

Helping people with barriers to employment and community inclusion since 1948

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A Message from the President:

AccessAbility, Inc. would like to wish everyone a happy new year! We look forward to continuing to share our stories with you throughout 2022.

We have a lot of exciting things happening this year as we all hope to get back to some normalcy. We hope to again engage with our community starting with the annual Rockin' 5K and Walk 'n' Roll event on June 18, 2022. Also on the schedule again this year is AccessAbility's gala with its popular theme basket raffle.

AccessAbility has a new fundraising project for an onsite fitness room for the use of our program participants to improve their health and well being. See more information below about this fundraising opportunity.

We hope you enjoy this update about what's happening at AccessAbility. Thank you so much for your support.

Michael J. Krebsbach, MBA, CPA
President and CEO

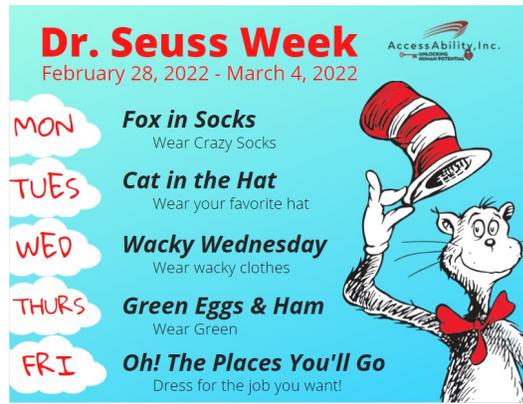
Andy Sippel Retires from AccessAbility

Andy Sippel retired on December 30, 2021. He began his employment in September of 2007 doing assembly work in-house and then going on to working in the community at the University of Minnesota. Andy really loved doing the assembly work, participating in our Walk & Roll summer event and the Evening Stars events.

AccessAbility provides a variety of programs that help to contribute to an individual's well rounded life experiences. AccessAbility is known for its combination of work and recreational/leisure opportunities.

Andy is going to celebrate his retirement by traveling in the United States and checking out one of his favorite things - lighthouses. Please join us in congratulating Andy on his





AccessAbility's Life Skills Program

On February 28th, AccessAbility will be celebrating Dr. Seuss Week to kick off the newest Life Skills Class offering with a variety of fun activities. Our Life Skills program features classes throughout the year that focus on a variety of themes. Upstream Arts, a local creative arts company, will be coming in weekly, for the next 12 weeks, to teach a class called the "Art of Social Skills."

In this class, attendees will learn the fundamentals of social interaction such as personal boundaries, conflict resolution, emotional regulations, working well with others, and more. Participants will have fun learning these communication skills through visual art, theater, poetry, music and dance.

Flyers about the class will be sent home this week with persons served.



Evening Stars Valentine's Day Dinner Cancelled

At this time, AccessAbility has all Evening Stars events on hold. Attendance has been affected by COVID 19 absences. As a result, the Valentine's Day dinner was cancelled.

We are deeply disappointed about the cancellation as the Valentine's Day dinner, last held in 2020, is one of everyone's favorite.

We look forward to future events as we monitor the ongoing COVID situation. The Evening Stars program provides fun and meaningful social events for our community. It is also a great opportunity for volunteers to help out with the event.

We will continue to report on upcoming events right here in this newsletter.

AccessAbility Mission Moment: Steve Elliot

The Project Connect Orientation Program's goal is to assist individuals to secure full-time employment at a livable wage with benefits and a chance for advancement. The program is comprised of the development of short term goals, placement in a job in the community, and determination of long term vocational goals.

Steve Elliot successfully completed AccessAbility's Project Connect Orientation program. Steve received training in the areas of budgeting, employment skills, and resume writing and became certified in both Forklift and Scissor Lift operation. Steve's long term career goal is to be a general contractor.

Please join us in congratulating Steve Elliot who has secured full time employment in a warehouse position with Nico Plating in Minneapolis, MN.



Imagine Design Launches New Products

AccessAbility's Imagine Design business segment provides training and work opportunities for program participants. We design, manufacture and distribute our unique gift products to both the wholesale and retail markets.

December and January were busy months for the team as we launched 14 new product families. Our workforce was engaged in various manufacturing operations such as sawing, laser cutting, UV printing, painting, assembly, packaging, quality control, order entry, order picking, and order shipping to locations around the world.

You can find our products in gift stores around the country and also on Wayfair, Walmart.com, and Amazon, as well as, our own retail website.

Please see our retail website here:
www.imagine-design.org

2022 Fundraising Project: Fitness Room

This year AccessAbility has plans to dedicate existing facility space to create a fitness room. For many people with intellectual disabilities, there is a higher prevalence of obesity and access fitness equipment on a regular basis is not readily available. As part of our goal to address the total well-being of the people we serve, AccessAbility would like to add an onsite fitness program.

Fitness Room Project Needs

- Fundraising Goal: \$8,000
- No renovation is required for the project
- Donations of cash and equipment are needed
- Keeping safety in mind, we can take equipment if gently used and in good shape
- Fitness equipment list: Treadmill, Stationary bike, Miscellaneous resistance bands, Hand weights and Floor Mats

If you would like to contribute to our Fitness Room project, please contact AccessAbility at 612-331-5958.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Rockin' 5K and Walk 'n' Roll

June 18, 2022

N. Mississippi Regional Park
Minneapolis, MN

Registration: 9:00 AM

Walk Starts: 10:00 AM

AccessAbility, Inc.

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