



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**July 6, 2015**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**David & Lynn Melby  
and  
Rose & Kiernan, Inc.  
to be Honored at the Abilities First Signature Event**

**Poughkeepsie, N.Y.** (July 6, 2015) - Abilities First has announced the 2015 Annual Award recipients to be honored at their “nightclub” themed Signature event on Friday, September 11, 2015.

**David & Lynn Melby** will be recognized as the 2015 Outstanding Volunteers for their years of leadership and support to Abilities First. Both have served many years on event and board committees. David, currently in his third year on the board, serves as Vice-President of the Abilities First Board of Directors and Lynn is the returning co-chair of the 2015 Golf Classic Committee. Their continued support of Abilities First through their leadership and fundraising efforts has made a significant impact in heightening awareness of the organization within the region.

The Melby's have spent their careers working in the community they support. Lynn originated her career as a human resource professional, later joining David in the insurance brokerage field at Rose & Kiernan. They have worked together for the last 16 years as employee benefit specialists for many of the areas larger employers, with a particular specialty in the not-for-profit and municipal arenas. Both with Rose & Kiernan, David is presently Vice President and Lynn is Client Manager of Key Accounts.

Equally supportive of their time and direct support to the mission of Abilities First, **Rose & Kiernan, Inc.** will be honored as the 2015 Outstanding Community Leader. Regionally led by Executive Vice President Charlie Daniels, Rose & Kiernan's dedication to meeting the needs of their clients goes beyond their corporate values, to their commitment to volunteer work and philanthropic support of Abilities First programs and services amongst other community organizations.

"We are exceptionally fortunate to have civic leaders like David and Lynn Melby and Rose & Kiernan who share their time, expertise, and resources to help us accomplish our goals," said Dr. Jeffery Fox, CEO, Abilities First. "We are honored to recognize them at our upcoming Signature Event. The Melby's have a deep appreciation of the challenges facing the not-for-profit social service industry, and like true leaders they have responded by helping Abilities First overcome the challenges before us and rise to meet our expanding role in the community. We are grateful for this admirable partnership and for the many ways it allows us to bring positive change to the lives of people we support."

The Abilities First Signature event honoring the Melbys and Rose & Kiernan, will take place on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Attendees will dine, dance and be entertained by the rhythms of Soulsystem and other surprises, at the pop-up nightclub. To inquire about tickets or sponsorship opportunities for the Signature event, contact Regina Fitzgerald Donato at 845-485-9803 ext. 384 or online at [www.abilitiesfirstny.org](http://www.abilitiesfirstny.org).

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## **PHOTOS**

David & Lynn Melby.jpg

Abilities First's 2015 Outstanding Volunteers honorees, David & Lynn Melby. The Melbys along with insurance agency, Rose & Kiernan, Inc. will be recognized at the Signature event on September 11, 2015 for their contributions to the organization.

## **About Abilities First**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of the community, as well as those with developmental disabilities, from pre-school through adulthood. Abilities First has had a long-term commitment of providing a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for people with a variety of disabilities through educational, vocational and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,500 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State. AF is accredited for the person-centered care by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) and given the honor of participating in a coalition of leaders in the field through New York Integrated Network and Coordinated Behavioral Health Services (CBHS).

Abilities First's mission is to provide people with disabilities and their families support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others through education, exploration and experience.

For more information, visit [www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org](http://www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org) or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](http://www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc) and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.