scanning here.



WHY IT MATTERS



1 in 4 people in the U.S. has a disability.



of people with disabilities report feeling **ALONE** and **ISOLATED**.



Science proves that friendships make us **HEALTHIER** and **HAPPIER**.

ADVOCACY

- HUG works to gain more representation for people with disabilities in marketing and the media, resulting in multiple viral social media stories that became national news segments.
- HUG works with people with disabilities to build real-world work experience and develop career and business plans.
- HUG forms authentic partnerships with businesses and organizations to develop adaptive programming and promote entrepreneurs with special needs.
- With strategic media partnerships, HUG presents positive stories of people with disabilities.

Meet Melissa, HUG board member and the catalyst for HUG's Ambassador Program. She's a rockstar example of how successful our friends with disabilities can be.



75+

Partner Organizations

1,500+

People Connected through HUG Events

24,000+

Individuals with Disabilities Served Online Annually

IMPACT

Help Us Gather changes lives every day. There was a social void for people with disabilities in the Tampa Bay area, and **HUG** filled it with amazing events, wonderful people, and a joyful network of organizations, businesses, and individuals who understand that inclusion is the way forward for everyone.

Since its inception in 2017, **HUG** has impacted thousands of people with events and outreach. The organization's online reach includes more than 24,000 visitors from around the world every year. **HUG's** videos and viral stories have gained international traction, being featured to viewers across the United States and traveling as far as Israel and India.

HUG's 80+ partner organization network is a complete, unified effort to support people with disabilities.



“ My daughter's situation made me feel helplessly hopeless. It was heartbreaking to watch her suffer without friends. Our lives changed when we met HUG. Now she has friends. She has hope. She gets out and lives. That's what HUG has done.” – Terry, HUG Parent

BOARD MEMBERS



Robin Lally
President & Treasurer

MBA, Northern Kentucky Univ
15 years as a Managing Principal for Top Financial Firms, including JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley

Carrie Harrill
Secretary

MPH & MSW,
Univ of North Carolina
11 years in Medical Operations
Served 2 years in the Peace Corps



Kiffie Hester
Board Member

BS Education, Univ of Houston
15 years as Business Owner at Beacon Communications

Melissa Caulfield
Board Member

BA Interdisciplinary Social Science, Univ of South Florida
AA, St. Petersburg Junior College
Original HUG Ambassador



75+

**Partner
Organizations**

1,500+

**Guests Served at
Events**

24,000+

**Individuals with Disabilities
Served Online Annually**