



Newsletter

January 2024

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

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Message from the CEO

2023 was a year of growth for AccessAbility! We started the year with our well-attended 75th Anniversary Celebration Gala, featuring nationally-known comedian, Josh Blue. Several new participants enrolled in our Day & Employment Services programs, and Project Connect continued to thrive, enabling us to serve a growing number of others with the same barriers to employment and community inclusion. We also added several new staff positions to keep up with the growth in programming needs.

I am proud of our team who orchestrated a full calendar of events throughout the year, including the Valentine's dinner, bingo, movie nights, Halloween party, Thanksgiving dinner, Walk n' Roll and Bags Tournament. All events were well attended by persons served and their friends and family. Thank you to all who embrace our purpose and show up to support our mission and those we serve.

We have much to be thankful for, and I look forward to a great 2024. A huge thanks to our Donors, Sponsors, Board Members, and volunteers. We would not be successful without you.

Michael J. Krebsbach
CEO, President

DID YOU KNOW? ACCESSABILITY DELIVERS CUSTOM PRINTING SERVICES

In addition to kitting and assembly services, AccessAbility has a print shop equipped with state-of-the-art technology thanks to donors like Graco and The Schulze Family Foundation. It provides an excellent training ground for program participants and enables us to do great work for you!

You may provide your own logo or artwork or collaborate with our talented graphic artist to create something new. Designs can be printed on a variety of materials, including apparel, tote bags, tea towels, mugs, magnets, and a variety of woods signs and plaques.

CUSTOM AND NAME DROP

PUT YOUR DESIGN ON:

- WOOD BLOCKS
- COASTERS
- PALLET ART
- TOTE BAGS
- T-SHIRTS
- KEY CHAINS
- MAGNETS
- POSTCARDS
- TOWELS
- MUGS
- APRONS
- AND MORE!



For all custom orders and name drops, a \$10.00 set-up fee will be charged.
First hour of design is free, \$50/hour after for extensive design work.

For more information, call 612-331-5958.

PERSON SERVED SPOTLIGHT - *Mikel*



Mikel "Mike" has been a part of AccessAbility for over 14 years. In his free time, he enjoys going out for walks when the weather is nice and going to the mall. He is a Vikings fan and enjoys watching football games on Sundays.

When asked his favorite part of his job, he said it's his staff, "they're all so nice" [Mike, November 2023]. Mike likes working with Dan at the community job sites. He also enjoys making boxes for slats. Mike says, "Jay saves that job for me because he knows I do it well and I like doing them!" [Mike, November 2023].

*"Mike has a way of turning someone's day around as well as making work fun with friendly conversation."
-Katie, Program Manager*

2023 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - *Andrew Anderson*

Congratulations to Andrew! Andrew is our Production Supervisor for Imagine Design and Print Production Services, also responsible for our warehouse, shipping & receiving, and overseeing our Project Connect workers. Always with a smile on his face, Andrew is known for going above and beyond his job--like arriving early to shovel and salt sidewalks so everyone can get into the building safely.

Andrew's favorite thing about working at AAI is the people--staff and persons served. Outside of work, Andrew loves the outdoors and spends as much time as he can on his favorite pastime--fishing.



"Andrew brings an enormous amount of value to AAI. He leads his Imagine Design team with respect and grace, and they love him for it. He creates a work environment that is not only focused but enjoyable. Andrew is always happy to assist in whatever is needed and will go the extra mile without being asked. Congratulations to Andrew. Well Deserved!"

-Amy Christopherson, Director of Operations

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - *Karen Junker*

Congratulations to Karen Junker! Karen is a Program Manager overseeing Extended Employment and Project Connect. When asked about her favorite thing about working at AAI, Karen said she loves the personalities of all of our persons served. Outside of work,



Karen enjoys camping with her family and three sons. She also enjoys GeoCaching (finding hidden objects through GPS or satellites), chocolate, and coffee.

"My favorite thing about my job is watching the people we work with succeed or realize they are succeeding on their own; watching them get excited about working or doing something they love."

-Karen Junker, Program Manager

RECENT EVENTS



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: MAKING PUPPY CHOW

Persons Served got the opportunity to learn how to make delicious puppy chow. AccessAbility offers a variety of cooking and baking classes for Persons Served. Everyone got the chance to watch how to make puppy chow, scoop powdered sugar, and mix the bag. In the end, everyone got to eat!

YEAR END BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET & GREET

Board Members and AccessAbility Staff Members enjoyed an afternoon filled with conversation, delicious food and refreshments, and an Imagine Design Holiday Boutique. Thank you to all who attended! We are grateful to everyone who helped plan and prepare for this special occasion.



JANUARY STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Linda Cazett - 37 years at AccessAbility

UPCOMING EVENING STARS EVENTS

February - Valentine's Dinner

March - Craft Night

May - Plant Night



IMAGINE DESIGN

Proudly manufactured in the U.S.A. by individuals with disabilities and barriers to employment. All manufacturer's profits support their efforts!

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