

Message from the President, Assistive Technology,
Evening Stars, and more!

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April 2019
News

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Dear Friends:

A key part of AccessAbility's mission is community inclusion, and we strive for this in all parts of our persons-served lives. These can be large things like our award-winning Evening Stars after-hours program which holds events that are accessible to all or seemingly small things like encouraging persons-served to participate in "March Madness" brackets with AccessAbility team members. Accessible technology is also an important part of our programming, and you can read more about it in the story below.

Additionally, our persons-served become a long-term part of our team members lives. As part of our Project Connect program, person-served keep in contact with their case manager for at least a year. Because of this we bring you an update on Chou, who was recently promoted at the job he found after successfully completing Project Connect!

We are always looking for ways in which members in our greater community can interact with persons-served. If you have any special talents or know of a group that is interested in working with our individuals, please contact Jacki at jgale@accessability.org!

Thank you again for making our community great!

Best,

Michael J. Krebsbach, MBA, CPA

President & CEO

Technology for Everyone!



An aspect of AccessAbility's community inclusion programming is to ensure all individuals are able to access the same technology as people in our greater community. Thanks to generous support from AbleNet, AAI is able to offer assistive technology equipment that is accessible for our persons served with disabilities.

Though all programs utilize this technology, the Friends Together Program (FT), which focuses exclusively on recreational and leisure opportunities, has recently been participating in many activities that involve the use of assistive technology.

FT has a weekly technology class, and individuals are able to practice using a computer. Many individuals have never used a computer before, and are introduced to computer basics such as using an accessible mouse and keyboard and surfing the internet. The weekly classes usually focus on specific themes like gaming, art, or researching

information on the internet about topics like fishing or Disney.

They also integrate technology into their weekly program offerings. Recently, persons served at AAI utilized a switch-adapted power control unit to operate a blender and try out a new soup recipe. Individuals have also learned how to access karaoke videos on YouTube, and have enjoyed singing some of their favorite songs! FT has also been integrating technology into its art projects through the use of digital art websites, as well as a computer program that turns real photos into canvas art.

AccessAbility's Day Training and Habilitation programs have a variety of rec/leisure and work opportunities for everyone! For information on joining one of these life-changing programs, please contact Jacki at jgale@accessability.org!

Chou's Unexpected Promotion!



A few months ago, we brought the story of Chou, who, after 10 years in the criminal justice system, successfully transitioned to the community after finding a full-time job as a forklift operator at a produce distributor.

A few weeks ago, Chou received a tap on the shoulder from a company manager and was asked to come to the management office.

"It felt like I was getting called into the principal's office," laughed Chou.

Chou was offered a supervisor position after only six months with the company. His current supervisor was retiring, and noticed Chou's great work ethic, commitment to completing his tasks, and positive disposition

at work. Now, Chou is responsible for distributing produce trucks to various stores, making sure the product is in appropriate storage coolers, and assigning his employees to distribution routes, among other tasks.

"Certain guys are better at things that other guys, so you have to take that into account," says Chou about the logistics of his current role.

Chou's new role with more responsibility has also allowed him to better care for his wife and two kids. He says that now he will be able to buy a house so that his up-and-coming teenagers will be able to have their own rooms.

"Not that long ago I felt like I was on the bottom, and now I get to do things like spoil my kids." Chou says he is excited to advance his vocational skills set through his new position, and looks forward to the future!

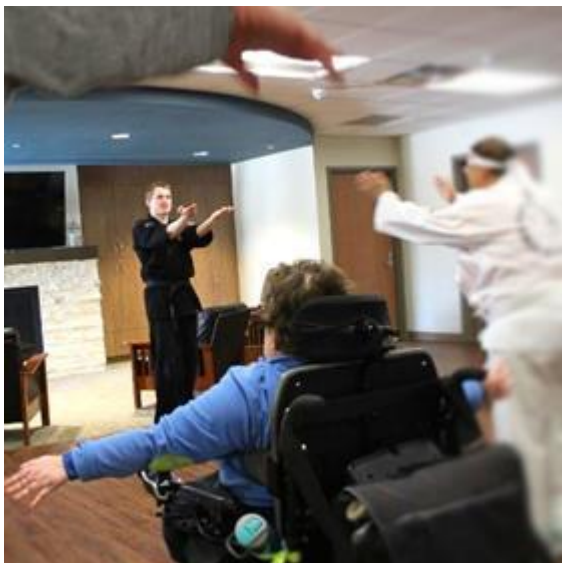
Meet
Director of Behavioral
Health Programs

BROOKS WALDRON



As the Director of Project Connect's Behavioral Health Programs, Brooks currently oversees the cognitive-behavioral health program and in-house substance abuse treatment program. Brooks is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and has worked with individuals involved in the criminal justice system since 2010. Brooks enjoys the variety of duties involved with this position and also enjoys all the great individuals within PC! In his free time, he likes spending time with his son and his family, and he is currently training for Grandma's Marathon. Brooks looks forward to the growth of PC's Behavioral Health Programs in the future!

The Month of March in Pictures



Top Left: USA Karate-Woodbury taught persons-served a few moves.

Top Right: Evening Stars Bingo Night was a success.

Bottom Left: Persons-served are hard at work in Imagine Design.

Bottom Right: Keith flashes a big smile!



THANK YOU TO
USA KARATE-Woodbury

and Instructor

Jacob Kahn

for their generous time volunteered teaching
persons-served karate during the months of
March and April!

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Evening Stars

BOWLING NIGHT

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

6pm-7:30pm

\$6.00 per person

Park Tavern

3401 Louisiana Ave S, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Come join Evening Stars for a night of bowling in St. Louis Park!

Registration includes two games of bowling and shoes.

Contact Amy J. at ajones@accessability.org or (612)331-5958 to register or for more information.



Join us for the 11th Annual

[Rockin' 5K and Walk-n-Roll!](#)

Saturday, June 8, 2019

9am-Noon

North Mississippi Regional Park

Minneapolis, MN



SAVE THE DATE

for
AccessAbility, Inc's 2nd Annual Gala

"VIVA LAS VEGAS"

10.18.2019

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

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





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