



The Ability Center

PROGRAMS & SERVICES





We See Things **DIFFERENTLY**

Achievement is within your reach, and we are dedicated to helping you get there. Our stories have the power to motivate and inspire – redefining what is possible for people with disabilities through a new narrative.

Disability may affect you at some point, so understanding the often misunderstood concept is crucial even if you have no connection to disability. Whether it's your child, your parents, or yourself, it's critical to understand what's possible and what your reality can be.

For over 100 years...

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo's mission has been to support people with disabilities in northwest Ohio. We are determined to make our community the most disability friendly in the country.

Disability friendly describes a community that values and welcomes the potential and participation of each of its citizens and visitors – including those who live differently.

We are working across sectors that make a difference – education, employment, health care, housing, transportation, technology, and social opportunities that enhance daily life.

WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN Become a Corporate Member

By joining as a Corporate Member, you are affirming to the community your investment in our mission and support of The Ability Center. A representative from your organization will be invited to quarterly partnership events to learn about our programs and collectively vote on Community Access Fund proposals, where past funding has supported inclusive playgrounds, public accessibility equipment, and more.

Determining Eligibility for Services

Programs are often funded by grants and/or philanthropic donations with specific participant eligibility guidelines. Please call our office or visit our website to learn more.

Main Office

5605 Monroe Street | Sylvania, Ohio 43560

419-885-5733

Bryan Satellite Office

1425 East High Street, Suite 108 | Bryan, OH 43506

419-633-1400

abilitycenter.org [f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [in](#)

Primary Service Area:

Defiance

Fulton

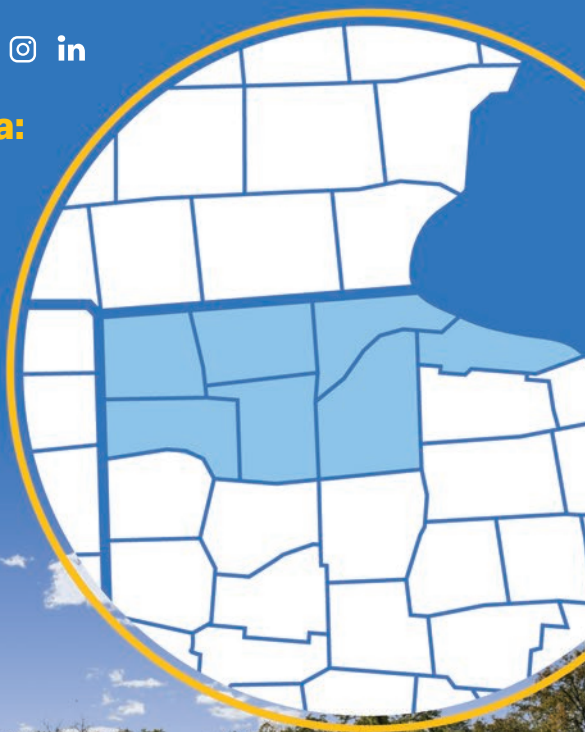
Henry

Lucas

Ottawa

Williams

Wood





Independent Living

Supporting youth and families, teens, and young adults, on their journey to independence.

Everyone's journey is unique, and independence means something different for everyone. Our goal is to encourage teens and young adults to dream about an independent adult life and develop skills to make it happen! The transition to being an independent adult takes planning and support. Build new friendships, learn about yourself, and connect with your community!

Interactive Skill Building:

- Employment readiness
- Career preparation
- Personal finance / budgeting
- Healthy lifestyle and relationships
- Cooking, meal prep and shopping
- Transportation
- Leadership and self-advocacy
- Safety at home, online and in the community
- Transportation
- Recreation and leisure
- Social skills



DREAM!!!

Disability Representation, Education, and Awareness in Media

Independent Living

Teens and Young Adults

Create your path to independence:

- Individual goal setting and support
- Summer programs
- Events and clubs

Kids Age Birth-12 and Parents

- Parent advisory committee
- Community partners
- Education series
- Inclusive playgroups
- Family peer support
- Training support
- **Toy Lending Closet** – Encourage independent play by borrowing disability-related equipment and toys.
- **DREAM Inclusive Book Project** – Disability media project designed to ensure children's books created by, for, and about people with disabilities are available and easy to find at schools, libraries, and community spaces.

Parents and Caregivers

We connect parents to each other and the community through education sessions on transition-related topics, as well as parent-to-parent support.



CEREBRAL PALSY RESEARCH
WIN SUPPORT AWARENESS
TEAM ETHAN
LOVE ADVOCATE
ENCOURAGE
STRENGTH
LEARN FAITH ABILITY
CENTER

Community Living

Assistive Technology / Medical Equipment

Get the disability-related equipment you need, hassle-free. Contact us to inquire about specific items or donate used equipment.

Equipment Generally Available:

- Commodes
- Raised toilet seats
- Shower chairs
- Transfer benches
- Wheelchairs

Home Accessibility

Home modification projects are completed to ensure safety in the home. We strive to keep people independent and thriving in their community.

Projects Include:

- Grab bars
- Low-rise steps
- Ramps (wooden or aluminum)
- Stair lifts



Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs help individuals with disabilities achieve greater independence by training and placing service and skilled companion dogs to aid with the individual's daily needs.

Service Dogs

People living with mobility disabilities are paired with service dogs specifically trained to complete tasks needed to increase their partner's independence. These dogs have protected public access rights and are considered assistive devices. They are trained in the following tasks:

- Activate access buttons and switches
- Pick up and carry items
- Open doors, cupboards, refrigerators, dryers, etc.
- Provide counterbalance while walking

Skilled Companion Dogs

Assist adults and children with disabilities who benefit from having a dog with basic obedience skills that also assist in enhancing their quality of life and achieving greater independence in the home by:

- Providing support and companionship
- Meeting therapeutic goals including improving speech, coordination and social skills
- Contributing to the well-being as they support their clients at home and at dog friendly public places



Assistance Dogs

School Facility Dogs

From boosting social skills to improving speech, school facility dogs become integral members of the school community. These furry friends offer comfort, motivation, and encourage reading among students in counseling settings. As faculty members, they create a sense of family and belonging in the school environment, residing with staff members to meet therapeutic goals and enhance the overall educational experience.

The Ability Center's Assistance Dogs Program is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International.



Agility Dogs

Using the sport of dog agility, the Agility Dog program helps individuals with disabilities develop social skills, physical capabilities, and self-confidence. Participants direct dogs through obstacle courses within specific time limits.



Advocacy

Systems Advocacy

Advocacy staff works at local, state, and federal levels to promote positive change for people with disabilities. Impact on a national scale is produced from our efforts within our key focus areas:

HOUSING

HEALTH CARE

TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC ACCESS

Policy Advocacy and Analysis

We conduct policy analysis to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live in an inclusive community of their choosing.

Disability Rights Engagement

Staff assist private and public partners in their efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights legislation.

Self-advocacy materials and resources on ADA compliance are available for download on our website.



Ways to Volunteer

Build a ramp

Foster an assistance
dog in training

Young adult volunteer
program

Join our Auxiliary

Volunteer for an event



Disability Awareness Experience

Hands-on activities

Interactive education

Team building





Ways to Donate

Sponsor and name
a puppy

Give online

Gift durable medical
equipment

Host a fundraiser

Make a planned gift



Request a Speaker

Overview presentation

Vendor request

Campus tour









DISABILITY IS A MINORITY GROUP YOU CAN JOIN AT ANY TIME.

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Scan to visit our website

