



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Renovations Begins on New Abilities First School

LaGrange, N.Y. – The future of educational services for students with disabilities to evolve.

Abilities First, Inc. announces construction-renovation has begun on a new state-of-the art school for students with developmental disabilities. When complete, the new school will include 9 classrooms with instructional technology, adaptive physical education space, a fully outfitted sensory gym, clinical space for therapies, and a fully accessible playground. Occupancy will take place sometime during the 2015-2016 school year.

The \$1.2m construction project is funded by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Division of Budget (NYSDOB). Redesign of the Page Management Partners property was developed by Poughkeepsie based Mauri Architects, with renovations to be completed by Mid-Hudson Construction Management.

The Abilities First School has operated in Poughkeepsie for the past 35 years. Abilities First, a not-for-profit organization, provides services to over 1,500 developmentally disabled individuals, aged pre-school through adulthood, including students from 21 school districts throughout Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam, and Columbia counties.

Abilities First Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jeffery Fox, said, “We are thrilled to begin the construction-renovation project that will bring premier educational services to students with disabilities in the Hudson Valley. Our excitement for their future has never been greater.”

With anticipation of a new school, Abilities First has focused its recent fundraising efforts on the acquisition of the necessary classroom equipment, furnishings and materials needed to support academic instruction and therapies. Contributions or the purchase of a classroom item are welcomed from the community through its Future Steps Education Campaign at www.futurestepseducation.org. For further information on how you can support the organizations Future Steps Education Campaign, please contact Melissa McCoy at 845.485.9803 x 223

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PHOTOS

AFSCHOOL_5_2015_PLANS:

(L to R) Dr. Jeffery Fox- CEO at Abilities First, Inc., Kevin Page –Page Management Partners, and Ellen Griffin – Chief Finance & Administrative Officer Abilities First, Inc. – *Reviewing plans for the new school.*



AFSCHOOL_5_2015_DEMO

(L to R) Dr. Jeffery Fox, CEO Abilities First, Inc. *takes the first swing at demolishing the existing facility, making way for the construction of a new state-of-the art school.*



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 and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,500 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.