



MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KeyBank and Renée Bulla to be Honored at the 2016 Abilities First Signature Event

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (August 10, 2016) - Abilities First has announced the 2016 Annual Award recipients to be honored at their “nightclub” themed Signature event on Friday, October 28, 2016 at Shadows on the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Abilities First will recognize KeyBank as the 2016 Outstanding Community Leader. KeyBank has had a strong commitment in investing in education and the workforce to build thriving communities. They have contributed greatly to the advancement and success of Abilities First through long-term support of the Abilities First School-to-Work programs and most recently strengthened the Abilities First School students’ resources for education and workforce development through the establishment of The Abilities First & KeyBank Foundation – Workforce Readiness Program. KeyBank employees have also demonstrated “Community is Key” by volunteering at the Abilities First School on KeyBank’s Neighbors Make the Difference Day, a company-wide initiative to give back to their local communities.

Renée Bulla will be recognized as the 2016 Outstanding Volunteer for her years of leadership and support to Abilities First. Bulla has most recently served as Board President from 2014-2015 and Chair of the Marketing & Advancement Committee. Her continued support of Abilities First through her leadership, fundraising and marketing efforts has made a significant impact in heightening awareness of the organization within the region. Renée Bulla is Vice-President of Client Services at Momentum Advertising & Design, a full-service marketing and advertising firm. Bulla spends a significant amount of her focus supporting many local nonprofits. She sits on the board of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as co-chair of the PR/Marketing and Snow Ball (Gala) Committees and has also served on the board or led committees with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation.

"We are honored to have such strong and productive partnerships like those we have with Renée Bulla and with KeyBank. It is only through partnerships and collaborations with socially conscious members of the community that we make our world a better place for people with disabilities. Our honorees have made significant contributions to the strength of our organization which transforms directly into positive outcomes for people we serve." said Dr. Jeffery Fox, Chief Executive Officer of Abilities First.

Renée Bulla and KeyBank will be accepting their awards at the Abilities First Signature Event on Friday, October 28, 2016 at Shadows on the Hudson. Soulsystem Orchestras, an eleven piece live band will be the featured entertainment for the nightclub-themed event. Attendees will experience progressive dining, a cigar lounge, tastings from regional spirits and a host of other unique entertainment experiences. Abilities First will be announcing more details of the evening in the coming months. To inquire about tickets or sponsorship opportunities for the Signature event, contact Melissa McCoy at 845-485-9803 ext. 223 or online at www.abilitiesfirstny.org.

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PHOTOS



Abilities First honors Renée Bulla, Vice-President Client Services at Momentum Advertising & Design, as the 2016 Outstanding Volunteer.

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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](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.

About KeyBank

KeyBank



KeyCorp traces its roots back more than 180 years ago and is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the nation's largest bank-based financial services companies, Key had assets of approximately \$98.4 billion at Mar. 31, 2016. The eight-county Hudson Valley/Metro NY Market has 47 branches, approximately 51 ATMs and nearly 475 employees.

Key provides deposit, lending, cash management and investment services to individuals, small and midsize businesses in 12 states under the name of KeyBank N.A. Key also provides a broad range of sophisticated corporate and investment banking products, such as merger and acquisition advice, public and private debt and equity, syndications and derivatives to middle market companies in selected industries throughout the United States under the KeyBank Capital Markets trade name. For more information, visit <https://www.key.com/>.

KeyBank is member FDIC.