



Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of another year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all of the support we've received from our generous donors and volunteers.

In the past year we have seen tremendous growth in our organization, which was made possible by the outpouring of support we received from people like you. We had our most successful gala ever, raising over \$720,000. We teamed up with Mercedes-Benz of Danbury and put on a golf fundraiser that brought in over \$136,000. Hundreds of volunteers donated thousands of hours of their own time and talents to spruce up our homes, help our events run smoothly and assist our administrative staff at the back of the house. All of these contributions made a significant difference in the lives of the people we serve here at Ability Beyond Disability.

In the past year we opened new group homes, created new programs for people living in their own apartments, helped hundreds of people get jobs and made sure that the 1,700 people we serve were healthy, safe and able to pursue their dreams...but we didn't do it alone. Our partners and donors made it happen.

As I look ahead to the year 2012 I see great things happening for the people served by Ability Beyond Disability. With your continued support we will be able to help even more people live, work and participate in the community.

Regards,

 Tom Fanning

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4 Berkshire Blvd.
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A Mom Gives Back

Christine Andreas has been a part of the Ability Beyond Disability family since 2006 when her son, Mac, moved into a group home in Westchester, NY. What sets Christine Andreas apart from many other families of Ability Beyond Disability is that she is a Broadway Star. She has been all over the world, eliciting rave reviews from audiences and critics worldwide, from Broadway to Café Carlyle, from Carnegie Hall to the White House. Christine most recently starred as Jacqueline in the Tony Award-Winning production of "La Cage Aux Folles."

Martin Silvestri, her husband, is also a performer and a Grammy Nominated composer. The couple wanted to find a way to give back to the organization that helped Christine's son achieve his dreams and pursue a better life. On Sunday, October 9th, Christine and Marty performed their show, "Two For The Road", at Irvington Town Hall Theater and raised over \$20,000 for Ability Beyond Disability.

Over 300 people filled the theater for "Two For The Road". Christine and Marty sang popular Broadway and show tunes, including "Fly Me To The Moon" and "And So It Goes." A slideshow of snapshots from the couple's travels was featured during duets such as "I Remember It Well."

Ability Beyond Disability gave Mac, a young man on the brink of adulthood, a place he could call his own – a place where he could develop into his own person and pursue his dreams. Because of this, Christine and Marty feel that they were given the chance to pursue their own dreams.

Christine says, "From the moment Ability Beyond Disability entered the life of our family, Marty and I have been freer to express ourselves in song as opportunities arrive knowing Mac was exactly where he wanted to be with his own needs being addressed." Christine and Marty were able to perform internationally knowing Mac was safe, healthy and happy.

Although Christine has lived a unique life on the stage, she has the same feelings as any mother: To want the best for her child.

"Is there anything more important than being able to express yourself, take care of your family and have peace of mind?" she says.

They have found all of this with Ability Beyond Disability.



To give a gift online visit www.abilitybeyonddisability.org

Pathways to Excellence

This year, our donors invested over \$77,000 in our workforce. With your support a total of 41 employees graduated from our nationally recognized Pathways to Excellence Program!

Pathways to Excellence is a career path program that Ability Beyond Disability began in 2008. This program allows our staff to expand their skills and knowledge in the field of supporting people with disabilities. It also offers bonuses and incentives for graduates of the program, in hopes that they will spend the entirety of their career with us.

Our employees are the key that allows people with disabilities to live successfully in the community and having consistent staff is something that is very important to the people we serve. Thank you to all of our supporters for helping us continue to have the best employees working at Ability Beyond Disability!



Pathways Graduates from Summer, 2011

Director(s) Emeritus

At our Annual Celebration of Ability held in October we had the opportunity to recognize two very special individuals for their many contributions to Ability Beyond Disability over the years. Elliot Finkelstein and L. Kevin Cox were each honored as "Director Emeritus" and join Horace McDonell, Jr. as honorary Board members of our organization.



Tom Fanning, Elliot Finkelstein and Kevin Cox

We are so grateful to both Elliot and Kevin for the impact they have made to Ability Beyond Disability and thousands of people with disabilities in our community. Thank you!

Thank you to the following new funders for your support through recent grant awards:

- Vince & Linda McMahon Family Foundation - \$450,000
- Focus Autism, Inc. - \$10,000
- Unilever United States Foundation - \$6,500

- Home Depot Foundation - \$4,000
- Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley - \$4,000
- The MENTOR Network Charitable Foundation - \$3,500



www.facebook.com/AbilityBeyondDisability

Our Community

Partnering with Ability Beyond Disability

PBC Lends a Hand

Volunteers from Pepsi Beverage Company recently beautified an Ability Beyond Disability group home in Danbury by planting flowers and painting the interior and exterior of the home. Pepsi Beverage Company completed volunteer hours through Pepsi Gives Back, a company-wide initiative to volunteer with local organizations.



Interested in volunteering? Please contact Sam Cosentino at 203.826.3181



2011 Ability Beyond Disability, Mercedes-Benz Golf Tournament

On September 26th, over 100 golfers came together to raise over \$136,000 at the Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, CT.

The winning foursome, Rose & Kiernan, was comprised of Jim Arconti, Todd Payne, David Petiford, and Bill Craig. They have qualified to compete in the Mercedes-Benz Eastern Sectional Tournament in Pinehurst, NC and a chance to continue on in the Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championships Final at the Masters in Augusta, GA.

Thank you to all of our golfers, sponsors and volunteers!

2011 Hoops for Hope

Our 2011 Hoops for Hope event, held on October 20th was a great success! Hundreds of people filled the Danbury High School gym to watch the CT Spokebenders take on the Ability Hot Shots. Over \$27,000 was raised in support of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Thanks to all of our sponsors, players, volunteers and of course all of our great fans!



Help Connect Us!

Want to help raise awareness at Ability Beyond Disability? You can, by connecting us with your community! We welcome the opportunity to come and speak to your club, social group or school about who we are, what we do and how people can get involved in our organization.

If you can help connect us, please call Lisa Linsley at 203.826.3183.

Reaching For, and Landing Amongst, The Stars

At the Reach for the Stars Gala this past April, we made a commitment that for every \$2,000 raised we could help someone in their quest for employment. That evening we raised nearly \$300,000 through our "Lend-A-Hand, Fund-A-Job" live auction. Six months later we are proud to announce that we have already helped 105 people to get a job in the community while supporting hundreds of others in their quest. Thank you for helping fulfill the dream of employment for so many!



Jim works at the PepsiCo wellness center in Somers, NY



Have You Heard?!

Roses for Autism is now selling ONLINE and shipping NATIONWIDE! Visit the website today - your purchase supports employment opportunities for people with autism. www.rosesforautism.com

Upcoming Events

Harvest Festival

Friday, November 11th
Ability Beyond Disability's Leir Pavilion - Bethel, CT
11am - 5pm

Come join our annual festival! Tickers are only \$5 and include a chance to win a \$300 cash door prize and access to great vendors, lunch, hand crafted art work and gifts made by the people we serve, wine tasting, massages, and much, much more! For more information call 203.826.3114

"Craig's Cares"

Craig's Fine Jewelry - Ridgefield, CT
Thursday, November 17th
4pm - 8pm

Stop by Craig's Fine Jewelry in Ridgefield, CT and get your holiday shopping done while supporting Ability Beyond Disability! 20% of all sales will benefit Ability Beyond Disability and Craig's will also donate an additional \$2,000! For more information visit craigsfinejewelry.com

Ability Beyond Disability's 2012 Gala
The Amber Room Colonnade - Danbury, CT
Saturday, April 28th

Save the date for our annual gala featuring live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing with entertainment by Nik and the Nice Guys!