Our brand new state-of-the-art aging facility, in Beacon, NY called “Howland,” is on track with building and is slated to open in December of 2013.

Our newest home, a state-of-the-art residence designed to support those who are aging and medically frail in Beacon, NY is on track to open in December 2013 just in time for our new residents to celebrate the holidays in their new home! This home is the first of its kind in New York State and will serve as a model for other community-based homes that can support people with disabilities as they age. We will be providing seniors with developmental disabilities a community-based home for the intensive care they require. Not only will we be providing them with a home to live in, but they will be part of a day program based out of the home.

The architectural firm building the home is Scott Dutton Associates who has taken into consideration accessibility and functionality of the home for the individuals residing there.

The home will be residence to fourteen individuals with complex medical needs coming from state run residential institutions in New York. As the state is looking to close down these facilities, the residents will move into homes like the one we are developing in Beacon. The majority of individuals that will reside in our new home are from different areas of New York. It is our goal to open several more homes that can meet the needs of this growing population.

As individuals with disabilities age, it is important for them to be able to stay in a home they feel comfortable in and for them to continue to feel a part of their community.
On Tuesday, September 17th we held our Annual Meeting at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield to share some important news and to bestow long time board member Roy Young with the honor of Director Emeritus.

As an organization who’s mission it is to discover, build and celebrate the ABILITY in all people, we know how important it is to look beyond someone’s disability. So as an organization, we decided that we would not let the word “disability” define us either. After careful consideration and after many interviews with staff, individuals served, family members, board members and the community the Board made the decision to drop the word “disability” from our name. We will now be known as Ability Beyond – a name that reflects an organization that is experiencing dynamic growth, in a society that has become more accepting of the people we serve.

To accompany our new name that better reflects the services we offer and the supports we provide, we also have a new logo to better represent our organization as well. The updated logo embodies a more professional, adult identity – an individual who is moving into the future with pride and confidence.

We will be slowly rolling out the new logo with a full roll out planned to be completed by early 2014. We will also have a new updated website in late 2013.

Congratulations and much appreciation to Roy Young

At our annual meeting we were honored to bestow the title of Director Emeritus to Roy Young. Roy Young has been a guiding force in the evolution of Ability Beyond for more than thirty years. His stature as a leader, his commitment to his community and his recognition of the importance of Ability Beyond’s mission has made an incredible difference in the history of this organization. Serving for many years on both the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, Roy has helped us to develop strategic plans and open doors within the community that have led to meaningful opportunities for the thousands of people with disabilities throughout the years. Roy also played a key role in our 50th anniversary fundraising campaign serving as one of three Campaign Chairs, and has continued to support the growth of our fundraising initiatives in recent years. Roy and his wife, Ginny, along with their children have been both extraordinarily generous donors and volunteers over the years. Widely recognized for their support of the annual Ability Beyond Gala in which the Robert S. Young Humanitarian award is presented in honor of his late brother, Roy and his family have helped propel the gala to new levels over the years.
Lori Pasqualini nominated for CFO of the Year

Lori Pasqualini, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer at Ability Beyond was one of eleven nominees for the Fairfield County Business Journal’s CFO of the Year awards. Lori was honored at a dinner on Wednesday October 2nd at Zero Degrees in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Lori has been the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer at Ability Beyond for 18 years. She is responsible for all fiscal matters ranging from strategic financial planning, capital planning, maintaining banking and lending relationships, and managing government funding supporting Ability Beyond. Prior to joining the organization, she worked in the health care practice of Deloitte and Touche as an auditor in Boston, and also at Bridgeport Hospital as the director of reimbursement. Her undergraduate degree is in economics from Southern Connecticut State University.

Laurie Dale presents at ANCOR Technology Conference

Laurie Dale, Director of IT at Ability Beyond, was invited to be a presenter at ANCOR’s Technology Summit in October in Colorado. Laurie and Rick McNulty, IT Project Manager, spoke about Assistive Technology and what Ability Beyond has been doing to make the lives of the individuals we serve as independent and uninterrupted as possible.

As an organization that is at the forefront of using assistive technology in our homes and programs, Laurie received many questions about what we are doing, how we are doing it and how other organizations could implement these technologies. Ability Beyond is leading the way for assistive technology across the country.

We have been running several pilots over the past year to see whether or not these technologies would be beneficial to the individuals we serve in our homes and programs and we are very happy to say that we have seen major benefits and positive impacts across the organization.

In two homes we have been piloting environmental monitoring systems, panic buttons, bed sensors, and incontinence sensors. This means that if any doors or windows are opened during certain times of the day, staff are alerted, which helps maintain safety for the individuals in the homes while allowing them more freedom. The panic buttons are for individuals to use if they need something in the middle of the night or are in a situation where they need help. This has helped give family members peace of mind and also made the individuals more independent because they determine when to alert staff for help.

The incontinence sensors have been one of the most successful tools implemented. This has allowed an individual with incontinence to finally be able to sleep through the night instead of having to be woken up every two hours. The bed sensors alert staff if someone has fallen out of bed. The sensors are able to monitor the difference between typical movement so they do not unnecessarily disturb the individual and alert staff.

After piloting assistive technology in these two homes we have been able to save over $150,000 a year with anticipated additional savings in the coming months and years.

The continued expansion of this technology across the organization will allow for greater savings and the ability to provide the best care possible for the individuals we serve.
Over the past several months we have had many businesses, school groups and individual volunteers reach out to us with some really great ideas whether it be spending time with the individuals we serve at the zoo or helping to build a deck and raised flower beds to make a home more enjoyable for the individuals living there. In the past year alone we have tripled our volunteer hours with 473 individuals spending 6,065 hours with us at a value of $168,425.

It is always great to see the community become more involved with our homes and the individuals we serve. We are so grateful for every single person that is willing to donate their time to make Ability Beyond an even better place for individuals to live, work and grow. We would like to say a special thank you to the Brunswick School, GE Capital, General Motors Company Danbury, Bussani Mobility, the Polished Girlz, Applebee’s, Curtis Instruments, and People’s United Bank, for donating their time and resources to Ability Beyond over the past few months. We appreciate everything you do for us and the individuals we serve!

Over the summer and into the fall there have been a lot of volunteer projects happening at Ability Beyond! With the generosity of Applebee’s, Curtis Instruments, the Polished Girlz, Bussani Mobility, Bonnie Arrix, Gary and Maggie Engvall, and People's United Bank we were able to put together a barbeque for all of the individuals in our New York programs at Leonard Park in Mt. Kisco which was a huge success! Over 90 individuals were able to attend. They played games, made kites, got their faces painted, had their nails painted and had a great time singing karaoke!

GE Capital in Norwalk planned a day for the individuals in our day programs to visit the Beardsley Zoo, where everyone had a great time learning about their favorite animals. Each individual that attended received a memento from their fun trip to the zoo!

The Brunswick School from Greenwich, Connecticut sent over 100 students to volunteer for the second time at Pinchbeck Rose Farm to benefit the Roses for Autism program. They all spent the day in the greenhouse learning about and helping to care for the roses and Gerbera Daisies that grow in there.

General Motors Company Danbury recently spent a full day at one of our homes volunteering their time. They helped put a deck on one of the homes and also helped build a raised flower bed. The individuals living in this home will now be able to safely enjoy their backyard and be able to take care of and grow flowers and herbs in their garden.

For more information on how to volunteer with Ability Beyond please contact Samantha Cosentino at 203.826.3181 or Samantha.Cosentino@abilitybeyond.org.
## 2013 Ability Beyond Mercedes-Benz of Danbury Dealer Championships

On Monday August 12th Ability Beyond held the 2013 Ability Beyond Mercedes-Benz of Danbury Dealer Championships at Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, CT. **Over 100 individuals** golfed and **raised over $107,000** for the 2,300 plus individuals served by Ability Beyond. It was a beautiful day for another very successful event. The winning foursome included Jordan Young, Roy Young, Dale Rogers and Paul Inskip. Thank you to everyone who came out to golf and for your continued support of Ability Beyond.

We would like to say a special thank you to our sponsors for the day including **Maplewood Senior Living** for sponsoring Dinner & Awards, **People’s Power & Gas** for sponsoring a Hole-in-One, **Hawley Management Company** and **Presidio** for sponsoring Lunch, **Greenleaf Energy Solutions** for sponsoring Cocktail Hour, **Mechanical Contractors Association of CT** for sponsoring the Longest Drive, **Connecticut Business Systems (A Xerox Company)** for sponsoring a Hole-in-One and **The Danbury News-Times** for sponsoring the Putting Green.

### Support through recent grant awards:

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On Wednesday October 16th we held our 6th Annual Disability Mentoring Day Kick-Off at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT and the following day we held our 3rd Annual Kick-Off in Lower Fairfield County at Norwalk City Hall in Norwalk, CT.

Disability Mentoring Day is a nationwide celebration on the 3rd Wednesday of October every year. This day connects over 16,500 students and job seekers with disabilities to thousands of employers across the country. At Ability Beyond we know that Disability Mentoring Day is crucial for young adults to participate in so that they can learn more about the opportunities and career paths available to them after they graduate high school. Every year between 150,000 - 200,000 students with disabilities age out of the school system and many transition from school to the adult world without support services and with nothing to do. We want young adults to know their options and know that there are supports available to them like the ones we offer at Ability Beyond.

This year Ability Beyond had over 150 students and individuals with disabilities participate between both Danbury and Norwalk at over 50 sites. Thank you to all of our sites and students for making Disability Mentoring Day another great success! We would like to especially thank our speakers Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia, Angela Caputo, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Senator Michael McLachlan, General Manager of LaQuinta Inn & Suites in Danbury Vickie Miele, Coordinator for Accessibility Services at Western Connecticut State University Elisabeth Werling, Western Connecticut State University President James Schmotter, and Sean Curran.

Families Get Creative with Fundraising

Recently Ability Beyond has been very fortunate to have family members come up with some very creative fundraising ideas to help support our organization! Michael Sgambati recently celebrated a milestone birthday and in lieu of gifts requested that attendees make gifts directly to Ability Beyond. Michael’s cousin Katie has been living with us for over 20 years and through this fundraiser Michael was able to raise over $3,000 for Ability Beyond! “It was so rewarding to do this and see how many people stepped up and how touched they were to be part of such a worthy cause,” Michael said. “A simple event of celebrating a milestone in my life had so much more meaning and made it truly a special event when I tied it into Ability Beyond and did it in honor of such a beautiful person - Katie!”

Additionally, NYC artist and advocate Mitch Siegel is generously donating 20% of his sales to Ability Beyond. As a parent of a son with autism, much of Mitch’s inspiration is derived from his son, Ryan, and his growth. Ryan is one of the millions living with autism and is a part of the Ability Beyond family. Learn about Mitch and see his magnificent work at: www.siegel-art.com.

A BIG thank you to our family members that help us through fundraising, volunteering and advocacy!
On Thursday, October 3rd Ability Beyond held their 2nd Annual Corporate Recognition Breakfast at Diageo in Norwalk, Connecticut. Over 200 people attended the breakfast honoring both individuals served by Ability Beyond and companies that have been instrumental in providing support to the organization through volunteering, employment services, in-kind goods and services and corporate sponsorships. The breakfast was sponsored by American Express, Topex, Mutual of America, Diageo, Towers Watson and O.C. Tanner.

One of Ability Beyond’s consultants for Disability Solutions, James Emmett, was the keynote speaker and talked about how companies are benefitting from hiring individuals with disabilities.

GE Capital was named Corporate Volunteer of the Year, with Branson Ultrasonics, IBM, Mercer and Pitney Bowes being recognized as well. Curtis Instruments was awarded Distinguished Partner of the Year, with Colonial Automotive Group, Connecticut Business Systems (A Xerox Company), O.C. Tanner and Presidio also being nominated. Dollar Tree received the Employer of the Year Award, with other nominees including Cinema DeLux, Con Edison Solutions, PepsiCo and Walgreens. The Business Leadership Award was presented to Boehringer-Ingelheim, and AON, Belimo and Maplewood Senior Living were also nominated for the honor. Joseph Karp, an employee of Walgreens was awarded Employee of the Year and Jamie Youngberg, who has worked at Stop & Shop for over 20 years received the Longevity Award.
Dear Friends,

For 60 years our organization has been a leader in serving people with disabilities. From the dreams of the small group of Moms and Dads who were our founders, we have grown into a highly regarded agency that today helps over 2,300 individuals each year achieve their dreams of inclusion, successful participation and personal fulfillment.

Our efforts continue to be recognized nationally as we strive to break down barriers and change perceptions about people with disabilities. For us, it is not about a person’s limitations: It is about dreams, aspirations, independence, dignity…and ability!

We are pleased to announce that we have dropped the word “disability” from our name and will now be known as “Ability Beyond”. We believe this change better reflects who we are and what we do…and more importantly, recognizes and celebrates that every person has… “Ability Beyond”…!

Warm regards,

Tom

Ability Beyond Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, 2013–2014

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