

In the know with the CEO...

As I read through our 2018 Annual Report, found at www.abilitiesnw.com/reports-resources.php, I am reminded once again how remarkable our Abilities family is, reaching incredible milestones and seeing success on so many levels. In April, our annual gala, Diamonds in the Sky, perfectly captured what it means to work together as a community to reach our goals. We can't do it without volunteers, community partners, friends, family and support staff. It was an inspiring evening highlighting the true meaning of comradery. Congratulations to our award winners on your achievements, and for making a difference in the lives of others:



Volunteer Award – **Patti Sue Rossi**

Community Partner Award – **The House of the Good Shepherd**

Individual Achievement Award – **Elizabeth Moser**

Special Recognition Award – **Abilities Choir**

To see more pictures of this inspirational event, please visit: www.abilitiesnw.com/annual-gala.php

In June, we will be honoring our extraordinary team of employees for upholding our core values every day, while supporting those we serve. I look forward to acknowledging their dedication, and to presenting awards based on peer and leadership feedback. Thank you in advance Team Abilities! You truly are A-MAZING!

In the know with the CEO...

Speaking of our A-MAZING team, we are looking for new members! Our next three year strategic plan, effective 7/1/19, is comprised of four areas – Employee Development, Program & Service Development, Service Quality and Revenue Maximization. We cannot change lives without our employees who provide support and training, so our priority remains in the area of employee engagement and development. We are working to expand our recognition and rewards program, and to develop a career pathways plan to offer employees expanded opportunities for professional growth.

If you know someone who wants to **#bealifechanger**, please contact us at (908) 689-1118 or email recruitment@abilitiesnw.com. Referral incentives available!

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Last fall I shared information on the first NJ Ombudsman for Individuals with I/DD and Families, Paul Aronsohn. Paul visited Abilities in April, and provided valuable information to stakeholders in attendance. For more information on areas of priority in NJ, please see his 2018 report: www.abilitiesnw.com/advocacy.php

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Our PossAbilities Campaign is underway! Our goal is to raise \$1.75M over the next 5 years to support the expansion of our specialized services throughout the region. Thank you to our donors to date, we are blessed to have your support! If you are able to join our campaign, at any level, please see the newsletter insert or www.abilitiesnw.com/poss-campaign.php. Every dollar raised will provide those we serve with continued exceptional support and expanded services.

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Thank you for being part of our mission and have an enjoyable summer season!

Cindy Wildermuth
Chief Executive Officer



My story of life and family

Written by Hannah Barry

I am Hannah Barry, I am 32 years old and this is my family.



I live with my dad, David Barry, and my mom, Laura Barry. This is my first oldest brother, Paul and he is 35. My younger brother, Samuel, is 29. I have one sister, Laura Jane, who is 22. She lives in my house with my mom and dad and I. I have two sisters-in-law, Leah who is 36, is married to Paul, and Codie, who is 28, is married to Samuel. Paul and Leah have my nieces, Lily, who is 8 and Nora, who is 6. Samuel and Codie have my nephew, Lucas, who is 6 and my niece, Olive, who is four. Both of my brothers are each expecting another baby who will both be born this year.

I am a member of the Cornerstone Church in Easton, where I am a volunteer on Monday nights for Riverside Ministry community soup kitchen to help out. Every Sunday morning, I go to Cornerstone Church and to help family members and other church members.

P.S. I love to play with my nieces and nephew who come to my house every week while I help babysit them.

Happenings around Abilities

Star Program Success

Through Abilities' STAR program, Peter learned the skills necessary to be a successful employee, and has reached his goal of employment with his job at Habitat for Humanity. Although he's only been working there for a few short months, Peter has already made himself at home. He works hard around the store while stocking shelves, rearranging items, and keeping the store clean and organized. Peter works closely with his job coach and within his short time there he has made a lasting impact with his fellow co-workers. Peter's favorite part of the store is the dollar section where he hunts for small items to purchase.



"Re-firing" of the Kiln

Within the Music & Arts Program, our Mary Apgar Center and ISP have revamped their journey into the art of ceramics. With combined funding of \$2,300 provided by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission, local artist, Emma Rimi, has begun teaching service recipients about texture and its effect on clay. Emma helped each artist demonstrate their creative nature to make unique pottery pieces with their own hands. Our service recipients showed off their artistic talent with beautiful, handmade vases and jewelry for auction at our Diamonds in the Sky dinner dance, which quickly became the most coveted items of the night.



Happenings around Abilities



Cooking it up

Our Phillipsburg program is loving their new state-of-the-art, life-skills kitchen! After the recent renovation of our kitchen by the Lowe's

Hero Project, our service recipients wasted no time to begin cooking. They learned to bake delicious treats and cook healthy, balanced meals while taking part in effective life-skills training. Our Phillipsburg service recipients are quickly becoming our favorite chefs.

Community Inclusion

Hackettstown Center is out and about in the community! Our service recipients visited Greene's Beans Cafe for a coffee break, McDonald's for Shamrock Shakes, and IHOP for National Pancake Day. A big part of our Hackettstown program is being involved in community activities that enhance socialization and independence.

While being busy in the community, service recipients are learning the importance of community inclusion and volunteering, all while having fun!



Happenings around Abilities



Art with Heart

A part of our daily activities at our Washington program are centered around the creation of beautiful and distinctive hand-made arts and crafts.

Our talented service recipients create art such as paintings, crafts, candles and other unique pieces that are featured at craft shows and exclusively sold at our PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques. Each craft is made with a little heart and soul by each artist, letting their abilities shine through!

Quilt Raffle

\$1.00 donation- per chance

The 2019 quilt raffle will be drawn on December 18. Tickets will be distributed and additional tickets are available at the administrative office- 264 Route 31 North in Washington. Prizes, pictured to the right, are as follows:

- ♦ 1st Prize
Full/Queen Butterfly Quilt- \$1,000
- ♦ 2nd Prize
Huggie Bear Baby Quilt- \$225
- ♦ 3rd Prize
M&M Candy Wall Hanging- \$100



Happenings around Abilities



Peyton's Packing Perfection

The printing industry is now familiar territory for Peyton Manning (yes, that is his real name). He has worked for Paper Strategies, Inc. of Broadway, NJ for over a year now. Peyton's job responsibilities include collating, shrink wrapping, packaging and labeling various printed items that end up in retail stores, banks and medical facilities all across the country. His biggest responsibility is packing approximately 50,000 business cards on each of the two days a week he works at the plant. His attention to detail in making sure that every single box is identical to the previous one is not only a thing of beauty, it shows his pride for a job well done. Looking at the overall numbers, Peyton has packed over 5 million business cards over the past year, without a single mistake. The repetitive nature of his job isn't for everyone, but, Peyton has an incredible attention to detail and time oriented task management which makes him thrive in this position.

Peyton worked with Abilities' Employment Pathways program in 2017 to find his ideal employment where he would thrive and succeed. After several job samplings, Peyton and his parents were introduced to David Leary at PSI in Broadway. After Peyton job sampled at PSI, he proved himself to be not only a valuable employee but also a cherished part of the team. Now working at PSI for over a year, Peyton has become close to his fellow associates and has grown into a significant role with the company.

"Peyton truly feels like family here and we will always be grateful for Abilities for introducing him to a great team at PSI where he is loved and challenged" said Peyton's mother, Arlene. "His experiences have made significant changes in his life globally. He has a purpose to go to work, to do a good job, to get paid for his work, to then save and pay for his own things that he wants. Just like anyone else wants to do."

For years, companies had huge misconceptions in regards to hiring people with disabilities. Most of these companies believed employees with disabilities could not perform as well as other employees and were apprehensive to hiring them. Today, top companies like Microsoft, CVS, and IBM are all leading the way for inclusiveness for people with disabilities in the workplace.

David Leary of PSI, understands the importance of having complete inclusiveness in the business world and has taken Peyton under his wing to prove to the community, and other businesses, how vital diversity is.

"As a business owner, it's amazing to have someone like Peyton working here," said Leary. "He is treated equally and understands that we have deadlines that have to be met. He was given an opportunity here, he accepted that responsibility and continues to impress. Isn't that what any of us wants in our life, a chance or an opportunity?"

Peyton took the proverbial ball at PSI and ran with it.

At the Movies

Reviews by Holly Range



Mary Poppins Returns ★★★★★★★★★★

If you are a Mary Poppins fan you want to see Mary Poppins Returns!

Jane and Michael are back and trying to save their house from being bankrupt after the lawyers told them they have no money for themselves! One day, there was a big surprise when Mary Poppins returns to help Jane and Michael and their kids to save their house and helped look after the kids. But then the bank owner's nephew told Jane and Michael if they don't save their house by midnight they have to move out.

Can Mary Poppins, Jane, Michael and the children save the Banks' house before it's too late?



How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World ★★★★★★★★★★

If you are a fan of the How to Train your Dragon series, you must see the final movie of How to Train your Dragon: The Hidden World!

Hiccup and his friends were rescuing dragons from the dragon hunters and they brought them back to Berk which is how Dragontopia became safe. Then one day, Hiccup's pet dragon, Toothless, discovers a white Night Fury and he found out that he was not the only one left. But then that night, Hiccup had a visitor in his house, a Night Fury hunter named Grimmel and he wants to kill Toothless and capture all the dragons and destroy

Dragontopia! Hiccup told his people it's not safe to live in Dragontopia and they had to find a safer place and find the Hidden World that his father told him about when he was a young boy.

Can Hiccup and his friends find the Hidden World before Grimmel finds them?

PossAbilities Campaign Updates

Families, caregivers, and guardians of the individuals in our programs understand the importance of having life-changing program options and services for their loved ones. Programs such as day program and community inclusion, art and music opportunities, employment supports, expanded volunteer opportunities, job sampling, therapies, skill trainings at our Thrift Boutiques and PrintAbilities, sensory room expansions and ultimately, programs that each individual can proudly call their own.

Each day, the Abilities Team assesses individuals strengths and needs and endlessly supports them as they work towards their goals. But to continue to empower success in each individual and to expand services, we need support from our families and community.

PLEASE consider giving a gift - of any size - to show us your support in helping to UNLOCK POTENTIAL ...\$50, \$100, \$1000 or more, all monies raised will make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We have many ways for you to support our efforts:

- ◆ Pledging as an individual or family
- ◆ Matching corporate gifts
- ◆ Pledging over multiple years
- ◆ Naming opportunities and Wall of Recognition

SUPPORT FROM OUR FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL. We would love to have a conversation to share information on our goals or to just hear your ideas. Contact Sue, (908) 689-1118 or email at szukoski@abilitiesnw.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER...

YOUR DONATION MATTERS!



Yes I'd like to make a difference and contribute to the PossAbilities Campaign. Please accept my gift of...

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other: _____

☐ My Company Matches Gifts: Company Name _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Email: _____



PossAbilities Wall of Recognition



**Century Product Corp.
\$20,000 Gift
Mary Appgar Sensory Room
Expansion**

OUR CAMPAIGN GOAL

\$1,750,000

\$350,000 EACH YEAR

5 YEAR CAMPAIGN

FY 2019

\$350,000

\$325,000

\$300,000

\$275,000

\$250,000

\$225,000

\$200,000

\$175,000

\$150,000

\$125,000

\$100,000

\$75,000

\$50,000

\$25,000



TOTAL RAISED TO DATE

\$444,245

To learn more about the PossAbilities Campaign

www.abilitiesnw.com/poss-campaign.php

Your Gift will Change Lives

☐ My check is enclosed and made out to **ABILITIES OF NORTHWEST JERSEY INC.**

☐ Please charge my credit card

Credit card#: _____

Expiration: ____ / ____

Security code: _____

Signature: _____

Abilities is a not-for-profit, charitable, 501(c)3 organization, therefore, your donation is tax deductible.

Event Recap



PossAbilities Flemington Open House

An official Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held at our PossAbilities Thrift Boutique located at 1 Church Street in Flemington. The Flemington location features woman's wear and artwork

created by clients in our day programs. The thrift boutique serves as a feature available to our local community, as well as a vocational training location where individuals will learn a variety of retail related job skills.

Diamonds in the Sky Dinner Dance Celebration

A magical evening that honored several inspiring individuals for their leadership, passion and empowerment to people with different abilities, and true stars of our organization. Receiving the *Special Recognition Awards* was the Abilities' Choir who performed and received a standing ovation.

The event raised nearly \$36,000, of which almost \$4,000 was donated to directly support the needs of the music program.

Photos of the evening can be found

on our website

www.abilitiesnw.com



Meet the Ombudsman

Presented by the Abilities' Family Enrichment Committee- Paul Aronsohn, was our special guest discussing his passion and advocacy role as New Jersey's Ombudsman, the highlights of his 2018 report, communication and resources, and more for individuals with I/DD.



Future Happenings

Warren County Disability Resource Fair

May 16 • 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Warren County Library– Southwest Branch
404 County Rd 519, Phillipsburg, NJ

RSVP– call 888-383-3296 or email info@dawncil.org



Staff In-Service Day

June 14

All Abilities programs will be closed.



Summer Sizzle Dance Party

presented by Family Enrichment

June 21 • 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Abilities of Northwest Jersey Inc.

264 Route 31 North, Washington, NJ

\$3.00 per attendee– flyer to be distributed

Abili-Tee's Invitational Golf Outing

June 24

Panther Valley Golf & Country Club

One Forest Drive, Allamuchy, NJ

Annual sell-out tournament fundraiser. Outing includes a day on a champion golf course, carts, continental breakfast, BBQ lunch, post-tournament awards dinner, complimentary event shirt, golfer goodie bag, and complimentary beverages during play. We're currently accepting golfers, event sponsors, tee/green sign sponsors, and more. For more information or to register: www.abilitiesnw.com/golf-outing.php



Independence Day

July 4

All Abilities programs will be closed. Have a wonderful and safe holiday!



PrintAbilities

You think it, we ink it!

56 East Washington Ave., Washington, NJ 07882 • printing@abilitiesnw.com • (908) 689-0612



PrintAbilities is on social media!

We've finally done it! Our oldest social enterprise, PrintAbilities, now has it's own social media. LIKE and Follow Us!

We will be sharing photos of our individuals working and learning retail job skills, as well as our amazing products- screen printed, direct to garment printed, and embroidered.



@printabilitiesnw

And both PossAbilities Thrift Boutique locations



**PossAbilities
Thrift Boutique**
Imagine what you can find!



@possabilitiesphillipburg

@possabilitiesflemington



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