



## June 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:

One of the most remarkable things that AccessAbility offers to our persons-served is the support and validation that they are able to achieve their vocational dreams. Every person that walks through our doors has innate potential, and we offer them the resources to build their vocational and problem-solving skills set to overcome whatever life throws them. This is illustrated by the stories of Colvon and Tawa, below.

Also, we are gearing up for three major events!

- 1.) Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockin' 5K and Walk-n-Roll is this Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and there is still time to [sign-up](#)! It is a beloved event for our persons-served and team members. This year, we will be honoring our late colleague Amy Jones, who organized this event for over 10 years!
- 2.) On August 17, 2019 will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bags Tournament! This is a fun event to be outside on a Saturday afternoon and raise funds for our great organization. Raffle prizes and cash prizes for the tournament winners are included in this event!
- 3.) Our Annual Gala will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This year's celebration,

themed “Viva Las Vegas,” will feature some of your favorite casino games and a silent auction to raise funds for our programs.

I hope to see you at one, but hopefully all of these events. Our supportive community is what allows our persons-served to achieve their vocational and community inclusion dreams. We can't do this without you.

Best,

Michael J. Kresbach, MBA, CPA  
President & CEO

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### **Colvon Rises to the Challenge!**

Colvon Young started working at AccessAbility in early Feb 2019. Upon his arrival, Colvon was not sure about entering the workforce, because he had little work experience. Although he has experienced challenges with his new role, he has made tremendous progress!

He started doing assembly work three days a week on AccessAbility's production floor. He did this for a little less than a month before taking on a new challenge by working on a community janitorial crew. Colvon really enjoyed working on the crew, but was dealing with some personal struggles. Colvon took a week off to reassess his personal situation and to prepare himself to continue working.

After his return, he and his case manager created new vocational goals, and he has made a complete change in his attitude and thought process. Colvon is happy with his current job and tasks involved, and he likes the people he works with. He comes in each day with a smile on his face, ready to start the day.

Colvon's long-term goal is to eventually work independently in the greater community, and is grateful that his case manager and job developers will be ready to support him when he is ready to make that change. He states that he would not be where he is now if it wasn't for the wonderful support he gets from his team each and every day!

-Jeanna Deardoff, Step-into-Work Case Manager

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## **Tenacious Tawa!**

“I did some very bad things and lost my job,” said Tawa. “I was very depressed, the days started to melt together, and I had very little motivation. I felt like I let my children down. My first job is being a strong, single mother to my children. I had to turn my life around to show them that they have they personal power to achieve.”

Tawa set out on a journey to demonstrate for her children that they had the power to do anything. Unemployed and still needing to provide for two children and a grandchild, Tawa put in countless job applications. However, she was repeatedly

denied interviews because of her criminal past.

Through her own grit and tenacity, Tawa eventually landed an interview. This is was the same day that she started at Project Connect. She was immediately relieved when she started the program.

“Linda was extremely helpful,” Tawa said. She helped me identify the job expectations of the position I interviewed for, helped me created a budget, and said they team [at Project Connect] were not just here to help me find work. They were there to support me through the whole process and help me move forward with my life, not just my job and my career.”

Tawa is happy to report she landed the job. The pay is good, and it has full benefits. She is grateful that the team at Project Connect will be with her while she starts her job to help her overcome any additional obstacles.

Tawa looks forward to her future, and her vocational goals don’t stop with her current job. She says it’s important that she always maintains a reliable job in order to provide for her family, but she would eventually like to start her own laundry mat business. She also wants to be an advocate for people who need a second chance. With Tawa’s positive attitude, innate ambition, and new outlook on life, we have no doubt she has the personal power to achieve her dreams.

“Also,” Tawa said proudly, “My daughter achieved a full scholarship to a university in Washington, DC. She wants to be a lawyer. I have already succeeded in my job there!”

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Congratulations to the 2018 AccessAbility Team Member of the Year, Lisa Jones!



Team Member Linda Cazett and a graduation guest listen closely to a graduate of our chemical dependency treatment program!



AAI's screen printing operation is in full swing for the month of June!

## THANK YOU TO THE **MARTIN & ESTHER CAPP FAMILY FOUNDATION**

for their GOLD level annual sponsorship!

With this sponsorship, they are supporting the 11th Annual Rockin' 5k and Walk-n-Roll, The 3rd Annual Bags Tournament, the Annual Gala, and TWO Evening Stars events!

We are grateful for their generous partnership!

For more information on becoming an AccessAbility Event Sponsor contact [Ruth](#).

## 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](#) to Register TODAY



### Evening Stars Special Olympics Bocce Ball!

Practices held Tuesday nights from 6-7pm.  
360 Hoover Street NE, Minneapolis

Area Competition: Saturday, July 27th  
State Competition: September 2019

**We are seeking athletes AND coaches!**

Contact Katie  
at [kswirtz@accessability.org](mailto:kswirtz@accessability.org) for more  
information!



### AccessAbility, Inc's 3rd Annual **BAGS** **TOURNAMENT** **8.17.2019**



All Proceeds Benefit AccessAbility, Inc!

Saturday, August 17,  
2019  
12:00pm-4:00pm  
\$50 Team/\$25 Person  
360 Hoover Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN  
55413

\*\*\*Alcoholic beverages permitted,  
but please drink responsibly\*\*\*

For more information or to register:  
[www.accessability.org/bags-tournament-2019](http://www.accessability.org/bags-tournament-2019)

Sponsorship inquiries please  
contact:  
612.331.5958  
[bagstournament@accessability.org](mailto:bagstournament@accessability.org)  
org

# 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



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