



ABLE News

Fall/Winter
2018

AN ABLE UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE

A Word from our CEO

by Lance Davis

Wow!!!

Another summer turns to fall, then to winter, leaves have changed colors and have fallen to the ground, the wind has changed direction; temperatures are falling, (and we are hoping for snow!) and the birds have flown south. ABLE is still here plugging away, working to give persons with disabilities a meaningful day. Especially with the colder temps and service recipients not being able to get outdoors as frequently in order to volunteer in the community, we are aiming to maximize skill-building activities within the workshop.

ABLE has added skill stations in the workshop, which include real-world simulations encountered by our clients in their everyday lives and at their places of work. For instance, there is a grocery store station, where service recipients can practice grocery shopping, as well as facing products and bagging groceries, like they do daily while at work at ABLE partner, Homeland Stores.

Additionally, there is a station with a washer and dryer, to practice being self-sufficient with doing laundry and folding clothes.

Restaurant and office stations are also in the works!

We are also currently in the midst of giving the workshop a new 'face.' Thanks to help from a grant award from the Donna Nigh Foundation, ABLE has upgraded the lighting in the entire workshop.

Next, we are looking to renovate the bathrooms, as well as update the kitchen, in order to accommodate a home economics program for our service recipients.

We have had a great holiday season thus far, with a lively Halloween party at Memorial Presbyterian Church, a hearty Thanksgiving lunch, thanks to support from Homeland and Van's Pig Stands, and the annual, Oklahoma Mustang Club sponsored Christmas party.

We are all continuing to gear up for the Christmas holiday, where HO HO HO HO!!!!!! Santa comes to celebrate the good times had by all.

I hope everyone has a glorious holiday season!!



ABLE Events

ABLE service recipients have enjoyed getting into the holiday spirit! Here, ABLE client Terri gets a hug from Santa himself!

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Fundraisers

ABLE hosts fundraisers throughout the year. Here, supporters attend the 2nd Annual Comedy Night: Comedy for a Cause.

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ABLE Events

by Niki Leonard

ABLE has been celebrating the holiday season!

- On **Friday, October 26**, ABLE service recipients, parents, caregivers, staff, friends, and even Board members dressed up for the annual ABLE Halloween party, which was held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, and featured a disc jockey for dancing, great food, and even the special treat of a traditional, Mexican folkloric dance!
- On **Monday, November 20**, the ABLE workshop clients and staff celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with a delicious, potluck lunch. The turkey was provided thanks to a donation from Homeland Stores; the turkey was smoked by, and other meats were available from Van's Pig Stands.
- The Oklahoma Mustang Club sponsored their annual Christmas party for clients, complete with gift delivery by Santa on **Sunday, December 2**.



COMEDY NIGHT

The 2nd Annual ABLE Comedy Night: Comedy for a Cause, which was held at The Mercury on August 24, was a success and netted \$1,500 more than last year's inaugural event, thanks to support from donors, sponsors, and friends in the community! We look forward to continuing to grow our signature event!

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL EVENT!
<http://okable.org/events/2nd-annual-comedy-night/>



Teresa Hooper, ABLE's new Residential Director

New Residential Director for ABLE

by Niki Leonard

Teresa Green Hooper joined ABLE as Residential Director in October. She is originally from Kentucky, where she worked for Easter Seals in direct care, community inclusion, and fundraising. She then joined Four Rivers Behavioral Health, as a group home manager.

Teresa moved to Oklahoma in 2008, and was a stay-at-home mom for a time, until joining Bios in January of 2018. Her family includes her husband, Michael Hooper, who is with Hall of Tattoos in Norman, and three sons, Oz (15), Slayer (almost 8), and Panther (6). Her family also currently includes beta fish, and she wants to add a dog, once they get settled.

Hooper is very excited to be a part of smaller nonprofit, where she will be better able to make a difference. She looks forward to serving as our ABLE Residential Director.

Join us in welcoming Teresa!!

Recent Grants & Fundraisers

by Niki Leonard

Grants

ABLE recently received a grant award from the **Donna Nigh Foundation**, which helped us replace all, outdated workshop lighting!

Additionally, we were selected as a recipient of two new, **Federal Transportation Authority Section 5310** vehicles, thanks to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division. These vehicles will be vital in providing safe transportation for our client recipients to and from their places of employment, and for them to be able to fulfill their community service responsibilities.

Fundraisers

Thanks to the help of partners, volunteers, and staff, ABLE has recently raised funds to help with our vocational and residential programs:

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

A couple different, area restaurants have helped ABLE with benefit nights. On October 17, **Hideaway Pizza** hosted a benefit night, and on November 5, **Benvenuti's** hosted a night for ABLE, as well, where a percentage of profits were donated to ABLE. About \$100 was raised for ABLE, and more notably, awareness of ABLE's mission was raised during the benefits!

#GIVINGTUESDAY & ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

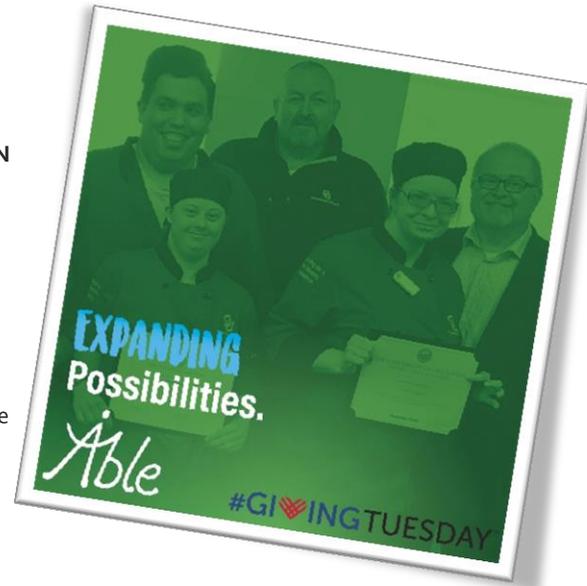
On November 27, ABLE kicked off our annual, year-end giving campaign with **#GivingTuesday**, a global day of giving, and raised approximately \$500, with help from matching Facebook donations!

ABLE still needs your help! We are grateful for the donations on #GivingTuesday, but we are still lacking the funds to provide safe transportation for our clients to and from work. There is still time to make your year-end, tax-deductible donation. Even a small gift makes a difference to ABLE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Did you enjoy the **Paint it Forward** fundraiser at Pinot's Palette this past summer? ABLE is looking to have another wine-and-palette fundraiser, possibly at a local winery, just in time for Valentine's Day!

ABLE is looking to kick off the summer this coming May with a **musical fundraiser** the whole family can enjoy, featuring local musicians. *Stay tuned to www.okable.org and to our social media for more details on our upcoming events, coming soon!*



ABLE Volunteers

by Niki Leonard

ABLE is grateful to our volunteers, who further our mission of working to enable adults with special needs to lead meaningful lives!

United Way Day of Caring

On September 12, **United Way** hosted their annual Day of Caring. This year, ABLE was matched with Avara, a local company. Despite a torrential downpour of rain, hundreds of volunteers met up that morning at a local church for the kick-off meeting, where Avara won the Spirit Award, then dispersed to area nonprofits for a day of service. **Avara** gave ABLE Group Home 2 a fresh coat of interior paint, as well as the residents lifted spirits!

University of Oklahoma

OU's Leadership & Volunteerism

Department generously donated some ABLE needed supply items, such as cleaning supplies and copy paper.

Additionally, **OU Student Heroes** have stepped up and pick up, separate, and deliver Panera bread to ABLE partners every week!

East Central University

Two students at **ECU** recently selected Dwayne, an ABLE service recipient, for their class project focused on obstacles for people with special needs and how to overcome them. The students met and spoke with Dwayne to determine his gaming needs, and gifted him with a new Xbox and an Xbox adaptive controller!



Timber Creek Fellowship

On November 18, a group of volunteers from **Timber Creek Fellowship**, a local church, donated their time to do several hours of much-needed yard work at ABLE's DLS Home 1 and DLS Home 3. We are all grateful for the help!

Hitachi & Ultimate Chemicals

Every year around the holidays, **Hitachi** does an angel tree for ABLE's service recipients. This year, they are hosting a holiday party for and presenting the gifts to clients on Sunday, December 16.

Ultimate Chemicals is also a good friend to ABLE! They plan to once again provide stockings, filled with gifts to our clients. Additionally, they are renting a bus and are hosting a movie day at a local theatre for our clients, including our Work Adjustment Training program participants, high school students with special needs transitioning from high school into the work force.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!