



For many, the holidays are a time for reflection and thanks. I am especially thankful for our staff, donors and community partners who make it possible for us to make such a positive difference in so many people's lives. With your support we have helped over 1,500 people with disabilities in our community have a lot to be thankful for this year.

While this is a time to reflect on what we are thankful for, I can't help but be excited for what the year ahead has to offer. Knowing that we have the good fortune of loyal and dedicated staff, families and friends, I am confident that the looming economic challenges will not hold us back from achieving our vision for the future.

At Ability Beyond Disability we are forging ahead in our commitment to provide the highest quality of services to the growing number of people with disabilities who can and will achieve their hopes and dreams, with our assistance. Together with each of you we will continue to grow and thrive so that we can meet the needs of all those who look to Ability Beyond Disability for a brighter future.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for people with disabilities. I look forward to another year of discovering, building and celebrating people's abilities with you.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Regards,

Tom

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Happy
Holidays
from



Making a House a "Home"

"Want to see my room?!"

When you walk into Ability Beyond Disability's newest group home in Connecticut, Danny will inevitably ask to show you his room, pictures of himself hanging on the wall or some other personal touch to his house. He will beam with pride as he walks you through each room, telling you all about himself and his "new" home.



Danny is just one of eight men that live there. Before we took it over from another agency this past summer, none of them had the chance to make the house they lived in a true home. We made necessary repairs and updates to the house, but best of all, we helped make it a real home. This past October, the house was decorated with spider webs and pumpkins and the guys even got to wear Halloween costumes! With the help of staff, they hosted



a Thanksgiving dinner party at the house and just a few weeks ago they decorated their very own Christmas tree.

But...it doesn't stop there. The guys have gone on quite a few vacations and day trips together in the past few months. They took a road trip to the Big E over the summer and had a blast! For the first time, they are experiencing their community and all it has to offer.



Thanks to Ability Beyond Disability and friends like you, Danny and his house mates now have a true home and a full life in the community.

To give a gift online visit www.abilitybeyonddisability.org



Why I Work At Ability Beyond Disability

-Susan Hancock, Direct Support Professional

It has been my pleasure for the past 16 years to work at Ability Beyond Disability, in one of our homes. In that time I have found that helping residents achieve their goals can be equally rewarding for the staff. Sometimes the aspirations they have require us to look outside of the box. Years ago one of the residents talked about getting married. In her eyes this meant wearing a wedding gown, being in the spotlight and feeling special for a day. A committee was formed and a fashion show was planned. For the finale she walked down the runway wearing a wedding gown with her dad by her side. How do you not feel great knowing you had a part in making someone else feel so special?

We have traditions that help make our house feel like a home. We host an annual summer pool party and Halloween costumes are handmade and always themed. We always take a Holiday photo card that is sent out, host a Holiday party, decorate and bake. We are a family.

Sometimes my job requires being an advocate at doctors appointments or out in the community. This often means raising the bar to help each individual achieve a better quality of life. Knowing a person's needs and wants is key in helping them to be successful.

In August of this year my managers along with a resident's sister surprised me with the news that they had submitted letters to nominate me for an award "2010 Direct Support Professional of the Year" and that I was the winner for Connecticut. In September I was honored to meet Gov. Jodi Rell. I also traveled to Washington DC to the award ceremony. It was an incredible experience.

Just this past October, a resident at our home unexpectedly passed away. At that moment I realized how blessed I was to have him as part of my life...to be able to make a difference and establish bonds that last a lifetime. I also realized how blessed I am to work for a company whose emphasis is to encourage independence and improve the quality of life of every person it serves.

That is why I work at Ability Beyond Disability.

Thank you to the following funders for your support through recent grant awards:

- General Reinsurance Corp. - \$1,000
- Anthony F. Bauer Foundation - \$1,200
- The Guilford Foundation - \$2,500
- Pepsi Bottling Group - \$2,500
- GE Real Estate - \$5,000
- Union Savings Bank Foundation - \$7,500
- Fairfield County Community Foundation - Donor Advised Fund - \$15,000
- Community Foundation for Greater New Haven - \$75,000

Our Community

Partnering with Ability Beyond Disability

Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championship



The Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championship benefitting Ability Beyond Disability was a great success, raising over \$103,000! The golf tournament took place in Sept. at Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, CT.

The winners were the Rose and Kiernan sponsored foursome of Jim Arconti, Brian Holliday, Todd Payne and Donald Watkins. They moved on to the Mercedes-Benz Regional

Championship in Pinehurst, NC. Brian Holliday and Donald Watkins placed 3rd and will be moving on again to the National Final at Augusta, GA in April 2011.



We are grateful for our partnership with the presenting sponsors: Mercedes-Benz of Danbury and Friendly Motorcars and owner and general manager Bob Camastro. Special thanks to Jordan Young of Fairfield Processing, our tournament chairman and lead corporate sponsor. Thank



you to our other top sponsors: Fairfield County Bank, Pepsi Beverages Co., Union Savings Bank, TD Bank, Cleary Benefits Group, and Fisher, Harris and Shapiro.

Hoops for Hope 2010

Ability Beyond Disability's 2nd Annual Hoops for Hope wheelchair basketball game raised over \$27,000 in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. We had an excellent turnout of over 500 people, including many of the people we serve, staff and members of the community.

Thank you to the highly skilled Connecticut Spokebenders, who generously gave their time and went easy on the Ability Hot Shots!



Hoops for Hope

Thank you to all of our sponsors, including **Presenting Sponsor** Bedoukian Research; **Slam Dunk Sponsor** Topex, Inc.; **Jump Shot Sponsors** Boehringer Ingelheim, Positive Energy, Walmart, Mulvaney Mechanical, Volz Auto Group, and Faith Church; and **Lay Up Sponsors** Danbury Hospital, Unilever, Danbury Audi, and RockTenn.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

This year, gifts have been made in honor or memory of the following people:

- In Memory of Jennifer Rubin
- In Memory of Dolores Brandon
- In Memory of Joshua Epstein
- In Memory of Carl Johnson
- In Memory of Stephen Leary
- In Memory of Everett Ignagni
- In Honor of Marby LaTorraca
- In Memory of Helen Mulvaney
- In Memory of Concetta Brideau
- In Memory of Bernard Latainer
- In Memory of Dr. Luis Padial
- In Memory of Ellen Hall
- In Memory of Erna Kelly
- In Honor of Carlos M. Quiles
- In Memory of Leo Beaudet
- In Honor of Lara & Andres Rodriguez
- In Memory of Ricky Vitols
- In Honor of Alex Marx & Martin Sheridan

Not sure what to get someone on your list this holiday season? Charity donations make a great gifts! Please visit us online at www.abilitybeyonddisability.org to make a gift in honor or memory of someone today.



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/AbilityBeyondDisability

"Hand in Hand"



Mike (left) and some friends at Ability Beyond Disability

"We are the kids of the future, get off the computer".

It's hard to believe that line came from a 12 year old boy...but it did. His name is Mike Sabath and he is showing the world that kids can make a difference, if they just work together.

Mike loves music and wants nothing more than to write and play all the time. He put his skills to work and has written the music and lyrics and recorded a song titled "Hand in Hand". He is a 7th grader at John Jay Middle School in Cross River and lives in Katonah and he's raising money for Ability Beyond Disability.

Mike will sell the song on websites such as iTunes and he will donate all of the proceeds to Ability Beyond Disability.

To illustrate the potential of kids and teens coming together to make a difference, Mike enlisted the help of over 100 young people age 5 through 18 to help sing the chorus; their voices will be on the final version of the song. He even visited our Mt. Kisco location in early November and had over 30 people served by Ability Beyond Disability participate in the recording as well!

Look for the song on iTunes and other digital music sites or visit Mike's website to make a donation (every donor will receive a copy of the song via email!) www.hundredsofhands.com.



Dawn singing the chorus