



## May 2019 Newsletter

In this Issue: Message from the President, Isaac's Success Story, and MORE!

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### A Message from the President

Dear Friends:

You may notice at the top of this e-mail that AccessAbility, Inc has re-branded!

A common question among those new to AccessAbility's programs is, "What do you DO?"

Thanks to Board Member Ken Ehling, CEO and Founder of Montage Marketing Services, the unifying answer across all of AAI's programs is now right on our logo: **We unlock human potential.**

We do this through three facets:

- 1.) Through Caring: Every individual that crosses AAI's threshold is cared about. We care about creating positive experiences for individuals in a nurturing environment.
- 2.) Through Learning: We pride ourselves on our ability to give individuals the exact resources they need to achieve their vocational and community inclusion dreams, including, but not limited to: professional certifications, a variety of supported and community work experiences, access to technology, vocational training, and help accessing more advanced educational resources.
- 3.) Through Work: We put people to work. We help them access the resources they need to navigate the employment process, and help them find jobs at their appropriate skill level.

We couldn't do ANY of this great work without the support of our wonderful AAI community. For that, we are grateful.

Best,

Michael J. Krebsbach, MBA, CPA  
President & CEO

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### Kelly Finds Confidence!

Oftentimes, the thing we need most is for someone else to believe in us when we don't believe in ourselves in order to achieve our full

potential. This is the story of Kelley.

Kelley came to AccessAbility in 2013 to gain vocational confidence. A skilled and efficient worker, Kelley quickly excelled at a variety of jobs in AAI's in-house social enterprise businesses. Kelley enjoyed these jobs, and even made friends in the process. She felt fulfilled.

However, Kelley's case manager saw her full vocational potential, and helped Kelley realize she was capable of doing more advanced work that would result in a larger paycheck.

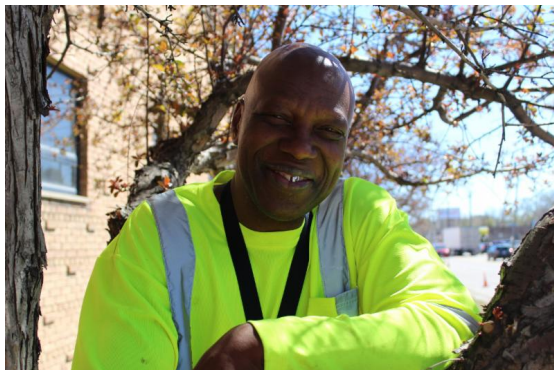


With the full support and help of her AccessAbility case management team, Kelley made the decision to join one of AAI's janitorial teams in the greater community. Kelley said it was a very hard decision to make this transition.

Unsurprisingly, Kelley excelled on the community janitorial team. Not only did she enjoy the work, but she gained the confidence to take her responsibilities a step further!

Because of the ease in which she transitioned to the community janitorial team, Kelley knew she would be able to take on competitive employment. In the fall of 2018, AAI helped Kelley work with a local retailer to secure a job to fit her skill set. Now she works independently in the community 5-days a week doing janitorial work, and is looking forward to taking on new, novel responsibilities!

We are proud of Kelley's accomplishments, and look forward to supporting her as she rises to meet new vocational challenges!



## ISAAC'S NEW JOURNEY

Returning to his community after a 39-year absence due to incarceration was going to be hard. Returning to a world where the technology, transportation, and general way of life are completely foreign was going to be overwhelming. As if that wasn't enough, Isaac also had pancreatic cancer.

"AccessAbility understood my challenges, and met me exactly where I needed [to be met]," says Isaac.

Upon his release, Isaac attended the week-long Project Connect orientation. He received immediate work at the AAI recycling facility ("The MRF"), and received training in the Project Connect classroom. Isaac said he is grateful that he can now use Google maps, can take the bus anywhere, can network efficiently, and Isaac even obtained his driver's license. While Isaac was going through cancer treatment, his Project Connect support team worked with him so that he was still able to receive the full benefits of PC's vocational training program, such as earning a wage and professional certifications. His team helped him work at a pace and physical exertion level that was appropriate for every stage of Isaac's treatment.

As for his future, Isaac is excited to be a productive member of the community. He recently landed a full-time job as a pressure washer technician that pays a great wage and offers full benefits. The employer has also been very accommodating while working with some of Isaac's vocational limitations, so that he may achieve vocational success.

"I am overwhelmed by the support I received from the AAI team. I truly believe I can do anything I want now. I've learned how to prepare for it. I've learned how to network for it. I've learned how to just go for it."

Isaac also looks forward to serving as a mentor for the youth in his church, playing basketball and other sports in his community, and spending uninterrupted time with his children and grandchildren.



Nick made a MN Vikings-inspired lantern at Evening Stars Craft Night in Early April!



Steve takes a new cohort of PC participants through Fork Lift Training



The Evening Stars "Taco Night" was a success!

## THANK YOU TO THE SHAVLIK FAMILY FOUNDATION

for their recent grant to AccessAbility, Because of their generosity, new technology will be implemented in case management and on our production floor and Imagine Design giftware line to help improve overall efficiency!

Visit their website [here](http://www.shavlikfamilyfoundation.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### The 11th Annual Rockin' 5K and Walk-n-Roll!

Join us on

**June 8th, 2019!**

Registration starts at 9am  
The walk starts at 10am

North Mississippi Regional Park  
5166 N Mississippi Dr.  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Click [Here](http://www.rockin5k.com) to Register TODAY



### Evening Stars Dance!

**Friday May 17, 2019**

6:00pm-8:00pm

St. Mary's Parish Center Gymnasium  
1701 5th Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
\$5.00

Contact [Katie](mailto:katie@eveningstarsdance.com) for more information!



# SAVE THE DATE

for  
AccessAbility, Inc's 2nd Annual Gala

**"VIVA LAS VEGAS"**

**10.18.2019**

6:00pm-9:00pm

Delta Hotels by Marriott  
1330 Industrial Blvd NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

For more information contact Ruth:  
(612)331-5958 or  
[rglaeser@accessability.org](mailto:rglaeser@accessability.org)

