

CAP ABILITIES

ABILITY WORKS, INC.

Ability Works employs over 50 people with developmental disabilities and 100 people overall.

Working to Meet Your Needs

from the director

Monumental Change

Ohio, and the nation, is in the midst of the biggest philosophical shift in service delivery to people with disabilities ever! The shift from facility based services to community based services is being driven by the individuals who receive the services. They argue that the way that Ohio pays for services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities leaves little money to develop community options and forces them to be served in only segregated settings.



Ohio is in the process of redesigning the service system and funding mechanism to allow for individual choice and funding for supports needed to be happy and successful. The redesign offers real choice to live and participate in the community with the support that they need. It allows for individuals to find a job in the community and have access to supports necessary to be successful and to pursue activities in the community.

Changes will happen slowly. We are beginning to plan for the future of services for those served at Ability Works. We are counting on relationships with our community to make connections for individuals. Our bottom line is to make sure that people have what they need, remain safe, and live a happy and fulfilling life.

Allison

ability works receives grant!

The Assurance Network, a division of Ability Works, Inc., is launching an on-demand transportation service. Using an Integrated Community Supports grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), The Assurance Network is planning to start this new service in late 2016. In addition to transportation, this new approach aims to create a system of on-demand homemaker personal care and respite services as well.

The Assurance Network is taking on the challenge because we are passionate about connecting individuals to service providers, providing greater community engagement, and having opportunities to build social capital and gaining competitive employment. We want to contribute to building a better service program by promoting and supporting community integration as a vehicle for positive social change.

In order to make The Assurance Network stronger, we are developing and coordinating to bring other community agencies that serve senior citizens, community services, and health organizations to coordinate transportation appointments.



If you would like to learn more about this new program and how you can benefit, a series of informational meetings for interested service providers, health agencies, and non-profits are

being held in Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Counties. Please visit theassurance.net.

ability works talent show

On March 10th, Ability Works showcased some pretty awesome talent of people with and without disabilities. The evening included 20 plus acts including singers, stand-up comics, theatrical performances and more. The audience of over 150 enjoyed a night to remember, for sure! The evening concluded with an open invitation to anyone who wanted to join us on stage to perform the "Nae Nae Dance."



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employee spotlight

Heather McFarlin

Heather has been working at the YMCA since the beginning of April. She enjoys staying busy with her job duties. She cleans the daycare, fitness center, gym, women's locker rooms, etc. Heather really enjoys her job and the people that she works with, especially her supervisor Kathleen. Heather is well liked everywhere she goes.

In her spare time, Heather spends time with her husband Jeb, and hopes to start a family soon. She enjoys going to the mall to use her paycheck to get her nails done, and going to the movies. Heather is a very bright individual and wants to start working towards getting her driver's license. If you see Heather at the YMCA, please say hello!



calendar of events

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

for anyone interested in being a driver for The Assurance Network:

May 18 at Ability Works

May 23 at Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities

May 24 at Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities

May 30 Give us a "shout out" at the **Memorial Day Parade!**

June 29 **Block Party/Picnic**
10-2 at Ability Works

CAPABILITIES

Capabilities is a publication produced by Ability Works, Inc. and The Krabill Marketing Group, LLC. Inquiries can be addressed to ayoung@ability-works.com

Working to Meet Your Needs

paying it forward

Ability Works participated in the Earth Day festivities by cleaning up litter at Lion's Park. The park is right next door and we wanted to make sure it looked great for visitors. We invited friends, neighbors and our community to join us and we were thankful to be able to use the G.R.E.E.N. Bean trailer from the Department of Soil and Water Conservation. About 25 people helped with the clean-up. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



did you know?

House Bill 158 would change the term "mentally retarded" found in Ohio law to "person with an intellectual disability." The bill passed the House on January 26 with a vote of 95-0. The bill received its second hearing in the Senate State & Local Government Committee on April 19. The Department is working proactively in support of this legislation and to make sure the changes do not disrupt or change any services.