
The Ark on Lake Lanier

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To Planning <planning@hallcounty.org>

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to share my firsthand experience with The Ark on Lake Lanier. I had the opportunity to host a Broken to Beautiful Retreat there in March 2026, and I can honestly say that our experience was exceptional.

Broken to Beautiful retreats bring grieving mothers together from different states for several days of connection, encouragement, rest, and healing. Our retreats are centered around four words: **Relate, Release, Relax, and Rejuvenate.**

The Ark on Lake Lanier was a wonderful fit for what we were trying to accomplish.

The facility itself provided a beautiful, peaceful environment where the women could step away from the busyness of everyday life and simply be together. We shared meals, stories, laughter, tears, prayer, and meaningful conversations. Having everyone together in such a comfortable and welcoming setting made the experience even more special.

What stood out to me just as much as the venue itself was the **staff**. Everyone we interacted with was incredibly gracious, helpful, accommodating, and willing to go the extra mile. They were responsive to our needs and worked with us to make sure things went smoothly. As someone coordinating a retreat with many moving parts, having a staff that was so kind and accommodating made a tremendous difference.

Grief retreats require an environment where people feel comfortable enough to be vulnerable, and The Ark provided that for our group. The peaceful surroundings allowed the moms to slow down, connect with one another, and create some beautiful memories in the midst of an incredibly difficult season of their lives.

I was extremely pleased with our experience at The Ark and would confidently recommend it to other organizations, ministries, or groups considering it for a retreat or gathering. Based on my experience, I believe The Ark offers not only a beautiful place to stay, but an environment that can genuinely contribute to the success and impact of a retreat.

I am grateful that we had the opportunity to hold our Broken to Beautiful Retreat at The Ark and would be happy to share more about our experience if needed.

Sincerely,

Jessica Basham
Founder, Schuyler Barnes Foundation
Broken to Beautiful Movement
"Love Like Crazy"