

Waterfront

Noteworthy observations from the world of spas & pools

Swimming In Acceptance | One little boy finds hope from the heart

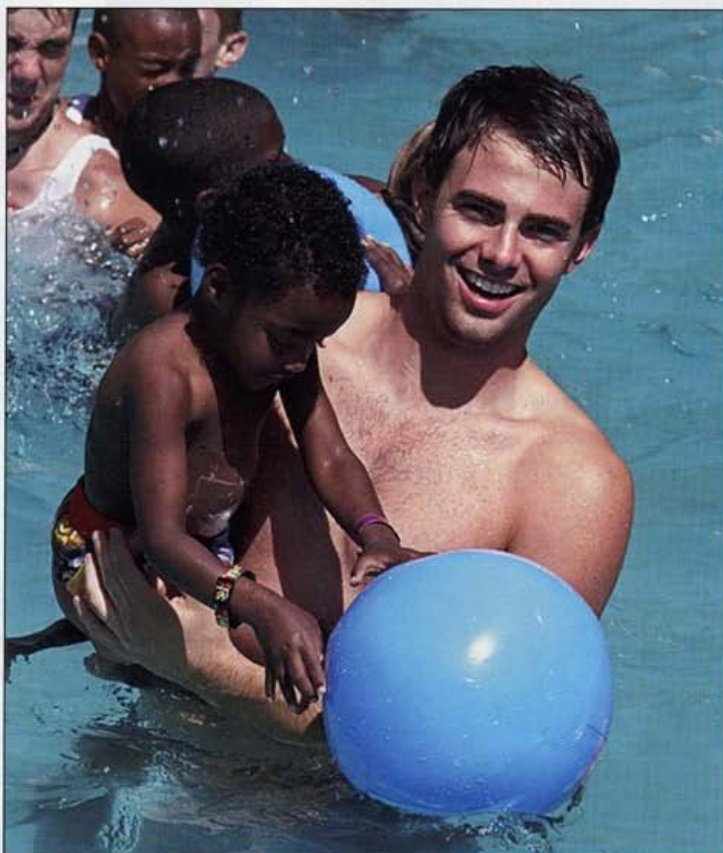
AT 3 YEARS OLD, the world seems pretty large, not to mention exciting. Everything is looked at with eager and innocent eyes. But for one little boy, being 3 has already brought on a slew of challenges, including discrimination.

Caleb Glover was born HIV-positive, and a little more than a year ago, while his family was camping in Alabama, they were told by the campground owners that Caleb couldn't use the restroom, showers or swimming pool because of his HIV status.

When the Minnesota-based One Heartland Center heard about Caleb's experience, they immediately took action and decided to build and dedicate a new pool in his honor. This past summer, One Heartland opened the pool, donated by Viking Pools, and the water play area, donated by Waterworld.

"We all know you cannot get HIV from being a friend, from swimming, from a hug, from a kiss," center founder and CEO Neil Willenson said during the dedication ceremony, "and that's why Caleb's here, he's going to be our first swimmer today!"

One Heartland has provided nearly 7,000 summer camp experiences for children and youth affected by HIV/AIDS during the past 15 years. The organization is dedicated to improving the lives of those facing HIV/AIDS and other life challenges.



One Heartland

Caleb Glover was the star of the day, taking the first swim with staff member Kelly Reuter (far left) and posing with CEO Neil Willenson (center). Caleb later enjoyed the pool, donated by Viking, with actor and master of ceremonies Jonathan Bennett (above).



One Heartland



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Christina Giacullo