



Annual Report 2010

Achievements

Significant achievements for FY 2010 include:

- Served 8,342 individuals with disabilities
- Employed 11 individuals with disabilities
- Placed 331 individuals with disabilities into third-party employment
- Secured a State-Use contract to replace toner cartridges through Respect of Florida.
- Awarded grants from The Able Trust and Abilities Foundation for use in funding the Veterans Employment and Outreach Program (VEOP).
- Abilities of Florida celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Since its incorporation, the organization has served more than 100,000 people with disabilities.
- Homes for Independence was awarded multiple green retrofit upgrade grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for multiple properties.
- Homes for Independence was awarded a grant from the City of Melbourne to support the Melbourne Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Leadership

David Higgins
Executive Director

Abilities Foundation

Frank De Lucia
President and CEO

Officers

Richard B. Winning
St. Petersburg Kennel Club, Chairman

Howard M. Sachs
Raymond James & Associates, Inc., Treasurer

Gloria Hollingsworth
Past Abilities Guild President, Secretary

Trustees

John B. Byrne, III
Retired

Johnny Green
Big 3 Entertainment

Leslie A. Rubin
Rubin Management Corp.

Barbara Sealund
Sealund & Associates

Joseph J. Sorota, Jr., Esq
Joseph J. Sorota Jr., PA

Rob Sumner
The Carter Group, Foundation Publicist

William DeMambro
Abilities Guild President

Our People

With a focus on its core mission in service to people with disabilities, Abilities of Florida continued to be a recognized leader in rehabilitation services in the state of Florida. Core services include veterans employment services, school-to-work transition programs, benefits planning, medical case management, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor services, housing and evaluation and placements services. However, as the economy continued to struggle and the number of placements for individuals with disabilities decreased by 25 percent over the previous year, efforts to secure affirmative employment contracts and provide innovative services remained a primary focus.

People Served

Type of Service	People Served	Percent
VR Counselor Services	5,552	67
Evaluation and Placement	1,234	15
Housing	454	5
WIPA	451	5
Youth Transition Demonstration Project	357	4
Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program	128	2
Projects with Industry	57	1
Veterans Employment and Outreach Program	53	1
High School / High Tech	33	>1
Ticket-to-Work	12	>1
Affirmative Employment	11	>1
Total	8,342	100%

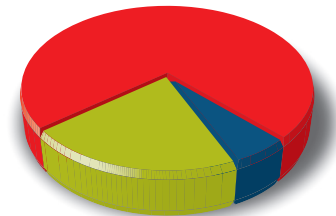


Abilities Revenue by Source

(\$8.10 million in total revenue)

The majority of Abilities' revenue and program services are supported through rehabilitation and grant funding. Efforts continued to be made to diversify funding sources in order to minimize the impact of reductions in rehabilitation and grant funding.

Source	Percent
Affirmative Employment	6
Housing / Other	21
Rehabilitation and Grant Funding	73
Total	100%



Rehabilitation Services

Veterans with Disabilities

The Veterans Employment and Outreach Program (VEOP) focuses on placing veterans with disabilities in jobs with third-party community employers. In close partnership with the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System and the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the program placed 25 veterans in jobs in FY 2010. The VEOP was funded by the Abilities of Florida Foundation and the Able Trust.

Youth Transition Programs

Abilities specializes in helping youth with disabilities transition from school-to-work. The High School / High Tech program provides internship experiences for youths with disabilities transitioning out of the school system. Abilities was one of ten

agencies selected nationwide to implement the Broadened Horizons/Brighter Futures (BHBF) program, funded by the Social Security Administration. The program provides Social Security benefits planning, customized employment and supports to assist transitioning youth with disabilities toward reaching their goal of integrated competitive employment. Additionally, Abilities continues a Projects with Industry (PWI) grant from the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration to help minority youths in the Miami Dade area to transition into the workforce. The PWI grant has been in existence since 1991 and has served approximately 3,400 Florida residents.

Medical Case Management

Abilities' Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program (ACFP) serves adults living with cystic fibrosis by providing medical case management, support in obtaining and maintaining much needed medical insurance, prescription medications and other medical services. The ACFP is funded by the State of Florida Department of Health and has two programs: The General Revenue budget (GR), and the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Medicaid Waiver Program, which receives a Federal Medicaid match. The program serves approximately 130 individuals. In FY 2010, Abilities expanded medical case management services with another Medicaid Waiver Program that is administered by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

Evaluation and Job Placement Services

Abilities continues to work with the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to provide evaluation and placement services for individuals with disabilities. As part of its core services program, Abilities provides direct VR services. Additionally, Abilities receives funding to conduct both evaluation and placement services. The two programs combined to place approximately 333 individuals with disabilities with third-party employers in FY 2010.

Business Services

In FY 2010, Abilities secured a State-Use contract through Respect of Florida to provide toner cartridge refurbishment and technical assistance for printers. The toner cartridge contract is for the maintenance and installation of cartridges on laser printers. Current customers include state and county agencies and school boards. This contract helped Abilities to increase the number of people with disabilities directly employed from five in FY 09 to 11 in FY 2010.

Other affirmative employment contracts include:

- Mail center management for the Internal Revenue Service in Miami and Plantation, FL



Abilities secured a contract to replace toner cartridges.

Housing Program

The Abilities Housing Division, Homes for Independence (HFI), continues to provide multiple program offerings. The program serves nearly 500 individuals and family members by providing affordable, accessible and safe housing options for individuals with disabilities and those with low incomes.

Programs offered include:

- Home ownership for low to moderate-income individuals
- Affordable rentals in Pinellas, Polk and Brevard Counties in Florida
- Low interest home improvement loans
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Property management services in Brevard County

Currently, there are 60 scattered site units in operation in Pinellas County, Florida; 65 units in Brevard County, Florida; 40 units in Cumberland County, North Carolina and five units in Polk County, Florida. The units are scattered throughout 17 different condominium complexes.

This past fiscal year, the program focused its efforts on upgrades and energy efficiency related items particularly for units that have been operational for longer periods of time and prior to many of the current energy efficient advances. HFI was selected for six HUD Green Retrofit Program (GRP) grants for Multifamily Housing. Through this program, HFI received up to \$15,000 per unit for 61 households in six separate HUD 811 properties for the purpose of energy efficient modifications.

Additionally, HFI focuses efforts on neighborhood revitalization, to include last year's partnership with local police at the Crestwood Villas to make security enhancements and community improvements that resulted in national recognition through winning a MetLife Community-Police Partnership Award. In FY 2010, the Melbourne Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant from the City of Melbourne provided additional resources for homeownership in Brevard County.



HFI received the MetLife Community-Police Partnership Award.

Abilities Foundation

The Abilities Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit support organization established in 1983. It is governed by an all volunteer board of trustees and generates revenue from individuals, corporations, and foundations through special events, annual appeals, grant writing and planned giving. All funds distributed benefit Abilities, Inc. of Florida. The Abilities Foundation has helped thousands of Floridians with all types of disabilities obtain jobs and affordable housing, enabling them to contribute to the economic strength of their communities as productive wage-earners and taxpayers. The Foundation continues to be successful in its efforts and has raised more than \$15 million dollars since its inception.



Abilities Guild president Bill DeMambro with wife Katie

Awards and Recognition

MetLife Foundation Award

Homes for Independence and the Cocoa Police Department were honored by the MetLife Foundation for their accomplishments with Operation Cocoa Cleanup. Continued community-building efforts have been successful in restoring a sense of safety, pride and inclusiveness among residents of Crestview Villas.

2009 Service Excellence Award

Pat Driscoll, Heather Servais, Sherry Stevens

2009 Participant Employee of the Year Award

Gwen Rowe, IRS Mail



Gwen Rowe with Abilities Executive Director David Higgins

Meet Ryan Hayes

Occupation: Cardiovascular Technologist

Location: Homes Regional Medical Center

In late 2005, Ryan Hayes was your typical teenager. He had recently graduated from high school and was deciding what the next chapter in his life would be. Yet life changed dramatically one evening for Ryan when the car he was riding in was hit by another vehicle.

Following the crash, Ryan was rushed to the hospital from the accident scene. The impact of the collision crushed his left ocular bone and left him with a moderate brain injury. Ryan was placed in a drug induced coma for two days to allow the swelling in his brain to go down. He was released from the hospital a week later. However, the effects of his brain injury were far-reaching.

The most noticeable change was that Ryan had great difficulty remembering things. This became especially apparent when he began school in the summer of 2006 at a local community college. He learned to change his study habits and used note cards to write things down in order to remember information and classroom assignments. In the spring of 2007, he successfully completed the prerequisites to begin a cardiovascular technology program at Santa Fe College in Gainesville. In December 2009, with assistance from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Brain Institute, Ryan completed the program.

The next step was to find a job in his field. Ryan was referred to the Abilities' Gainesville office. There they assisted him with interview skills, resume preparation and general job search skills. Through this assistance, Ryan applied for and landed a job at Homes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, FL as a cardiovascular technologist. The job requires great care and attention to detail as he assists with various heart procedures such as opening patient's arteries and putting in pacemakers and stints.

When speaking of his life since his accident, Ryan says, "I really feel like I have accomplished something by completing this program and having this job. I am thankful for all the assistance I received along the way."



Meet Kristy Lay

Program: Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program

When asked if she has a network of friends living with cystic fibrosis that acts as a support system, Kristy Lay quietly responds, "I used to, but most of them have passed away."

Twenty-seven year old Kristy has been a participant in Abilities' Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program (ACFP) for six years. "I don't know what I would do without the ACFP, it truly has been my crutch in maintaining my health these last few years," said Kristy.

One of her most important needs is for medical assistance and care. Since Kristy does not have health insurance and does not qualify for Medicaid, the assistance she has received through the program has been vital. The program funds medical necessities such as her home IV use, her medications, her breathing treatment vest and an air purifier.

Although Kristy is a Certified Nursing Assistant, her health has not allowed her to work recently. Her goal is to eventually go back to work, but for now, she is focusing on stabilizing her health and staying out of the hospital. The assistance she receives from the program greatly reduces these hospital visits.

Recent concerns over how the program will be funded in the future concern Kristy. She does not qualify for the Medicaid Waiver Program, nor does she have health insurance. Her participation in the ACFP is funded through general revenue funding from the Department of Health. If the general revenue funds go away and the program becomes solely a Medicaid Waiver Program, Kristy and approximately 20 other individuals in the program could lose their supports. Additionally, the Waiver does not cover all aspects of the program, even for those who do qualify under Medicaid, to include nutritional needs, transportation to medical appointments and in some instances, life saving medicines.

"Without the ACFP, I would be in the hospital constantly with advanced stomach and lung issues. The program allows me to continue to be a contributing member of society. The program is effective to help save my life, but it also makes economic sense to fund this program rather than having the state cover much more expensive costs should I have to go in the hospital with more severe medical conditions associated with my CF," says Kristy.

