

# 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

I'm going to take the liberty this quarter to thank our "Rock Star" DSPs for all their hard work! We are in a constant state of change these days. Despite the challenges, our staff continues to provide top rated services to the individuals in our care.



Our employees are your friends and neighbors. If you see them out and about, please give them a pat on the back because they deserve it!

What is a DSP? "Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are people who work directly with people with physical disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities with the aim of assisting the individual to become integrated into his/her community or the least restrictive environment."

*Allison*

## carf accreditation

Ability Works has been issued CARF accreditation based on its recent survey. The Three-Year Accreditation, which is the highest awarded accreditation, applies to the following programs:

- Community Employment Services: Employment Supports
- Community Employment Services: Job Development

Quoted from the CARF survey report, Administrative Surveyor Sharon Woodrow states: "The senior leadership is professional and tenured, and the staff members are dedicated to providing highly personalized services that result in successful job placements with supportive community employers. Clients, employers, and the primary funding source and other stakeholders expressed total satisfaction with the organization's services. The organization proactively engages in association, collaborations, and events that promise the integration of the clients in the community, where it is well respected. Ability Works demonstrates substantial conformance to the CARF International standards."

For more about CARF, its mandate, and the international standards, visit [www.carf.org](http://www.carf.org).



## program services medicaid rule delayed

On May 11, the Trump administration announced it is giving states more wiggle room in the rollout of a rule that establishes a new standard for what counts as home and community-based services for people with disabilities.

In a bulletin issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, it was stated that it is delaying implementation of a 2014 regulation outlining criteria for programs provided through Medicaid home and community-based services waivers.

When the rule was finalized, federal Medicaid officials included a transition period of up to five years—ending in 2019—for states to come into compliance. Now the Trump administration says it's offering an extension: "In light of the difficult and complex nature of this task, we will extend the transition period for states to demonstrate compliance with the home and community-based settings criteria until March 27, 2022 for settings in which a transition period applies," read the bulletin from Brian Neale, Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services.

What does this mean for Ability Works? As a service provider for individuals with disabilities, we must:

- Providers will offer opportunities for all individuals served to get involved in their communities. This could include community employment and/or participating in community-based events/activities.
- Providers must offer opportunities that are meaningful to individuals and support their personal interests/outcomes.
- Providers must provide necessary services/supervision to maintain health and welfare, as identified in person-centered plans, while individuals are involved in community-based events/activities.

For over 40 years, Ability Works (formerly Double S Industries) operated in a segregated setting at our old facility on Galloway Road. When we moved in 2015, we were transitioning services to be more "inclusive" and open to the community by developing approximately 15 volunteer opportunities within Erie County.

Does this mean all workshops and day programs in Ohio will close? No. It just means that our services in the future will not operate totally out of our facility. Our traditional services will be moving from "caregiving" towards "mentoring and teaching" in the communities where we live.

We are looking for staff that is committed to coordinating and providing community-based services. We are looking for a dynamic community builder who enjoys meeting people and building connections in neighborhoods to be a part of our community development team. If this sounds like you, please visit our website for career opportunities at [www.ability-works.com](http://www.ability-works.com).

## employment first initiative

Ability Works began a partnership with Mickey Mart Stores in 2016. Since approaching Ability Works in an effort to support the Employment First initiative, Mickey Mart stores has hired three people with developmental disabilities who were seeking employment.

Mickey Mart has also been instrumental in helping individuals determine their employability readiness by allowing us to conduct paid vocational assessments in their stores.

Not only has Mickey Mart Stores been open to hiring individuals, they also support Ability Works by purchasing signage locally through our Sign Shops!

Thank you, Mickey Mart Stores for your incredible support!



## employee spotlight

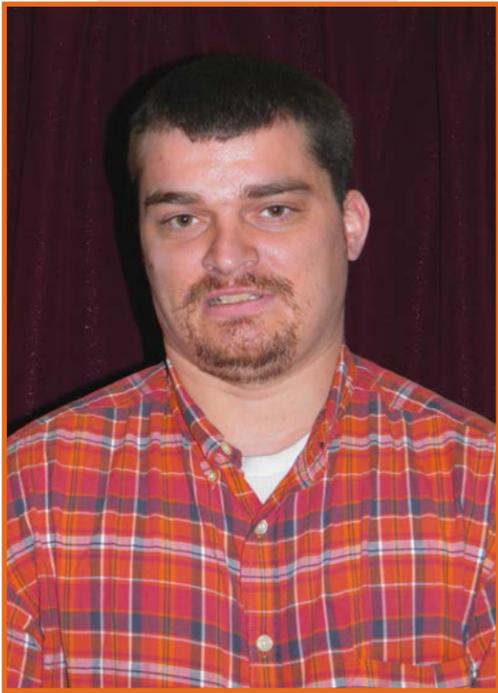
### David Bloomfield

The Ability Works Community Employment Department would like to spotlight David Bloomfield for our fall issue. David is currently looking for a job in the community as a stocker in a department store or grocery store in the Sandusky/Huron area. David has experienced stocking work and has proven himself a hard worker in his role of material handler at Ability Works. He is taking the next step and looking for that perfect job in the Erie County community!

David has many hobbies that he enjoys. He enjoys fishing and model cars.

David works grounds maintenance at the Berlin Heights Basket Festival each year, a task he has done for over eight years. David will be an excellent, dedicated employee for you in your business.

If you are interested in meeting with David, please contact Mary Kalizewski at 419-626-1048, extension 3102.



## calendar of events

- Aug. 2**    **Push America — Journey of Hope**  
*www.abilityexperience.org*
- Sep. 4**    **Labor Day**  
**Ability Works is CLOSED**
- Oct. 9**    **Columbus Day**  
**Ability Works is CLOSED**
- Oct. 23**   **Staff Training**  
**Ability Works is CLOSED**

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# 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](mailto:ayoung@ability-works.com)

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## ability works hosts community picnic

It was a fun day with beautiful weather! On June 29th, our neighbors, local safety services folks, friends and family celebrated the summer in style with us. Arte Rodriguez, our DJ, had us up and dancing; our staff cooked some awesome food; and we played outdoor games, mixed and mingled, and had a great time! Plan to join us next year.



## journey of hope/push america cyclists

On August 2, 33+ cyclists and their road crew stopped by the Ability Works annual picnic at the Ohio Veteran's Home for some fun and a picnic lunch. For over 30 years this group of fraternity men has cycled across the United States to raise awareness of disabilities and meet and greet folks along the way. After riding 50+ miles, dancing and playing games, the group headed out to Cedar Point for the evening. As is tradition, the group hit the road the next day after a fabulous breakfast hosted by Berardi's in Sandusky.



www.ability-works.com  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
One Superior Street

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