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Melissa McCoy Obtains International Fundraising Certification

Hudson Valley, New York, USA – June 25, 2018 - Abilities First, a regional nonprofit organization, is pleased to announce that Chief Advancement Officer Melissa McCoy is included in CFRE International's recent announcement of professionals credentialed as Certified Fund Raising Executives (CFREs). McCoy joins just 6,100 fundraising professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, and demonstrated fundraising achievement for not-for-profit organizations. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights.

CFRE International is an independent organization dedicated to upholding the highest standards in ethical philanthropic fundraising through the certification of fundraising executives. The CFRE credential is available worldwide and is accredited internationally by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Abilities First said, "We congratulate Melissa on this outstanding achievement! We are fortunate to have such an accomplished professional leading the advancement efforts of our organization. "

Ms. McCoy has served Abilities First since 2014, leading the organization's marketing, communication, community relations, and philanthropy and business development initiatives. McCoy is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Mid-Hudson chapter, where she has served in leadership roles, as well as represented AFP Northeast US as regional Directors, and on the AFP international Committee on Directorship.

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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 1,500 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).

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](https://www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc).