



**ABILITIES FIRST**  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN  
& ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## **MEDIA ALERT**

**December 17, 2015**

*For more information, contact:*

Kristina Muhkerjee, Integrated Communications Specialist

Abilities First, Inc.

845-485-9803 x 215

[kristinamuhkerjee@abilitiesfirstny.org](mailto:kristinamuhkerjee@abilitiesfirstny.org)

[www.abilitiesfirstny.org](http://www.abilitiesfirstny.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Abilities First Receives AED Grant Through Cardiovascular Fund of Dutchess County**

**Poughkeepsie, N.Y.** (December 17, 2015) – Abilities First, a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of those with developmental disabilities from pre-school through adulthood, was awarded \$2,021.00 from the Cardiovascular Fund of Dutchess County of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, to provide an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Abilities First Seniors' Neighborhood Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

The Seniors' Neighborhood Center provides day habilitation services for senior citizens with varying levels of intellectual disabilities, many of whom are medically frail. The AED on location will allow staff to offer immediate medical assistance during a cardiac event. Abilities First is a part of the Public Access Defibrillator Program under the Department of Public Health and Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

Created by community leaders as the Area Fund, the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley is a public nonprofit charitable organization representing thousands of donors through more than 500 separate funds that make up its endowment. The Cardiovascular Fund of Dutchess County aims to improve accessibility to emergency health services in order to save lives.

"We are grateful to the Cardiovascular Fund of Dutchess County in awarding this grant, to assure lifesaving equipment is available when delivering our services to our senior population," said Chief Advancement Officer Melissa McCoy.

**###**

#### **About Abilities First, Inc.**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of 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, residential, and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,200 children and adults with disabilities in 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](https://www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc) and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.