



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**August 20, 2015**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ABILITIES FIRST SIGNATURE EVENT TO BENEFIT CHILDREN AND  
ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Soulsystem Orchestras to Perform at Nightclub Themed Fundraiser  
to be Held in Premiere Waterfront Destination

David and Lynn Melby and Rose & Kiernan, Inc. to be Honored

**Poughkeepsie, N.Y.** (August 20, 2015) – The Abilities First’s Signature event has been rescheduled to October 16, 2015 from 6:30 – 11 p.m., at Shadows on the Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY. The Hudson Valley will come together for this annual event to help raise funds for the organization and celebrate and honor the community’s support for the 1,200 children and adults with developmental disabilities that Abilities First serves.

The Abilities First Signature event will honor David and Lynn Melby as the 2015 Outstanding Volunteers and Rose & Kiernan, Inc. as the 2015 Outstanding Community Leader. They are being recognized for their commitment to volunteer work and philanthropic support of Abilities First programs and services and bringing heightening awareness of the organization within the region.

The premiere event of the year has a whole new look and feel. For the first time ever, Shadows on the Hudson will be closed for this exclusive event. The evening will begin with wine tastings and a signature drink, hors d’oeuvres, and enchanting performances overlooking the stunning views of the Hudson River which offers prime viewing of the fall foliage.

Shadows on the Hudson will be then be transformed into a pulsating nightclub. Guests will also enjoy progressive dining, an oxygen bar, tastings in the Bubble and Bourbon Whisky Lounges, a Cigar Garden and a host of other unique entertainment experiences! Soulsystem Orchestras, an eleven piece live band, featuring Rob Affuso will entertain guests. The founder and leader of

Soulsystem Orchestras, Rob Affuso is best known as the drummer from the multi-platinum band Skid Row. This live band is guaranteed to provide high-energy entertainment.

This fundraiser 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 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 October 16, 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.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Join us for a unique evening of  
**COCKTAILS, PROGRESSIVE DINING,  
AND A PULSATING NIGHTCLUB EXPERIENCE**  
as we honor David & Lynn Melby and Rose & Kiernan, Inc.

**2015 Abilities First SIGNATURE EVENT**  
Featuring the rhythms of **SOULSYSTEM ORCHESTRAS**  
Enjoy Champagne and Bourbon Whisky Tastings, an Oxygen Bar, Cigar Lounge, and more.

SHADOWS ON THE HUDSON  
Friday, October 16, 2015 • 6:30-11:00 p.m.

 powered by  
**ABILITIES FIRST**  
#AFSIG2015