



Newsletter

June 2024

Helping those with barriers to employment
and community inclusion since 1948.

Message from the President



As I look back on the first half of 2024, it has so far been a year of change for AccessAbility. We have welcomed the greatest number of new persons served since the pandemic, our Project Connect Program is under new leadership and is growing, and we have acquired new production and community jobs. Additionally, our social enterprise business, Imagine Design, has been rebranded and launched in June as Works of Heart. With changes in third-party transportation contracts, AccessAbility has also expanded its own transportation services. We now provide consistent and reliable transportation for persons served to their day programming, community activities, and work sites.

We are excited about our new gardening programs. Every Tuesday, a team goes out to 21 Roots (farm) to learn about growing vegetables from seeds and interact with various farm animals, and we launched our own in-house gardening club. We planted a large vegetable garden onsite so more of those we serve can access the program. Persons served maintain the flower and vegetable gardens and look forward to making recipes with the vegetables at the end of the Summer.

AccessAbility has a great staff dedicated to our mission and continually looks for ways to enrich the lives of those we serve. As this is my last newsletter message, I head into retirement with great pride in our team. It has been an honor to serve AccessAbility, to be a part of its growth and success, and to work with a dedicated team of people who so steadfastly embrace the mission.

Going forward, AnneMarie Klimek will lead the team as the new CEO. AnneMarie has served as COO of AccessAbility since 2019 and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of those we serve. She is a servant leader who prides herself on building positive work cultures and relationships.

Thank you to all our supporters, donors, and partners. Your support helped us through some difficult times, to continue to innovate and provide new ways to provide work opportunities to those we serve, and helped us thrive at a time other agencies didn't survive. I leave with a full heart and look forward to hearing about all AnneMarie and the AAI team continue to achieve together.

Michael J. Krebsbach
CEO, President

Did You Know? AccessAbility Provides Recycling Services!

When you choose AccessAbility, you do more than benefit your business; you also positively impact your community. We provide meaningful work opportunities that people take pride in. Our recycling services include materials recovery facility (MRF) and book recycling. Seen pictured, Scott is working on recycling books. Scott takes pride in his work and says he enjoys coming to work at AccessAbility.



**Would you like AccessAbility to do recycling for your business?
Talk to Amy at 612-331-5958.**

Person Served Spotlight: Colvon

Colvon joined AccessAbility in 2019 and always carries a positive attitude with him. He works at the Eats-N-Treats company store and also does cleaning. Colvon's favorite part of his job is the ability to be independent. Graduating in a just a few months, Colvon is working toward his political science degree. We are so proud of his accomplishments! In his free time, Colvon enjoys going to the gym, playing basketball and video games, listening to music and reading (especially mystery books.) Colvon enjoys spending time with his family, mother, nieces and nephews.

Project Connect Graduation

Project Connect recently had their largest graduating class! Nine Graduates received certifications from AccessAbility's Project Connect Program. The main focus of this Project Connect class was on career readiness and retention, incorporating concepts of integrity, responsibility, attitude and enthusiasm into the course. We are proud of the Graduates and wish them continued success. One Graduate even started a new job the day of Graduation! Thank you to DEED, Pathways Program, and the Proud Program for contributing to the success of Project Connect.



Published Authors at Cow Tipping Press!

Persons served have recently become published authors through Cow Tipping Press! Cow Tipping Press is an organization that teaches writing classes for individuals with disabilities and gives them a chance to publish their work. Here at Accessibility, nine people have become published authors so far! Seen pictured, they also get the opportunity to read their work at events held by Cow Tipping Press.



Upcoming Events



EVENING STARS BBQ NIGHT

Date: July 18 from 5:30-7:30pm
Location: 360 Hoover St NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Interested in Coming?

Contact Katie:
kchambers@accessability.org



ANNUAL RUN, WALK, N' ROLL

Date: September 14
More information coming soon!

Employee of the Month: Maddie

Before working here as IT Support Specialist, Maddie had volunteered here at AccessAbility through the University of St. Thomas. She started working at AccessAbility in December of 2021. When asked about her favorite thing about working at AccessAbility, she replied, "The ability to interact with the community while also working a job that is a passion of mine." Outside of work, Maddie enjoys spending her free time traveling. "I love to travel! I try to get to Costa Rica at least once a year, but will be going to Mexico in June and Hawaii in January as well!"

