



MEDIA ALERT

April 13, 2016

For more information, contact:

Kristina Muhkerjee, Integrated Communications Specialist

Abilities First, Inc.

845-485-9803 x 215

kristinamuhkerjee@abilitiesfirstny.org

www.abilitiesfirstny.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Abilities First Announces 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (April 13, 2016) - Abilities First, Inc. announces the continued growth of its board leadership with the addition of three new board members as well as its 2016-2017 executive board and board members.

The new members of the Abilities First Board of Directors include:

- Gary J. Cassiello, CPA, ABV, CFF, Partner/Shareholder, Judelson, Giordano & Siegel, CPA, P.C.
- Craig Irwin, Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch
- Corinne Molinaro, Director of Marketing at Tinkelman Architecture.

The 2016-2017 Abilities First Board Officers:

- President: David Melby, V.P., Rose & Kiernan
- Vice President: Daniel Stafford, Associate Attorney, McCabe & Mack LLP
- Treasurer: Roy Shemitz, V.P., Commercial Lending, Rhinebeck Bank
- Secretary: Bernadette Mack, Executive Director, Women's Jewelry Association

“For the past 54 years, Abilities First has had the privilege of community leaders vested in assuring the future growth and services of Abilities First. We are pleased to welcome Gary J. Cassiello, Craig Irwin and Corinne Molinaro to our Board of Directors,” said Abilities First Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jeffery Fox. “Abilities First thanks its outgoing executive board officers Lorraine Heneka (President 2015-2016) and Francis Synan (Treasurer 2-15-2016), as well as the current board members for their continued leadership.”

Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of over 1,200 children and adults with developmental disabilities through educational, vocational, residential, and habilitation services in the Hudson Valley.

The full list of Abilities First Board of Directors for 2016-2017 is listed below.

- Jeanine Agnolet, Owner, The News Lady
- Renee Bulla, V.P. Client Services, Momentum Advertising and Design
- Gary J. Cassiello, CPA, ABV, CFF, Partner/Shareholder, Judelson, Giordano & Siegel, CPA, P.C.
- Halliday Clark, Retired Director of Equity Investments at the Ford Foundation
- Lorraine Heneka, Lending Quality Control Officer, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Joseph Hines, Retired FDNY Field Supervisor
- Craig Irwin, Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch
- Dr. C. Ryan Kinlaw, Associate Professor, Marist
- Eileen Lomoriello, Associate Director, Strategic Planning, Central Hudson Gas & Electric
- Bernadette Mack, Executive Director, Women's Jewelry Association
- David Melby, V.P., Rose & Kiernan
- Corinne Molinaro, Director of Marketing at Tinkelman Architecture
- Christopher A. Montalto, Esq.
- Roy Shemitz, V.P., Commercial Lending, Rhinebeck Bank
- Daniel Stafford, Associate Attorney, McCabe & Mack LLP
- Francis Synan, Retired V.P., Commercial Lending, M&T Bank
- Rick Tietjen, Chief of Staff, The Culinary Institute of America (CIA)
- Katherine Trela, Assistant Professor, Special Education, Marist College
- Kimberley Williams, SVP of Retail Operations, Williams Lumber and Home Centers

###

PHOTOS



File: Gary_Cassiello.jpg

Gary J. Cassiello, CPA, ABV, CFF
Partner/Shareholder
Judelson, Giordano & Siegel, CPA, P.C.



File: Craig_Irwin.jpg

Craig Irwin
Financial Advisor
Merrill Lynch



File: Corinne_Molinaro.jpg

Corinne Molinaro
Director of Marketing
Tinkelman Architecture

###

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 or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](https://www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc) and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.