

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AccessAbility, Inc. to Celebrate the Grand Opening of Its AbleTo Campaign Building Project

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – AccessAbility, Inc. invites local media to join a delegation of staff, board of directors, supporters, local community leaders and dignitaries to attend a special ceremony celebrating on **Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.**, to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new wing of AccessAbility, Inc., made possible by the successful *AbleTo Campaign*. The Grand Opening event will take place at **AccessAbility, Inc. located at 360 Hoover Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.**

In the morning, on May 17, from 9:30 am to 12:00 p.m., staff and volunteers from the City of Minneapolis Environmental Services will plant trees and flowers on the property as part of the project. Councilman Kevin Reich, Ward 1, will be stopping by to observe and thank the workers.

The *AbleTo Campaign* was launched in 2016 with the goal of raising \$2 million for facility expansion and renovation to meet the changing needs of individuals served. Groundbreaking of the project was held in July of 2017.

“As the demographic needs of our community change, so must our programs and our facilities,” said Barbara Arnold, Executive Director of AccessAbility. “Not only is there an increased need for transitional employment and training for young adults entering the workforce, but people with disabilities are also living longer and need enhanced services and supports to successfully maintain their self-sufficiency.”

The Groves Foundation, long-time champion of AccessAbility’s work, provided a corner stone gift of \$280,000 for the AbleTo Campaign Project. Mortenson Construction and their transformative Community Builders program (a wide network of construction vendors committed to philanthropic and material support of projects that advance the public good), along with other generous community supporters have made the Grand Opening possible. The AbleTo Campaign is still in the public stage and additional financial support is being sought to cover the full cost of the project.

Newly appointed Interim President and CEO of AccessAbility, Mike Kresbach is optimistic about the future of the organization. “Throughout AccessAbility’s 70-year history, it has operated from the belief that every person has a role in the community and the right to be included,” he said. “The AbleTo renovation and expansion enables us to continue to evolve our person centered services for years to come.”

Facility improvements addressed the need for larger spaces for programming, including improved wheelchair access, expanded and reconfigured entry space, additional restrooms, an expanded nursing station, and a better life skills training area. To schedule a tour of AccessAbility, call 612-331-5958.

About AccessAbility, Inc.: AccessAbility, Inc.’s mission is to *provide opportunities for self-sufficiency to people with barriers to employment and community inclusion.* To learn more about AccessAbility, go to www.accessability.org.

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