

# FLORIDA GRANTOR

Official Publication of The Able Trust • [www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org)

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## YLF 2010 - Embracing the Vision

by Ray Ford, Jr.



*Vicky McInnis representing the Office of the Clerk addresses delegates in the House Chambers during the 2010 Florida Youth Leadership Forum.*

For most teenagers, there are so many distractions along the sometimes arduous road to adulthood. So many voices and images -- not all of them good -- clamor for their attention. In a time when it's so easy to follow the wrong path, whether due to peer pressure or lack of inner focus, it's imperative that teenagers, especially those with disabilities, have the proper images of leadership and success placed before them in hopes that they embrace that vision.

This past July, the 2010 Florida Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) sought out to do just that. Nearly 70 students (including more than 20 second-year participants) with disabilities ventured to Tallahassee for four days of leadership and social training. This unique event was sponsored by The Able Trust with funding assistance from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Florida's future leaders participated in events such as Capitol Day -- where students participated in a mock legislative session -- and a career fair which featured 20 local career mentors representing 12 vocations ranging from Agriculture and Environment to Science and Technology.



*Youth Leadership Forum delegates vote on a bill in the Florida House Chambers.*

In addition to these standard components of the forum, this year's students experienced an etiquette dinner training session facilitated by the Florida State University Career Center, along with a Saturday morning excursion to Tallahassee's Jack McLean Park for kickball, basketball, and fun in the sun. Another new element, True Colors, helped

*(Embracing the Vision... continued on page 4)*

# THE ABLE TRUST™

The Able Trust's mission is to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through grant programs, public awareness and education, and policy recommendations.

# THE ABLE TRUST™

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## CONTACT US

We'd love to hear from you! If you would like to share your disability-related story ideas, events, questions, comments, or are more interested in learning about The Able Trust, please call us at (850) 224-4493 or visit our website at [www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org).

## *A Message from the President*

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month, and during this month we celebrate talented workers with disabilities, and especially those forward-thinking busi-



nesses that welcome people with disabilities as a part of their workforce. During the month of October we also celebrate the workplace mentoring of people with disabilities, working with other organizations and state agencies to host Disability Mentoring Day activities throughout the month, with a symbolic date of October 20. Mentoring has an important role in the education and workplace knowledge needed by anyone seeking employment, but is especially critical to those with disabilities who are seeking to enter the world of work.

Because of the challenges they face, many people with disabilities feel they have limited work options in many businesses and industries. A day in a business setting of interest can provide a much more comprehensive idea of the many positions available in that business. For example, one of our YLF graduates who was interested in the health care field now works as a cook in a hospital in Florida – and wasn't considering that as a needed position in a hospital prior to his mentoring experience. A young lady who uses a prosthesis was made aware of the great opportunities for her in the field of orthotics and prosthetics through a mentoring experience, and is now pursuing education that will qualify her for work in that field. The success stories come back to us every year, and we value mentoring experiences, whether they are the result of our October activities or occur at other times of the year. We hope that businesses will come to look at mentoring and internships as a critical part of the road to employment.

Mentoring experiences often present themselves in unexpected ways. During September, my husband had major surgery, which required a stay at a rehab center for about a week. During that week we met Andre', who had lost his right leg, and seemed discouraged by his future opportunities. He was a carpenter and a painter before his surgery, and told me that all he wanted was to be able to go back to work again. Richard Cole, Chair of our Board and a person who lost his right leg to an accident met with Andre', explained how a prosthesis had made his life one with very few limits, and even showed him how his vehicle was modified for driving. And the light went back on in Andre's eyes. We encourage others to look for such opportunities in both business and non-business settings.

On another note, we are also pleased to report this month that The Able Trust has added two talented new members to its Board. Marcy Pinkney Benton is a long-term employee of Publix Supermarkets, and Anne Marie Taglienti is a seasoned professional with American Express. Both of these executives represent companies that have encouraged the hiring of people with disabilities, and we welcome their expertise and the gift of their time and knowledge. Eladio Amores left the Board after a long and stellar term, and will continue to work on the mission of The Able Trust from the perspective of an Able Trust Ambassador.

We wish all of our friends a wonderful, low-humidity fall, and remember to vote for the candidates of your choice in November!

Kindest regards,

*Susanne F. Homant*

Susanne F. Homant, MBA, DPA

President & CEO

## Grantee Spotlight: Brooks Clubhouse

by Guenevere Crum

The Brooks Clubhouse Vocational Integration Program is run by the Brooks Health Foundation in Jacksonville, Florida, and has been a grantee of The Able Trust since June 2009. The Brooks Clubhouse provides survivors of traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries with services designed to enhance recovery and provide opportunities for success at the highest level in pursuing their life goals. Funding from The Able Trust has allowed the pre-employment training and job coaching aspects of the program to grow and match the employment aspirations of the participants. Members such as Mike and Jamar – both of whom suffered traumatic brain injuries in separate accidents that left them in comas for several weeks – met each other at the Clubhouse where they restarted their lives and employment futures.

Mike suffered a traumatic brain injury and bodily injuries in a motorcycle accident that resulted in many challenges when he emerged from a four-week coma. Recovery care continued at the Brooks Day Treatment Program, where he credits the caring compassion he received for igniting a passion to assist others with brain injuries. Mike worked in the food service industry prior to his injury, and stepped up to the challenge of supervising the kitchen at the Clubhouse when it opened.

“What an honor to be employed here, when not so long before I was dying in a hospital bed,” he recalled.

One such individual he has worked closely with is Jamar, who was a 16-year-old pedestrian when he was hit by a car during the night, and wasn't found until the next day. As you can imagine, emerging from a coma weeks after the incident in a hospital was a frightening experience, especially for a teenager. The healing process was an extensive one. His recovery has included time at the Brooks Clubhouse, where his interest in the kitchen was welcomed.

“I have always wanted to cook, and Mike has helped me learn a lot,” Jamar said, who had no previous kitchen experience.

Under Mike's leadership, he expanded into food preparation, knowledge of sanitation laws and procedures, and was the first Clubhouse member to pass the National Environmental Health Association food safety certification, thereby earning a food handlers license. After further training in the Hyatt Hotel culinary training program, he has secured a full time position with benefits at a local café. Jamar's job coach has continued to follow up with him, providing assistance through management changes and expanding job duties.

“My favorite part of work is the teamwork in the kitchen because it motivates me to play my part, and I love to see the smiles on the customers' faces,” Jamar said.

*(Brooks Clubhouse... continued on page 4)*



*Thanks to the Brooks Clubhouse Vocational Integration Program, others like Jamar can attain the skills necessary to live independently.*

Abilities Foundation  
Abilities of Florida, Inc.  
Ability 1st  
Accessible Alternatives, Inc.  
ACT Corporation  
Action Disability Advocates, Inc.  
Advance Ability Solutions  
Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities  
AFIRE of Pasco County, Inc.  
Against All Odds-Macular Degeneration Network  
Agency for Community Treatment Services, Inc.  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
Agency for Workforce Innovation  
Aids Community Project of Tampa Bay  
American Foundation for Visual Rehabilitation  
American Habilitation Services, Inc.  
American with Disabilities Working Group  
Ann Storck Center, Inc.  
Apalachee Center, Inc.  
ARC, Inc.  
ARC Alachua County  
ARC Florida  
ARC Gadsden  
ARC Gateway, Inc.  
ARC Glades Area  
ARC Jackson County  
ARC Madison-Jefferson  
ARC Marion, Inc.  
ARC Nassau  
ARC Nature Coast  
ARC of Alachua County  
ARC of Bradford County  
ARC of Broward  
ARC of Indian River County  
ARC of Martin County  
ARC of Okeechobee  
ARC of Palm Beach County  
ARC of Putnam County  
Arc Ridge Area  
ARC South Florida, Inc.  
ARC St. John's County, Inc.  
ARC St. Lucie County  
ARC Sumter County  
ARC Upper Pinellas  
ARC Volusia  
Archways Behavioral Healthcare  
Association for the Development of the Exceptional  
Axon Technologies, Inc.  
Bay Point Schools, Inc.  
Bayview Center for Mental Health, Inc.  
Behavioral Health Services  
Bethune-Cookman College  
Big Bend Workforce Center  
Blind Americans, Inc.  
Boley Centers for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.  
Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program  
Brain Injury Association of Florida  
Brevard Achievement Center  
Brevard Community College  
Brevard Public Schools  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Bureau Chief for Medicaid Services  
CARC-Advocates for Citizens with Disabilities, Inc.  
Caring & Sharing CIL  
CCAR Services, Inc.  
CCDH, Inc.  
Celestial Therapeutic & Ornamental Gardens  
Center for Drug Free Living  
Center for Independence, Technology and Education  
Center for Independent Living of Broward  
Center for Independent Living of Central FL- Polk office  
Center for Independent Living of Central Florida  
Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida  
Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida  
Center for Independent Living of South Florida  
Center for Independent Living of Southwest Florida  
Center for Independent Living of the Keys  
Center for Positive Connections  
Center for Space Education  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
CHAC-Sarasota/Manatee Co. HSHT  
Charter School at National Deaf Academy  
Chipola Junior College  
Citrus Hearing Impaired Program Services, Inc.  
Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.  
Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Community Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

students learn how to interact with individuals who have different personality types. A community service project hosted by Build-A-Bear Workshops helped round out the week, teaching students the importance of giving back to the communities in which they live.

“Everything we did helped me open up and let me know that I wasn’t alone,” first-year delegate Leah Haefner said.

“We can do everything any other able-bodied person can do,” delegate Britney Howard added.



*YLF alum Anthony La Cava mentors delegates about the field of Computer Technology at the annual career fair. Anthony works for HUB Technologies in Massachusetts, but takes time out of his schedule every summer to serve as a volunteer for the program.*

Scrapbooks were passed out on the last day. Students and adults alike wrote words of encouragement on the back pages, even signing each other’s t-shirts as lasting mementos of the time they spent together, hoping that the barriers of

time and distance will not weaken the ties binding them. One final, pertinent piece that each first-year delegate took home was the Personal Leadership Plan they filled out during the week, laying the ground work for what promises to be a bright future if they stick to their blueprint.

“This is my second year at YLF, and I’ve got to say, it’s been awesome,” junior staffer Renzo Burga said to the audience at the farewell assembly. “I can truly say that my life has changed.”

“No matter what you have, you can still do what you love and be successful,” delegate Danaisy Sanchez said. “You can do anything you set your mind to, as long as you believe in yourself.”

When they arrived on opening night, they were individuals, many of them self-conscious and shy, unsure of the uncharted waters they were embarking upon. By Sunday morning, they were a family, united by the very thing that sought to separate them. Now empowered by the strength of friendships forged at YLF 2010, they return home determined to reach their full potential. Rather than dwell on their disability, these young leaders now embrace their abilities while looking inward, inspired by the vision of success and independence, changing the course of their lives as well as those around them. ■

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*(Brooks Clubhouse... continued from page 3)*

Such teamwork extends to the funders of this project as well. The Able Trust has recently awarded Brooks Health Foundation a second year of funding to continue their work in assisting individuals gain skills and employment. The grant will also allow for the continued outreach efforts of the employment program to the Jacksonville community. The Able Trust is proud to assist Brooks Health Foundation’s efforts in providing these quality employment services to individuals who have acquired a neurological injury. More information about the Clubhouse can be found online at <http://www.brookshealth.org/why-brooks/communityservice/clubhouse/> ■

# Grants for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011

## *Best Buddies International, Inc.*

Best Buddies International, Inc. will receive \$57,412 to continue Project Search - Zoo Miami, to support young adults gaining work skills and experience en route to graduation in Dade County.

## *Brooks Health Foundation*

Brooks Health Foundation will receive \$46,700 to continue Brooks Clubhouse Vocational Integration Program, to continue the Clubhouse and vocational program assisting individuals with brain injuries in regaining skills and obtaining employment in Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

## *Renaissance Learning Academy*

Renaissance Learning Academy will receive \$20,000 to continue the RLA's Transition Program, supporting the transition program at the charter high school serving individuals with Autism Spectrum disorders in Palm Beach County.

## *BASCA - Baptist Association for Special Children & Adults*

BASCA will receive \$25,888 for Work Skills Development, which will increase staff to expand the work skills development center providing construction skills training serving individuals in Clay, Duval, Baker & St. Johns counties. ■



## **Holiday Card Contest**

Assist The Able Trust in celebrating the December holidays and New Year by creating a greeting card front piece

### **Open Call to Florida Artists!**

1st Prize, \$150

2nd Prize, \$75

3rd Prize \$50

**Contest Opens:** Friday October 1, 2010

**Entry Deadline:** Thursday November 4, 2010 at 5 PM.

**Format:** Original Artwork on paper no larger than 8 ½ X 11 OR on a JPEG file between 750KB-1MB on disk. Artwork should be sent along with an "About The Artist" statement of 50 words or less. The Statement should provide a personal statement about the artist, the submitted piece of art, the holiday season, and disabilities. Both submitted Artwork and Statement should be labeled with the **Contact name, complete address, phone number and email** of Artist.

**Attention:** Original Artwork will be returned only if accompanied by a self addressed and stamped envelope. Not responsible for lost or damaged pieces. One Artwork Submission per Artist. Artists must currently maintain a Florida address. Artists with disabilities encouraged to apply. Artwork submitted in formats other than outlined above will not be considered.

**Selected Artwork:** Images of the top 3 selected pieces will be retained for any use by The Able Trust for up to 2 years from the date of selection. Winners will be notified after November 12, 2010 of their selection.

**Send To:** The Able Trust; Holiday Card Contest; 3320 Thomasville Rd, Suite 200; Tallahassee, FL 32308. Arriving no later than 5 PM November 4, 2010.

**Questions:** 850-224-4493 or [info@abletrust.org](mailto:info@abletrust.org)

Goodwill Industries-Manasota, Inc.  
Grove House Supportive Services, Inc.  
Guardian Angels for Special Populations, Inc.  
Gulf Coast Community Care  
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries  
Habilitation Center for the Handicapped  
Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County  
Hardee Association for Retarded Citizens  
Hearing Impaired Persons  
Heron-Peacock Supported Living  
HOPE Center  
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center  
Horses and the Handicapped of South Florida, Inc.  
Human Services Council  
I Can Grow, Inc.  
Independence for the Blind  
Independent Living and Resource Center NE Florida  
Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida  
Janssen  
Jeff Industries  
Jewish Association for Residential Care  
Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc.  
La Amistad Foundation, Inc..  
Lakeside Alternatives  
Lakeview Center Foundation  
LARC, Inc.  
L'Arche Harbor House  
Latino Leadership, Inc.  
Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe, P.A  
League for the Hard of Hearing  
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida, Inc.  
Life Stream Behavioral Center  
Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, Inc.  
Lighthouse of Broward  
Lighthouse of Central Florida  
Lincoln-Marti Community Agency  
Lock Towns Community Mental Health Center, Inc.  
Louise H. Graham Training Center  
Loveland Center Inc.  
MacDonald Training Center, Inc.  
MACtown, Inc.  
Madison County HSHT  
Madison County School Board Dept, ESE  
Magellan Health Services  
Manatee Glens  
Marianne Center Services  
Martin Memorial Health System  
MAXIMUS  
McDaniel Consulting, L.L.C.  
Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County  
Mental Health Care, Inc.  
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Miami-Dade Disability Services and Independent Living (DSAIL)  
Michael D. Cusick & Associates, Inc.  
Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.  
Moore Consulting Group, Inc.  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
NAMI Florida, Inc.  
NASA  
National Multiple Sclerosis (FL Gulf Coast)  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society- Mid FL Chapter  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter  
National Wheelchair Sports Fund  
New Hope Drop In Center, Inc.  
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc.  
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc.  
Northside Mental Health Center  
OFCCP Miami Area Office  
OFCCP Orlando District Office  
Office of Health Services  
Office of the Governor  
Okeechobee Rehabilitation Facility  
One Stop Career Center  
Orange County Public Schools  
Osceola ARC, Inc.  
Palm Bay High School  
Palm Beach County HS/HT  
Palm Beach Habilitation Center, Inc.  
Pathways to Independence, Inc.  
Pensacola Care, Inc.  
Pensacola Penwheels  
Perdido Bay Tribe, Inc.  
Pine Castle, Inc.  
Primrose Center, Inc.  
Project Special Care  
Project STAND, Inc.

PSI Family Services of Florida, Inc.  
 Pyramid, Inc.  
 Rehabilitation Services, Inc.  
 Remmert Employment Project  
 Renaissance Behavioral Health System, Inc.  
 Roe & Associates Integrated Behavior Supports, Inc.  
 Rotary Youth Camp  
 Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service of S. Palm Beach Co.  
 Seacamp Association, Inc.  
 Seagull Industries for the Disabled, Inc.  
 Self Reliance, Inc.  
 Seminole Work Opportunity Program  
 SGS  
 Sickle Cell Disease Association of Broward County, Inc.  
 Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida  
 Small Business Development Center/ FGCU  
 Social Security Administration  
 SOS Children's Village of Florida  
 Southeast Parkinson Disease Association  
 Space Coast Center for Independent Living  
 Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health - FL  
 Supreme Court  
 St. Andrew's Bay Center  
 Stand Among Friends  
 Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention FL Office of Drug Control  
 Suncoast Center for Independent Living  
 Suncoast Epilepsy Association, Inc.  
 Suncoast Health Council, Inc.  
 Sunrise Cape Coral Cluster  
 Sunrise Community of Polk County  
 Sunrise Community of Southwest Florida  
 Sunrise Community, Inc.  
 Sunrise of Pasco County  
 Sunrise Opportunities, Inc.  
 Tallahassee Community College  
 Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind  
 Taylor County High School  
 Technical & Career Education  
 Technical and Career Education  
 The ARC Nature Coast, Inc.  
 The ARC of Jacksonville  
 The Center for Independence, Inc.  
 The Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
 The Harbor  
 The Learning Experience School  
 The Spina Bifida Association of Jacksonville, Inc.  
 The Watson Center  
 TLC Landscape Contractors, Inc.  
 Tri-County Community Council, Inc.  
 Tri-County TEC  
 Tyler Institute  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Central Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of East Central Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of North Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Panama City, Inc.  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Sarasota-Manatee & SW Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of South Florida  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Southwest Florida, Inc.  
 United Cerebral Palsy of Tallahassee  
 University of South Florida  
 Urban League of Broward County  
 Van Gogh's Palette, Inc.  
 Veterans Administration  
 Victory Living Programs  
 Vincent House  
 Visual Dialogue  
 Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida  
 Vocational Rehabilitation  
 Volunteer Florida Foundation  
 Volunteer Jacksonville, Inc.  
 VSA Arts of Florida  
 Walton County ARC  
 Washington/Holmes ARC  
 WAVE The Workshop for Adult Vocational Enrichment  
 Wellcare  
 Woodland Hall Academy/Dyslexia Research Institute  
 Workforce Alliance, Inc.  
 Workforce Development Board  
 Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa & Walton Counties  
 Workforce Florida  
 Working Solutions

## Florida High School/High Tech:

### Impacting the Lives of Florida's Youth

by Cat Keen

The Florida High School/High Tech Program (HS/HT) of The Able Trust served 1,559 students with disabilities this year throughout 105 schools in 37 Florida counties. Students were provided transition services based on the five nationally recognized evidence-based Guideposts for Success: School-Based Preparatory Experiences, Career Preparation & Work-Based Learning, Connecting Activities, Youth Leadership & Development, and Family Involvement & Supports.



(from left to right) Able Trust Chair Richard Cole congratulates Margarita Warren and Torri Bandel for receiving the 2010 Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) Program of the Year award at the 2010 Able Trust Ability Awards, joined by Board Secretary Bridget Pallango and State Director of Florida HS/HT Cat Keen.

On September 22, 2010, during The Able Trust Annual Training for HS/HT Project Coordinators, Clay and St. Johns counties HS/HT Programs (administered by the Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida) were recognized as the 2010 Florida HS/HT Programs of the Year. The ILRC of Northeast Florida partners with a spectrum of statewide and community organizations and employers to provide excellent transition services and other outreach to students with disabilities in the Northeast Florida area. As a result of program services, 100% of graduating HS/HT seniors in Clay and St. Johns counties entered postsecondary education or employment this year.

Congratulations to all students, teachers, family members and Florida HS/HT project coordinators! Because of the hard work and commitment of all partners, students with disabilities are able to achieve their dreams.

### 2010 Outcomes

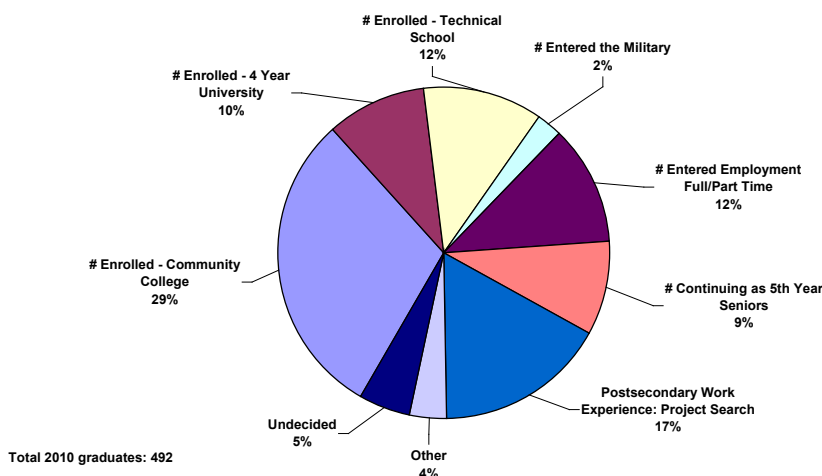
Below are a few of the vital statistics that make this program one of the best in the nation:

- The Florida HS/HT Program experienced a high school dropout rate of **less than 1%**.
- **86%** of Florida HS/HT graduates entered postsecondary education or employment (unduplicated) as compared to the Florida Department of Education rate of 50% of graduates with disabilities (unduplicated).\*
  - Florida HS/HT students entered postsecondary education at over **three times** the rate of other Florida graduates with disabilities. Approximately 74% of Florida HS/HT graduates entered postsecondary education after graduation, compared to only 24% of other graduates with disabilities in Florida.\*

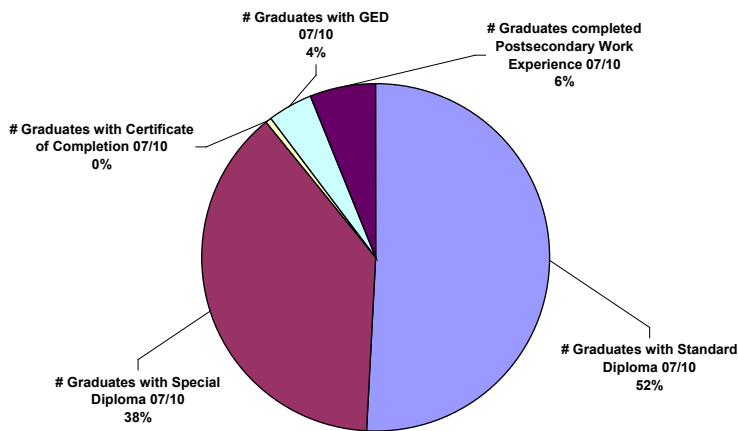
- Services were provided in 105 schools and alternative education settings including, but not limited to, foster care group homes and Department of Juvenile Justice facilities.
- 169 high school students (representing all grades) secured employment.
- Disability diversity of enrolled students includes: autism spectrum disorder, 6%; attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, 9%; emotional disturbance, 6%; hearing impairment including deafness, 1%; intellectual disability, 10%; other health impairment, 5%; orthopedic impairment, 3%; specific learning disability, 53%; speech or language impairment, 5%; traumatic brain injury, 1%; visual impairment including blindness, 1%.

The numbers speak for themselves as to how vital this program is to the students that experience it. The Able Trust serves as the state affiliate for The Florida HS/HT Program, Florida Disability Mentoring Day and the Florida Youth Leadership Forum. These nationally recognized programs serve to reduce the dropout rate of youth with disabilities and improve their participation in employment-related activities. ■

### Florida HS/HT Postsecondary and Employment Outcomes July 2010



### Florida HS/HT Graduation Outcomes July 2010



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# Board of Directors Updates

## Welcome to the Mission

### Director Marcy Benton

Marcy Benton is the Manager of Associate Diversity for Publix Super Markets, Inc. In this position she is charged with strategic planning and execution of all associate diversity initiatives for the corporation. Benton firmly believes in the value of equal access to education and employment opportunities, and works to promote an inclusive environment. Her various service initiatives include serving as president of the INROADS Tampa Market Advisory Board, board member of the Explorations V Children's Museum, member of the Florida Business Leadership Network (FBLN), and as a Junior Achievement volunteer, where she mentors several young ladies in the values that have guided her own career.

Benton received her undergraduate degree in Business Management from the University of Florida. She obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of South Florida, and is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources through the Society for Human Resource Management.

### Director Anne Marie Taglienti

Anne Marie Taglienti is the Director of Corporate Affairs for American Express. In the past, she has provided valuable service to The Able Trust, successfully encouraging American Express to support programs of The Able Trust. At American Express, Taglienti has demonstrated a strong philosophy of hiring people with disabilities. This firm belief in successful employment practices will make her an ideal fit for The Able Trust Board. The Able Trust programs and projects will benefit from Taglienti's corporate knowledge related to integrating diversity in operations, helping businesses become more proactive when it comes to hiring qualified Floridians with disabilities, and her extensive knowledge of business communications.

Taglienti received her undergraduate education from The University of Florida.

### Ambassador Drew Andrews

Drew Andrews has worked as a volunteer for the Able Trust Youth Leadership Forum and other youth-related activities relevant to career and education opportunities for young people with disabilities for more than 10 years. He has frequently served as a member of public organizations such as Volunteer Florida and the Florida Department of Education, lending his expertise to the advancement of quality of life for young people, especially those with disabilities. ■

## Eladio Amores: Service Personified



*Eladio's dedication to the mission of The Able Trust has benefitted countless individuals.*

This fall, The Able Trust bids farewell to a great champion for Floridians with disabilities. Eladio Amores steps down from The Able Trust Board of Directors after 10 years of faithful service as his term expires.

Eladio's commitment to the cause of successful employment practices has had an impact throughout the state of Florida. In addition to his duties on The Able Trust Board, he serves as Corporate Consultant for the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, where he creates and coordinates programs to help employers attract, train and retain employees with disabilities. He previously served as Project Director for Marriott International Community Employment and Training Programs (CETP) in Tampa, where Amores was responsible for implementing "Pathways to Independence," Marriott's innovative, employer-based customized job training placement and retention program for the hospitality industry.

His trademark laughter and smile will continue to be cherished, as Eladio serves The Able Trust mission as an ambassador. ■



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## *Thank You For Your Support (2009 - 2010)*

### *Donations From You Permit Us To Do What We Do*

P. Adam and Peter G. Kelly  
ADAAG Consulting  
Advantica Eye Care  
Eladio Amores  
Grace-Anne Alfiero  
Jeannie Amendola  
American Express  
Bank of America  
Dorene Priolo Barker  
Greg Barker  
Marcy Benton  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Robert & Penny Bromberg  
Keith & Anne Browne  
Teresa Buoniconti  
Robert A. Butterworth  
Capital City Bank  
Capital City Consulting  
Richard & Linda Choma  
Richard & Barbara Cole  
Congo River Golf  
Guenevere Crum  
CVS Pharmacy  
Darden Restaurants  
Ted Densmore  
Disney Worldwide  
Family Network on Disabilities  
Family Resources, Inc.  
Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Florida Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program  
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council  
Angeles S. Ferlita  
Larry Georgeson  
Good Wheels  
Goodwill Industries of South Florida  
Gulf Power  
J.R. Harding  
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# Grantee Spotlight: Center for Independent Living of South Florida

by Ray Ford, Jr.

The Center for Independent Living (CIL) of South Florida received funds from The Able Trust Grants Program to assist veterans in overcoming barriers to employment in their area, while providing access to training, certification, and licensure in preparation for such employment. TB is one of many who has benefitted from this program. TB, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam and Desert Storm, was honorably discharged from service due to injuries he sustained. Upon returning home, TB found work as a certified corrections officer, and was the sole means of support for his elderly mother. However, due to budget cuts in 2008, TB was released from his position. He was unemployed for more than a year before hearing about the Innovate & Navigate Veteran Employment via Support & Training (INVEST) Program, facilitated by the CIL.



Fortunately for TB, Veteran Project Navigator Toriano Johnnie (a licensed security instructor in the State of Florida) implemented a security officers certification course into the INVEST program prior to the two meeting up. Typically, a three day, 24-hour course like this would cost \$150 per student. However, Jonnie allows INVEST members to participate free of charge.

“I do this to improve the employability of veterans in the program by certifying them as security officers, and placing them in an industry that is crying out for credible, well-groomed individuals with military experience,” Johnnie said.

TB attended the course, received his certification, and found employment immediately with a local security company. He is now able to send money to his mother while sustaining himself as well, thanks to the INVEST program funded by The Able Trust. ■

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## Mark Your Calendars for the 2011 Ability Celebration

March 5, Orlando - Disney Yacht & Beach Club

Celebrating Successful Employment Opportunities for Floridians with Disabilities



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The Able Trust is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through grant programs, public awareness, public education and policy review and recommendations. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded more than \$26 million in grants to nonprofit agencies throughout Florida for employment-related purposes, enabling thousands of Florida citizens with disabilities to enter the workforce each year. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to almost 2,000 students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school.

**For more information about The Able Trust visit [www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org).**

The Able Trust is recognized as exempt from federal income taxation under section 501c3 of the IRS and eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. Federal ID: 59-3052307. The Able Trust is registered with the Florida Division of Consumer Services as required by the Solicitation of Contributions Act (#CH957). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free in Florida: (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

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### *Make a Deductible Gift and Receive Life Income*

You may wish to make a memorial gift while providing current life income for yourself. If your memorial gift is made to fund a charitable remainder trust, you can receive income monthly, quarterly or annually. You receive a charitable deduction for your gift this year and avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of your appreciated assets. The remainder passes to us as a gift in memory of your loved one. Please contact us for more information on charitable trust plans.

### *A Memorial Gift of Cash or Property*

A gift of cash is one of the simplest ways to remember your loved one or

friend. You receive a tax deduction for the value of your gift to The Able Trust. Please designate the person you wish to remember and the best way that we can honor them. If you are making a memorial gift of appreciated stock or real estate, your deduction may depend on the type of property gifted. Please call us to discuss the treatment of your gift and the best way to transfer your property to us.

## PLANNED GIVING

Please contact Mike Campbell, Regional Endowment Director, at 850-224-4493. You may also visit our planned giving website at [www.myabletrust.org](http://www.myabletrust.org).

*Contributions are deductible according to applicable IRS guidelines. The Able Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act.*

## Upcoming MEETINGS & EVENTS

**October 20, 2010**

*Disability Mentoring Day*

**December 10, 2010**

*Able Trust Board of Directors Meeting  
Conference Call*

**March 4, 2011**

*Able Trust Board of Directors Meeting  
Orlando, Florida*

**March 5, 2011**

*2011 Able Trust Ability Celebration, Disney Yacht & Beach Club  
Orlando, Florida*

**June 11, 2011**

*Ability Awards Banquet  
Tallahassee, FL*

**July 20 - 24, 2011**

*Florida Youth Leadership Forum  
Tallahassee, FL*