

What They're Saying About The Able Trust

Testimonials on The Able Trust's Grants Program

The Project SEARCH program at Bishop Grady Villas in St. Cloud, Florida was partially funded by a grant from The Able Trust. The funding from The Able Trust helped seven individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities gain employment skills. By providing crucial gap funding and start-up funds to the program, Bishop Grady has been able to establish a training program and provide employment support to the individuals.

One such individual was Ethan Pagan-Ayuso, who came to Project SEARCH at Bishop Grady Villas as a very quiet, formal and respectful individual. His cautious manners made it very difficult to connect with peers or even his Project SEARCH instructor. Last August, when the team implemented staggered starts for rotations, Ethan was one of the last to go out. The last few days in the classroom were very difficult because the only interns that were left in the classroom were all painfully shy. As the instructors processed their concerns over his upcoming start in training, they decided to place him with a Spanish-speaking mentor. As a result, he was placed in "Banquet Set Up" where most of the department staff were Hispanic men.



*Ethan and a mentor from
Bishop Grady Villas*

In the weeks to come, Ethan blossomed. He bonded with his peers and learned that he could speak English or Spanish whenever he wished. He quickly mastered the skills in this area and became very successful in this rotation. Shedding his initial shyness and gaining confidence from his second training rotation, Ethan volunteered his time to serve as an interpreter for new hires in housekeeping. As the year progressed, he made many friends amongst the other interns and was subsequently successful in every departmental training rotation.

At the end of the training year, when the interns began listing their skills in order to create their resumes, Ethan proudly listed his bilingual abilities as one of his top skills. Ethan developed a full resume and set about interviewing for open positions. **He is happy to have begun work at Universal Studios this past Spring!**

About The Able Trust

The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment.

Since its establishment, The Able Trust has worked with organizations throughout the state to help thousands of Floridians with disabilities enter the workforce. In addition, The Able Trust supports youth programs that provide career development and transition to many students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school.