



# Abilities

of Northwest Jersey Inc.

*An Affiliate of Allies*

Unlocking Potential • Empowering Success



*Annual Report*  
2021-2022



## *Mission*

To inspire people with disabilities to achieve their life goals by providing individualized supports.

## *Vision*

An inclusive community where individuals with disabilities are given the opportunity to reach their fullest potential in life.

## *Values*

**Communication-** Keeping the lines open for a brighter future. **Compassion-** Understanding the sensitive needs of each individual. **Fun-** Stopping to smell the roses along the way. **Integrity-** Saying and doing what we mean. **Respect-** Treating each individual with a high regard. **Safety-** Promoting a healthy environment. **Teamwork-** Working together toward our common vision.

## *Who We Are*

Abilities is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency providing a full array of community integrated employment, day and community based services for individuals with disabilities. Proudly supporting more than 350 individuals throughout the northwestern region of New Jersey. Abilities is a person-centered, forward thinking organization, consistently creating new opportunities for success.





## *Message from the Chief Executive Officer*

Our 2021-22 Annual Report reflects yet another year of amazing passion and success throughout our Abilities family and community. Every year as I review our accomplishments, I am in awe of the determination by both staff and persons served to overcome the obstacles they may face. In a world where it seems challenges are around every corner, we rise above and make good things happen!

You may have noticed on the prior page that our mission statement changed. As we move through the process to become a residential provider, we found that now was the time to not only simplify our statement, but to encompass all services. The word “inspire” needed to be included because not only do we inspire the people we serve, but they inspire us as well! After stakeholder feedback, the result perfectly reflects who we serve, why we do what we do and how we do it. This mission statement will live on for years to come.

Speaking of inspiration and overcoming obstacles, we had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Kerry Magro, professional speaker and best-selling author. Dr. Magro spoke on Autism Acceptance – “From Nonspeaking to Professional Speaker.” He captured the audience with his stories of accepting his diagnosis and with the support of his family, adapting over the years to reach the success he sees today. You can learn more about his journey at [www.kerrymagro.com](http://www.kerrymagro.com).

At Abilities, we realize that every person has the determination and skills to reach their life goals with the right supports. As you can see from this report, we make it happen! We can't do it without all of you...thank you for being part our journey.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia B. Wildermuth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cynthia B. Wildermuth  
Chief Executive Officer



“Cathy has proven to be an excellent role model for staff, consumers and coworkers. She demonstrates superb interactions and is a very strong advocate for those we serve. Cathy has an excellent work ethic and is constantly striving to ensure that both the needs of the consumer and the program are being met.”



Thank  
you!

“Ruth is a team player and is always willing to help out where needed. She is empathetic to not only the individuals we serve, but also to her team -often helping those who are experiencing personal issues. She is a true advocate for her consumers, and works hard to ensure that they are receiving all of the services they need.”



## Milestone Moments

We couldn't be prouder of the compassion and dedication of our staff. Everyone plays a valuable role in ensuring we provide the best quality support services possible. We'd like to recognize the following individuals for reaching employment milestones with Abilities:

40 years:

**Cathy Setzer**

Washington Program Supervisor

**Ruth Scheier**

Phillipsburg Program Supervisor

15 years:

**Regina Bunting**- PrintAbilities Manager

**Mary Filliyor**- Office Manager

**Nicole Frey**- CBS Specialist

**Reubin Heath**- Driver

**Ashley Kline**- Quality Improvement Assistant

**Kristeena Reed**- Direct Support Professional

**Heather Tucker**- Agency RN

10 years:

**Stephanie Bunting**- Behavior Specialist

**Tara Burns**- PrintAbilities Associate

**Lori Winelander**- CBS Specialist

5 years:

**Vinnie Bozza**- Driver

**James Clarke**- Direct Support Professional

**Devin Coughlin**- APM & Benefits Counselor

**Heidi Hier**- STAR Program Coordinator

**Eric Hoyer**- PrintAbilities Associate

**Yami Justiniano**- BCBA

**Debarati Kundu**- HR Consultant

**Rick Pack**- Driver

**Kelly Pezzanite**- Speech Language Pathologist

## Special Honors

During 2022, two of our staff members received awards which recognized them for being outstanding in their roles. We're so very proud of their dedication and determination to provide the best supports possible for the individuals we serve! **Congratulations!**

*Nichole Pene* - Employment Specialist of the Year for the NJ State Chapter of APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First)

Nichole started as a direct support professional in 2004! Her dedication and love for her job provided her advancements and she was offered an employment specialist position where she has excelled. Nichole has a "can do" attitude, she regularly exceeds her job expectations and continually assists individuals with housing, social security, job advancement, mental health supports along with any additional services requested.



*Linda Hagan* - Direct Support Professional (DSP) Heroes Award by the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP)

Linda has been employed with Abilities for 12 years. During her time, she has put forth a level of service and commitment that is second to none. Most recently during the pandemic, she worked with the supervisors of the Phillipsburg program to prepare the center for reopening. She also worked in consumer homes doing Community Based Supports (CBS). Linda also helped on remote services and began to lead the remote services program daily. Wherever there is a void Linda is willing to step in and help!

-- and thank you to all of our staff--



## Celebrating 40 Years

Carol C. celebrated 40 years with Abilities! Her tenure at Abilities has lasted nearly 10 times longer than the median time Americans spend with one company.

When Carol first joined Abilities:

- Ronald Reagan was president of the United States.
- E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial was playing in movie theatres
- Dallas was the highest-rated television show.
- Gasoline was \$1.31 per gallon.

Carol was honored with a joint resolution of commendation from the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly, presented to her by Assembly Minority Leader John DiMaio. The resolution praised her as “a self-advocate for citizens with disabilities,” and “an individual of strong character and determination.”

Carol started working at Abilities’ Adult Training Center before transitioning to Employment Pathways supported employment program, working different jobs throughout the community, including Candle Artisans, Burger King, Target and Warren Haven Rehabilitation Center, and now the Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP).

**“I’ve seen Carol throughout her 40-year career, both in community employment and center-based services. Carol is incredibly proud of all her achievements, and she has the right to be. She has always striven to do her best and her drive, motivation, and determination to work and to continue working is unmatched.”**

**~Sue Zukoski, COO**



## *Supports in the Home and Community*



In 2022 we saw an increase in requests for Home & Community Based Supports. Families have chosen this type of support because it provides a focus on increased independence in the community and success in the home.

Individuals work toward their goals with assistance from their Community Based Support Specialist. Some current activities include: volunteer opportunities in the community, meal prep, shopping, cooking and cleaning, going for hikes and exercising in parks, taking art classes and going out for meals, household chores and daily living tasks and so much more!

## *Writers Amongst Us*

Individuals in our Hackettstown Day Program launched their monthly newsletter in February, containing content created based on their likes and interests. Each newsletter is unique but you'll find tips and tricks, recipes, information on various topics, poems, updates on local news and happenings and more!

Each edition is available on our website:  
<http://abilitiesnw.com/in-the-news.php>





# Employment Pathways

A Division of Abilities of Northwest Jersey Inc.  
Unlocking Potential • Empowering Success

## *Outcomes and Success*

- New placements: 27 individuals at 22 employers throughout the northwest region
- Hourly starting wage range was \$13 to \$18 per hour
- 92% overall job retention and placement success
- 100% satisfaction response from both individuals receiving services and employers

## *New in 2022- Benefits Counseling*



Through funding from the Kessler Foundation, Abilities now offers Benefits Counseling services, provided by a credentialed Work Incentive Practitioner/Benefits Counselor, Devin C.

The counselor guides individuals and their families with understanding how working will affect their federal and state benefits, including but not limited to: SSDI and SSI, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid, other healthcare benefits, and housing assistance.

## *New in 2022- Warren Community College Center for Adult Transition*

Through funding from the NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and in partnership with Warren Community College, Abilities now offers the Center for Adult Transition (CAT).

CAT students ages 18-24 will be developing life and career goals and acquiring the skills needed to be successful, following a curriculum that includes:

- Fundamentals for Success
- Employment and Career Readiness
- Specialized Career Exploration



# Project Search Success

Outcomes from our second year of the Project Search program were a resounding success, ranking #2 in the state in placement retention for all student interns!

Five of six student interns accepted positions in community employment immediately after graduation with 100% job retention. Four students will continue to work at Newton Medical Center in various positions throughout the hospital and the fifth student was hired by Mineral Springs.



Project SEARCH is a one-year, business-led, unpaid internship program for students in their last year of high school and young adults with disabilities, that takes place entirely at Newton Medical Center in collaboration with Sussex County Educational Services Commission.



## Meet Erin

After successfully graduating from Project SEARCH, Erin worked with our Employment Pathways team to find employment closer to home.

Because of the skills learned, Erin was able to land at job at Morristown Medical Center, where she continues to be a valued employee. *You're amazing Erin!*

## Meet Andrew

Andrew began working with our Employment Pathways team as a Project SEARCH intern. He particularly enjoyed working in the kitchen and that is where he was hired and has been working since graduating.

Andrew says his favorite thing at Newton Medical Center is that he feels the kitchen staff is like his second family. *Great work Andrew!*



## Social Enterprises



PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques experienced, once again, great success with sales increasing more than 58%! Partnering with Helpsy and College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving, along with generous donations from the local community, a good flow of quality resale items continues to impact sales.



PossAbilities Thrift also received generous property beautification support from Landscape Maintenance Services and The Plant Farm Garden and Nursery and received funding through Visions Federal Credit Union supporting the purchase of a container for donation flow.



PrintAbilities saw a 4% increase in sales over the previous year. Larger customers continue to be schools (sports and clubs), and top sales continue to be screen printing (79%), followed by embroidery (12%), direct to garment (6%) and promotional products (3%).



PrintAbilities also was the 2022 recipient of the Washington BID Community Partner Award. Congratulations to the PrintAbilities team!



Still feeling the impact of closures and cancellations of e-waste collection events due to the pandemic, SustainAbilities Electronics Recycling saw a decrease from the year prior with total pounds recycled of 20,711 lbs- a total of 335,862 lbs to date.



Abilities continued to operate the Warren Campus Store for a second year and despite continued campus closure due to the pandemic, the store saw more than 400% increase in sales from the previous year!

## Autism Acceptance



In conjunction with Autism Awareness/Acceptance month, Abilities, the Arc of Warren, and Warren Hills Regional

High School collaborated on a free to the public presentation by Dr. Kerry Magro- "Defining Autism: From Nonspeaking to Professional Speaker" on April 11th.

## Family Enrichment

Our Family Enrichment committee coordinated a couple of fun events including an outdoor game night, a dance party, a holiday sing-a-long while parents and guardians were able to learn more about important topics and available services.



## Wish List Giving

Our thanks to all who purchased from our Amazon Wish Lists for Giving Tuesday! Wish Lists are always changing and growing and can be found on our website:

<http://abilitiesnw.com/support-us.php>

## Events and Fundraisers

*Sterbenz Miles of Smiles 5k Fun Run • 1k Walk/Roll/Stroll* held on April 30th on The Community Trail at Warren Community College- raised nearly \$17,000



*Abili-Tees Invitational Golf Outing* held on June 27th at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club- raised nearly \$28,000



*Rossi Festival of Trees* held on December 8th at Rossi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram- raised nearly \$76,000 to be split between Abilities and DASACC!



*Thank you*  
to our event sponsors and supporters!

# Ending 2022 with a 3 Year Accreditation!

Abilities is proud to share we have been awarded a three year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International) for Community Employment Services- our 14th consecutive accreditation! Additionally, we continue to be the only non-profit organization in the northwest region of New Jersey with services accredited specifically for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Full report can be found: <http://abilitiesnw.com/reports-resources.php>



## FY22 Supporters:

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- Ginny and Matt Garcia
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- Laura Goodwin
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- Homestead Smart Health Plans
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- Glory Hotko
- Hummel's Landscape Service
- Martin Hutton
- Ivens Painless Dent Removal LLC
- J&D Auto Body
- John Johnson Auto Group
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- Deborah Massalongo
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- Kelly McDannel
- Lynn McEntee
- Robert Duncan McEwan
- Maureen McEwan
- Sara McGuire
- Albert McKee
- Kristin Mecsey
- Robin Mendez
- Patricia Mieses
- Mike's Auto Body
- Anastasia Milazzo
- Kelly Milazzo
- David and Lucia Molinaro
- Morgan Automotive, Inc.
- The Mozolic Family
- Muller Powersports
- James and Laura Murphy
- NJ CAR
- Alina Navarro
- Craig Nelson
- North East Auto Parts
- Denise Nunn
- Laura Odom
- Open Cupboard Food Pantry
- Outsell
- Oxford Auto & Tire, Inc.
- Deirdre O'Leary
- Tom Palmieri
- Paper Strategies, Inc.
- Pasta Grill by Enzo
- Susan Perron
- Anne Perry
- Nathan Petruska
- Petty's Goodyear Tire and Auto
- Lynn Ehrhardt
- Plant Farm Gardens & Nursery
- Dr. George and Mary Ellen Polachak
- Polaski Architecture
- Leonardo Ponzio
- PossAbilities Thrift Round Up
- Martin Payton III
- Richard Campbell
- Keith Ramos
- Donna Price
- Princeton Hosted Solutions
- James Priolo
- Quality Refrigeration
- RP Machine
- RPG Automotive Solutions, LLC
- Mike and Sarah Rabuano
- Rob Raedisch
- Damion Regan
- ONeil Reid
- Yvonne Reitemeyers
- Riverside Health & Fitness
- Dan Rogers
- Enrique Roman
- Barbara and Paul Rose
- Rosenfield and Company, PLLC
- Ezio Rossi
- Edward and Patti Sue Rossi
- Rotary Club of Washington
- Stephanie Ruggiero
- Laura Ryno
- Carol Sama
- James & Carole Sarson
- Mariann Scalfaro
- Peter Schmidt
- Kurt and Ann Marie Schumann
- Schwarz Tool Sales
- Michael Selvaggi
- Sean English
- Jamie Shaffer
- Oksana Shapowalenko
- Edward Sharpless
- ShopRite of Hunterdon
- Siegel Distributing Co., Inc.
- Susan Sinclair
- Betti Singh
- Roger Skeete
- Katherine Skeffington
- Skyline Equipment
- Dawn Smith
- Ed and Eileen Smith
- John Smith
- Heather Spadaccini
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- Jennifer Speth
- St. Luke's Warren Campus
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- Paul and Fran Sterbenz
- Samantha Sterbenz
- Frank and Nina Sterne
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- Alice Stone
- Beverly Stokus
- Superior Auto Electric
- Carra Suppo
- Stefany J Suto Mendl
- Elmer Sutters
- Jon Szczomak
- Michael and Tammy Taeschler
- Taylor Rental of Washington
- The American Legion, Carl D. Archer
- Post 528 of White Township
- The House of the Good Shepherd
- The Meat Shoppe at Arctic Foods
- The Mercadien Group
- The Sustainers Society
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- Tranquillity Farms
- Laura Turner
- United Way
- Unity Bank
- Geraldine Urgovitch
- Mary and Alan Valenti
- Valley Bank
- Jenna Van Eps
- Jean Vasko
- Lisa Veltri
- Visions Federal Credit Union
- Faith Vohden
- WRNJ Radio
- Warren County Community College Foundation
- Warren Haven Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
- Warren Hills Memorial Home
- Melanie Thiel
- Washington Diner
- Washington Family Dentistry
- Washington Womans Club
- Wealth Preservation Solutions
- Veronica Whitehead
- Lisa Whitford
- Wholesale Auto Supply Co.
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- Melinda Winters
- Adam Wisniewski
- Carolyn Wolf
- Karen Woodcock
- Woods Services
- Craig Zeidman
- Zonca Terrazzo & Mosaic LLC
- Lauren Zukoski
- Charlie & Sue Zukoski

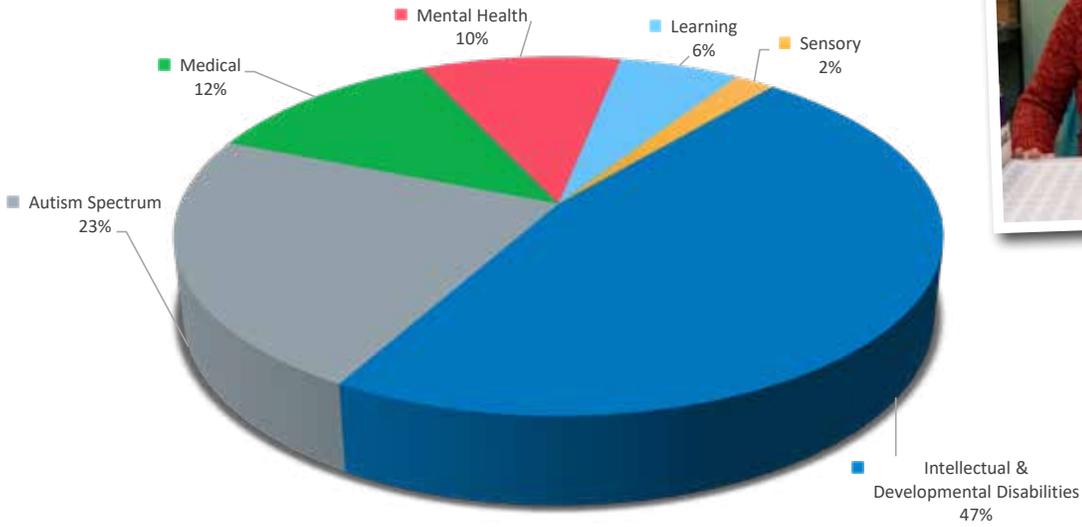
**Thank you!!**

## **FY22 Grants:**

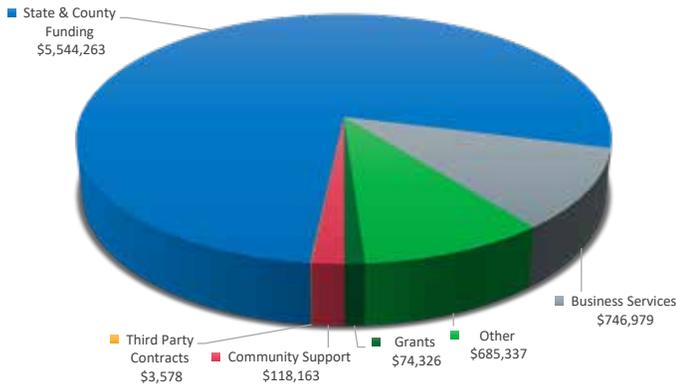
- **Atlantic Health- \$5,481-** Health & Wellness
- **Cathay Bank- \$5,000-** Outreach and Care Coordination
- **Lillian Schenck Foundation- \$3,000-** Art and Music
- **NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation- \$217,721-** Summer Internship Grant
- **Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division of Land Preservation- \$12,000-** 2022 Music and Art Enrichment
- **Warren County Human Services- \$36,166-** Career Exploration/ Employment Supports

# FY22 Statistics:

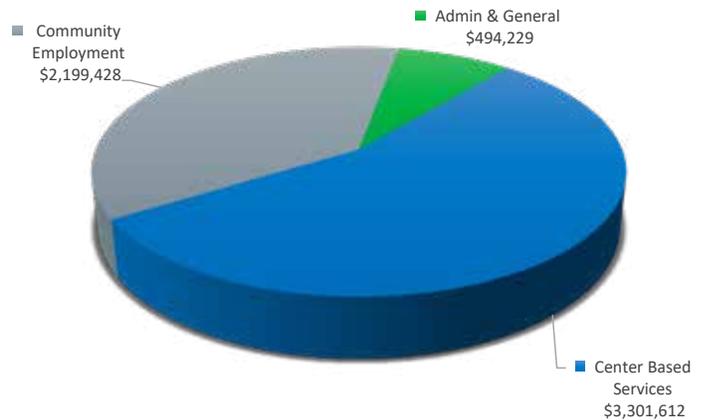
## Who We Serve



## Revenue

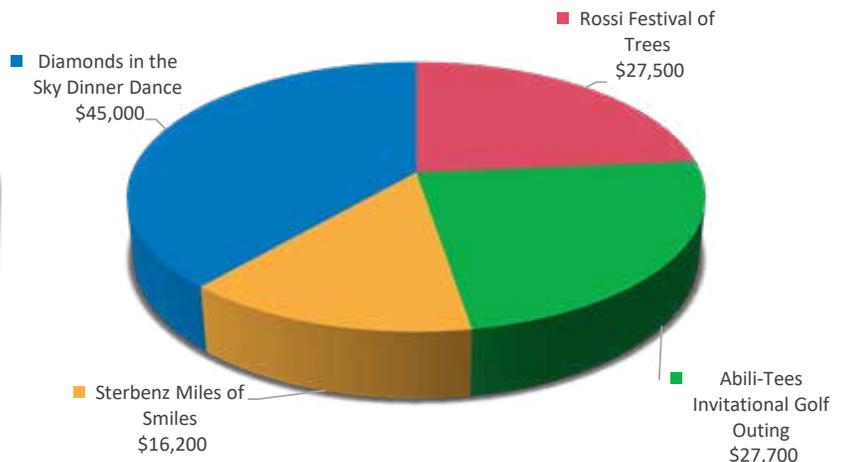


## Expenses



## Events

\*NET PROCEEDS





*Help us unlock*  
**PossAbilities for people with different abilities**



**Our PossAbilities Campaign is raising funds in support of continued expansion of innovative services for the individuals in our programs. Your support will create opportunities that will enable the incredible individuals we proudly serve to grow and reach their fullest potential in life.**

*Your support* **Empowers!**

**Donations to the PossAbilities Campaign**

- Support those desiring to explore employment and volunteer opportunities in the community
- Support the development of state-of-the-art sensory rooms to accommodate the growing needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Support expanded life skill programs and technology needs for individuals with medical and behavioral needs
- Support innovative expansion of recreation, health and wellness programs
- Support growth of music and art enrichment programs
- Support expansion of much needed speech, behavioral, and medical supports
- Support increased resources for the community by expanding our Branching Out Food Pantry and PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques to meet the growing needs of the community
- Support individuals in unlocking their potential and discovering possibilities

*Every amount has* **Impact:**

**\$50**

1 hour of job support and exploration for one individual or  
1 sensory massage therapy kit

**\$500**

1 career assessment and testing session for one individual or  
1 sensory activity table

**\$1,000**

9 hours of speech therapy for one individual or  
1 sensory tactile panel set

**\$5,000**

1 school-to-work internship for a transition student or  
community inclusion activities for 4 individuals

**\$10,000**

9 months of music or art enrichment for one program or  
8 week STAR pre-employment training for one individual

**\$25,000**

3 months of intensive behavioral supports for one individual or  
1 complete state-of-the-art sensory room

**\$50,000**

1 lift equipped vehicle for non-ambulatory individuals

*You hold the key to*  
**Unlocking Potential, Empowering Success and Changing Lives**

**Donate today!**  
**[PossAbilitiesCampaign.org](http://PossAbilitiesCampaign.org)**

# Locations

## Business and Administration

264 Route 31 North  
P.O. Box 251  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-1118  
Fax: (908) 689-6363  
info@abilitiesnw.com

## Community Rehabilitation Program

264 Route 31 North  
P.O. Box 251  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-1118  
Fax: (908) 689-6363  
info@abilitiesnw.com

## Medical Special Needs

264 Route 31 North  
P.O. Box 251  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-6677  
Fax: (908) 689-6363  
msn@abilitiesnw.com

## Abilities Washington

264 Route 31 North  
P.O. Box 251  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-1118  
Fax: (908) 689-6363  
wec@abilitiesnw.com

## PrintAbilities

58 East Washington Avenue  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-0612  
Fax: (908) 689-0614  
printing@abilitiesnw.com

## Employment Pathways

58 East Washington Avenue  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-7460  
Fax: (908) 689-7435  
employmentpathways@abilitiesnw.com

## Abilities Mary Appar

22 Kayharts Lane  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 689-2063  
Fax: (908) 689-0116  
mec@abilitiesnw.com

## Abilities Hackettstown

999 Willow Grove Street  
Suite 6  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
Phone: (908) 850-8214  
Fax: (908) 850-8217  
hec@abilitiesnw.com

## Abilities Phillipsburg

1224 South Main Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Phone: (908) 454-2579  
Fax: (908) 454-5392  
pec@abilitiesnw.com

## PossAbilities Thrift Boutique Phillipsburg

1224 South Main Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Phone: (908) 878-6887  
Fax: (908) 454-5392  
possabilities@abilitiesnw.com

## PossAbilities Thrift Boutique Flemington

1 Church Street  
Flemington, NJ 08865  
Phone: (908) 237-1329  
possabilities@abilitiesnw.com

## Affiliations

Abilities is an approved provider of:  
NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)  
NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)  
NJ Department of Children & Families (DCF)  
Abilities is an accredited agency of:



# Board of Trustees

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Division Operational Officer | Governmental Services  
Senior Principal  
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abilitiesnw.org



Abilities is committed to:

Civil Rights Act-Title VI- [www.abilitiesnw.com/detail.php?ID=68](http://www.abilitiesnw.com/detail.php?ID=68)

Americans with Disabilities Act- Title II- [www.abilitiesnw.com/files/ADA-complaint-procedure.pdf](http://www.abilitiesnw.com/files/ADA-complaint-procedure.pdf)

Reasonable Modification- [www.abilitiesnw.com/files/ADA-Reasonable-modification-policy.pdf](http://www.abilitiesnw.com/files/ADA-Reasonable-modification-policy.pdf)

If information is needed in another language or alternate format contact (908) 689-1118 or info@abilitiesnw.com