



MEDIA ALERT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABILITIES FIRST ANNOUNCES CREATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

(Poughkeepsie, NY, October 23, 2018) – The Foundation for Abilities First NY (FAFNY) announces the appointment of its founding Board of Directors. The mission of the Foundation for Abilities First NY is to serve as the philanthropic arm of Abilities First, Inc., perpetuating the goals of the organization’s mission in providing people with disabilities and their families support to attain independence, integration, and acceptance by others through education, exploration, and experience. The creation of the Foundation for Abilities First NY was officially announced at the annual Community Breakfast Event this past July.

The founding members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Abilities First NY:

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| President | Joshua Mackey, Mackey, Butts & Wise LLP |
| Vice President | Ted Prenting, Retired |
| Secretary | Craig Irwin, Merrill Lynch |
| Treasurer | DeForest Howland, William A Smith & Son Insurance/ Ralph V. Ellis Insurance Agency Eric Baxter, RL Baxter Building Corp. Pat Rose, A&R Security John Scileppi, Retired Pete Setaro, Morris Associates Engineering Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., Abilities First |

The Foundation for Abilities First NY will establish a stable commitment of philanthropic support for Abilities First, to assure the programs, services, and quality of life opportunities remain strong and available, as well as ensure the organization’s fiscal resiliency during unexpected changes.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside my fellow Foundation for Abilities First NY board members,” said Joshua Mackey, President for the Foundation for Abilities First NY. “I look forward to working with them and the Abilities First family to build a lasting legacy for the organization.”

The FAFNY Board of Directors will raise funds in order to provide continued financial resources for the benefit and enhancement of the quality of life for individuals receiving services from Abilities First, Inc., many of which are not covered under Medicaid services including

recreational and social activities that help build life skills and promote inclusion within the community.

Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer for Abilities First said, "We are so pleased to have this foundation off the ground. This initial board of directors is an excellent group of community leaders who will lead off this important initiative. The future of Abilities First is in good hands, and we look forward to great success in building our resources in the short term and long term."

To learn more or to support the mission of the Foundation for Abilities First NY, please visit www.abilitiesfirstny.org.

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PHOTO:



Top Row, L to R: Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., DeForest Howland, John Scilepp, Ted Prenting
Bottom Row, L to R: Craig Irwin, Pete Setaro, Eric Baxter, Joshua Mackey
Not pictured: Pat Rose

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).

For more information, visit www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.