



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

MEDIA ALERT

November 18, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 30 Business and Organizations to Come Together to Provide Resources to Those with Special Needs at ABILITIES Event

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (November 18, 2015) – The ABILITIES event will be held this Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Dutchess Community College - [Falcon Hall](#) in Poughkeepsie, NY. The event will bring together “Resources to Adapt, Support and Enrich Life” for children and adults with any disability whether it be developmental, intellectual, physical, mental or other. Admission to the expo is free and open to the public. There is abundant accessible parking available, with easy access to Falcon Hall (Gymnasium).

Businesses and organizations with unique services or products that meet the everyday needs and interests of families, individuals or caregivers for those with any disability will be on hand. Exhibitors include:

- Able Newspaper
- Camp Huntington
- Central Hudson Gas & Electric
- Challenger Leagues (Wappingers, LaGrange and other local leagues)
- Down Syndrome Association Hudson Valley
- Dutchess Community College
- Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health
- Dutchess County Government - “Think Differently”
- Dutchess County Public Transit (LOOP, Dial-A-Ride & Paratransit)
- Enabling Devices
- Julie's Jungle
- Keri Petersen from SECONNY (Special Education Consulting NY)
- KeyBank
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

- Marist College
- MidHudson Regional Hospital
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) & Taconic Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO)
- P & D Remodeling
- Pain Relief 4 U Now NY
- Poughkeepsie Galleria
- Special Olympics New York Winter Games
- The Seeing Eye
- Two by Two Zoo
- Walkway over the Hudson

“The concept behind this first ABILITIES expo was to bring together resources which adapt, support and enrich the specific interests and needs of those with disabilities,” said Abilities First Chief Advancement Officer Melissa McCoy. “The location and event is specifically tailored to be a welcoming and accessible outing and experience for children and adults. We look forward to seeing our neighbors enjoying the expo and its potential resource for individuals and families.”

ABILITIES will be informational but also fun for the entire family with sensory activities, the traveling zoo from Two by Two Zoo, and demonstrations from seeing eye dogs and the Challenger Leagues. Rascal, the official mascot of the Hudson Valley Renegades will make a special appearance.

The event is spearheaded by Abilities First, but is a collaboration with regional not-for-profits, county and state government, and industry agencies interested in bringing awareness of valuable recreational, adaptive, entertainment and life resources for children and adults who may need special accommodations.

Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of the community, as well as over 1,200 children and adults with developmental disabilities through educational, vocational, residential, and habilitation services throughout the Hudson Valley region. This expo will support the organization’s mission of providing people with disabilities and their families support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others through education, exploration and experience.

The ABILITIES event is sponsored by Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie Galleria, and Central Hudson.

To inquire about exhibition or sponsorship opportunities for the ABILITIES event, contact Regina Fitzgerald Donato at 845-485-9803 ext. 384 or AFExpo@abilitiesfirstny.org.

Visit www.abilitiesfirstny.org or the [ABILITIES Facebook page](#) for more information.

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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, residential and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,200 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 or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc and [@AbilitiesF](#) on Twitter.