

## **Lifest connects the unlikeliest of souls**

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Lifest, the ultimate party with a purpose taught me a lot this week.

I learned that rock stars in tight jeans with crazy objects poked through their faces and ears can sit down with middle aged, conservative, home schooling moms and overcome the generation gap to share new ideas about God's Kingdom.

I learned that nuns in full habit can worship joyfully next to orphans from Europe, alongside a Mennonite family of ten, and they can all delight in one another.

I learned that some people like to bathe in horse barns while others dutifully carry hand sanitizer and some even wash their muddy feet in muddy puddles but somehow they all feel clean.

I learned that just because you can buy 2 lbs of amazing homemade potato crispers with unbelievable toppings for ½ price at 1:00 a.m doesn't mean you should.

I learned that a disabled man who can't speak has a lot of valuable things to say while others, myself included, with loud voices and big opinions might serve others better by quietly listening

I learned that thousands of people who truly love God and one another can put aside their political and social differences to work diligently side by side and serve multitudes with selfless joy.

I learned that a pastor from Uganda can praise God next to an American business man who in turn can pray for a pregnant teenager, who in turn can share her faith with a friend who has never met Jesus.

I learned that you don't need alcohol or violence to have fun and that a good old-fashioned deck of cards can unite hundreds of people during a torrential downpour.

I learned that Screamo music is very loud and I may never quite understand it but the kids that it moves to tears and the wildly tattooed young men that sing it love Jesus too.

I learned that a committed core of Army National Guard soldiers in full uniform can serve our nation with brave humility and still have the compassion to gently care for a small child and share values of respect, honor, and courage with an unsure teenage boy.

I learned that a few humble women in aprons leading a devoted band of cooks and servers can face an army of hungry people with joy and laughter never once stopping to think of their own needs.

I learned that people are hurting and desperately want to break down walls to be in relationship with one another. I learned that single dads, abandoned moms, and confused teens are looking for common ground and can be reconciled through their faith in Jesus Christ.

Bob Lenz and the team at Life Promotions set out to put on a party with a purpose and I learned from them that the purpose of the party was to unite God's children; people of all races, affiliations, denominations, and cultural differences, and unite them in love at the foot of the cross.

I learned that reaching out across cultural, financial, and philosophical divides is a personal choice that reminds us as Christians that a watching and doubting world will know we are Christians by our love.

Well done, faithful servants. I have learned a lot from you all this week.