



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

**MEDIA ALERT**

**November 2, 2015**

*For more information, contact:*

Kristina Mukherjee, Integrated Communications Specialist

Abilities First, Inc.

845-485-9803 x 215

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ABILITIES Event to Bring Resources to Those with Special Needs**

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (November 2, 2015) – The ABILITIES event will be held on 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.

The ABILITIES Committee is seeking additional vendors with unique services or products that meet the everyday needs and interests of families, individuals or caregivers for those with any disability, in the following categories: entertainment, recreation, sports, travel, adaptive equipment and repairs, furnishings, transportation, living/household, and specialized medical providers such as dentists, hearing aids, etc. The quantity of vendors in each specific category is limited and will be accepted on a first come basis. The ABILITIES event is sponsored by Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie Galleria, and Central Hudson.

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.

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](mailto:AFExpo@abilitiesfirstny.org).

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