

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

March will be here before you know it (and before our next newsletter)! Each year, the month of March is designated as **Developmental Disability Awareness Month**. During the month, providers and county boards make efforts to showcase the great accomplishments of individuals with disabilities, including their contributions to the community.



People with disabilities are working beside many of you in local businesses, and have been for many years. Nationally, we are experiencing a time when the pool of applicants for jobs is smaller than the demand. People with disabilities are an untapped workforce and are eager to work. If requested by the employer, a Direct Support Professional with expertise in job coaching can support the employee and employer during the training period and remain in contact with employers to address needs beyond those of a traditional employee. Historically, employees with disabilities have been proven to be dependable, reliable employees who enjoy working and being with people.

On March 7th, delegates from Erie County will be traveling to Columbus for the annual Advocacy Day at the Statehouse. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with legislators about the topics important to them. People who depend on supports to live fulfilling lives often are stifled by rules and regulations. This is an opportunity to advocate for themselves for change.

During the month of March, Ability Works will be hosting our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and Talent Show. Join us on March 20th at Faith Memorial Church for an exciting evening! If you cannot commit to the whole evening, dinner will be served from 4-7pm and the Talent Show takes place from 6-8pm. Take-out is available, but our hope is that you enjoy the talented people in the show!

Allison

making a difference in our community

One way to be a valued community member is to volunteer your time and talents at organizations that are making a difference. We at Ability Works strive to do just that. We take at least 35 volunteers a month to different places throughout our community. Some of the places we volunteer our skills and talents are: Care and Share, the Erie County Dog Pound, The Humane Society of Erie County, Habitat for Humanity, New Day Family Resource Center, the Ohio Veteran's Home, The Salvation Army, St. John's Lutheran Church, Victory Kitchen, and others. The skills and talents that we share include: folding laundry, cleaning and sanitizing toys, food preparation, general cleaning duties, assisting with making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, walking dogs and visiting cats that are waiting to be adopted, and delivering meals to those who are unable to get out and about.



Along with the skills that we already had, we have also learned new things that we have never done before and made many new friends along the way. We have received several accolades for our volunteerism, including the "ReStore Partner Award" and "Adopt a Day Group" awards from Habitat for Humanity; The Salvation Army's "Volunteer of the Year Award;" and "Volunteer of the Year" from New Day Resource Center.

We are continually looking for volunteer opportunities. If your organization could use our help, please contact Amanda Cantu at Ability Works. We would love to partner with you in making a difference in our community!



calendar of events

March 7 DD Awareness Advocacy Day
Columbus Statehouse

March 20 Spaghetti Dinner 4-7pm
Faith Memorial Church

March 20 Talent Show 6-8pm
Faith Memorial Church

April 14 Bowling Fundraiser 1-4pm
LOOKING FOR BOWLERS AND LAND SPONSORS! Call Kristy at 419-626-1048, x3111



employee spotlight

Colton Koepp

The Ability Works Community Employment Department would like to introduce Colton Koepp in our winter issue. Colton is currently looking for a job in the community as a stocker in a department store in the Sandusky, Huron, or Vermilion areas. Colton has worked in both grocery stores and department stores to gain his experience as a stocker. Colton is now looking to begin a new chapter of his work experience at your business.

Colton has many hobbies that he enjoys. Colton enjoys spending some of his free time playing video games, and being outdoors when the weather is nice. If Colton is not at work and it's nice outside, you can find him swimming.

Colton is a very hard worker who is motivated to get the job done, and making sure it is done right. Colton graduated from LCJVS with a trade certificate in Computer Networking, and is very good with electronics.

If you are interested in meeting with Colton, please contact Michael Rockford at 419-626-1048, extension 3120.



thanks, blue streaks!

Our sincere thanks to the SHS students who helped to move Ability Works to its new location:

Brayden Martin	Teavin Stewart
Cordell Irby	Malik Cambell
Taylor Coalizzi	David Viock
Ben McCroskey	Skylar Kane
Amir Amison	

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

polar plunge

Ability Works teamed up to support Special Olympics! This year, for the first time, Ability Works pulled together a team to raise money at the annual Polar Plunge in Sandusky. Eight brave souls donned their capes and masks—crafted by individuals at Ability Works—and jumped into the freezing water! The group in total raised \$1,220 for the cause. Our team included: Karli Butcher, Amanda Cantu, Peggy Heim, Celeste Hillman, Michelle Hutchinson, Pam Klodnick, Shelley Miller, and Mike Rockford. Go, team!



did you know?

After many months of negotiations, we have agreed to sell our building on Superior Street. Our plans, as of the printing of this newsletter, are to move our Day Services program and administrative offices to 3920 Columbus Avenue, and our Vocational (work) program temporarily to 3513 North Bay Drive (101). We are still working out plans for a permanent vocational home. For now, the Sign Shop will remain on Superior Street.

We're excited to partner with the **David and Jacquie Clark Family Fund** to plan our new Day Service space. Our plans include a state-of-the-art sensory-friendly space for individuals who choose a day service program. We envision a beautiful 360° salt water fish tank, a water feature, and a safe floor space where people can escape their wheelchair and explore. Plans are underway, with active involvement from the **David and Jacquie Clark Family Fund** philanthropists, to develop a great space for people to offer a unique service!

www.ability-works.com

One Superior Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Working to Meet Your Needs

ABILITY WORKS, INC.

US POSTAGE
PAID