



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

PRESS RELEASE

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THE FOUNDATION FOR ABILITIES FIRST NY WELCOMES ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ITS BOARD

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (July 29, 2019) – The Foundation for Abilities First NY (FAFNY) welcomes William Van Ornum and Debra Zambito to its Board of Directors. Founded in 2018, FAFNY’s mission is to serve as the philanthropic arm of Abilities First, Inc., perpetuating the organization’s mission in providing individuals with disabilities and their families the support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others through education, exploration and experience.

Zambito is the Chief Executive Officer of Elant, Inc. Her addition to the board will help further develop FAFNY’s relationships in the Orange County region of New York. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Abilities First, Inc.

Van Ornum is a Professor of Psychology at Marist College. He has been associated with Abilities First for over 12 years and is committed to strengthening the organization’s resources for those it serves.

“We are most appreciative to Debra and William for their commitment and leadership on behalf of those served by the mission of Abilities First,” said FAFNY Board of Directors President, Joshua Mackey. “We look forward to working alongside them and the Abilities First family to build a lasting legacy for the organization.”

Abilities First President and Chief Executive Officer, Jeffery Fox, said, “We are so pleased and appreciative to see the kind of commitment by community leaders that will ensure the success of this newly formed foundation. Debra and William join an excellent group of members who will lead 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.”

FAFNY establishes 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 to ensure the organization’s fiscal resiliency during unexpected changes. The FAFNY Board of Directors raises funds that help generate the continued financial resources Abilities First, Inc. needs in order to provide services, many of which are not covered under Medicaid, including recreational and social activities that help build life skills and promote inclusion within the community.

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About Foundation for Abilities First NY (FAFNY)

Philanthropic leadership to enrich the mission of Abilities First, Inc.

Founded in 2018, the mission of the Foundation for Abilities First NY is to garner the financial resources necessary to meet the programmatic interests and to assure the sustainability of the mission of Abilities First, Inc.

Abilities First, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose 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.

Abilities First, Inc. presently serves over 1,400 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State with more than 650 dedicated employees committed to providing educational, vocational, residential, habilitation and family support programs and services.

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