



The Ability Center

# 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



# THINK DIFFERENTLY

what you think you know  
about disability

canine companions who  
enhance independence

traditional peer-to-peer  
mentorships

assistive technology aids in  
learning new skills

job titles and cultivate careers  
for people with disabilities

be an advocate equipped with  
tools to change the system

THINK

*Differently*

THEN

ACT!

In 2023, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo experienced a transformative year achieving remarkable strides across all program areas. Each program not only expanded in scope but also greatly enhanced customer satisfaction. A highlight of the year was our Family Fun Day, which doubled its attendance from its inaugural event, solidifying its place as a community favorite. Additionally, we distributed over 3,000 pieces of durable medical equipment (DME), significantly improving the quality of life for many individuals.

Our Assistance Dog program now benefits students in over 30 schools throughout Northwest Ohio, reaching tens of thousands of students. Meanwhile, our DREAM Book Project has been successfully integrated into over 150 schools, sharing stories that feature children with disabilities simply enjoying everyday activities, thereby reshaping perceptions and fostering inclusivity. Despite this growth, we face challenges with capacity and are managing long waitlists for several programs.

Looking forward, we are excited about initial plans for a new campus designed to sustain our growth and extend our impact over the next 50 years. This expansion will enable us to meet the increasing demand for our services and continue our mission of enabling individuals with disabilities to live full and independent lives.

We can't thank you enough,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart James".

Stuart James  
Executive Director



# NUMBERS

ASSISTANCE DOGS | ADVOCACY | IND



# 2,910

Individuals with Disabilities Served (Core Consumers)



2,222 Physical



13 Hearing



123 Multiple



37 Vision



14 Mental/Emotional



379 Cognitive



122 Other

# 2,537

Information & Referral Calls

# 3,240

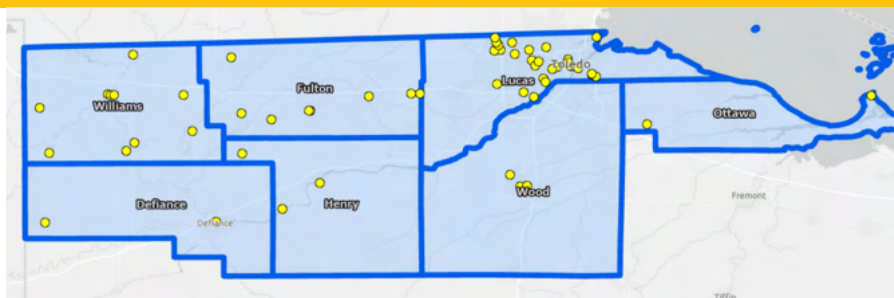
Assistive Tech and Durable Medical Equipment Distributed to **1,951** Consumers

# 195

Home Accessibility Projects

# 3,770+

People Reached Through **106** Community Outreach Events



**+ Expanded County Service Area:**

Allen, Hancock, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca  
(13 Counties Total)



# & IMPACT

DEPENDENT LIVING | COMMUNITY LIVING



## Family Fun Day

**434** Attendees

**72** Volunteers and Staff

**44** Participating Vendors and Organizations

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**550 TOTAL**

## Assistance Dogs

**26**  
Dogs  
Graduated

**63**  
Dogs in  
Training

**193**  
Active  
Volunteers

## 127 Active Working Dogs

**58** Service Dogs

**40** Skilled Companion Dogs

**29** School Facility Dogs with

**25,600+** Potential Students Impacted



**DREAM!**

Disability Representation,  
Education, and Awareness in Media

**1,625** books in

**72** elementary schools  
**11** community spaces  
**13** public libraries

---

**21,000+** kids participating in a reading challenge program



# WELLES SOCIETY

## **Named after David K. Welles, Sr. and his family.**

### Establishing the Foundation of Success Through Annual Giving

Robert & Kathryn A. Agoston  
Gerald Ames  
The Andersons Foundation  
The Andersons, Inc.  
The Auxiliary to The Ability Center  
The Eleanor Bainbridge\* Trust OH  
ITFA Max  
The Benevity Community Impact  
Fund  
Terry Bossert  
Brown & Brown of Ohio, LLC.  
TJ & Candace Buchholz  
Buckeye Broadband  
Christine Castellano  
Joe & Judith Conda  
Susan Conda  
James Covell  
Dana Charitable Foundation  
Dana Open  
Fred & Carri Dannhauser  
Dave & Susan Dignam  
Directions Credit Union  
E.W. "Gene" & Barbara Donkel Fund  
Lynne Dunifon  
Edward Lamb Foundation, Inc.  
George J. & Pat Eistetter

Mark & Sandra Feldstein Private  
Foundation  
Nate & Sydney Fields  
Diana K Foster Charitable Lead  
Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell H. Fox Fund II  
Renate Franco  
Diana French  
The Goerlich Family Foundation  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
The Graf Family Fund  
Alan Seth Greenwald  
The John & Virginia Hankison  
Foundation  
Carole Ann Harrison Charitable  
Fund\*  
The Hedlund Family Fund  
Warren & Bernice Hensel  
Foundation  
Heritage Financial Advisors  
Howard Hanna Residential  
Services  
Stuart James  
Kathy Kavanaugh  
Carol Knorr  
Holly Koester  
Koester, DiSalvo & Fried, Inc.

Paul & Jordan Kwapich  
Edward Lamb Foundation, Inc.  
Ash Lemons  
Harold & Carol Leupp  
William & Susan Logie  
The Lucas County Veterans  
Service Commission  
Mariucci and Associates  
Denise McHue  
McIntosh Family Funds  
Brian & Marcy McMahan  
Ann Meier  
Karen Merrels  
Carolyn and Herbert Metzger  
Foundation  
Susan Metzger  
Metzgers Printing+Mailing  
Don & Gail Mewhort III  
Vaughn Miller  
Miter Charitable Foundation  
Murrell Charitable Fund  
The ODSA Ohio Development  
Services Agency  
Ohio State Aerie - Bryan Eagles  
#2233  
Ohio State Bar Association  
*(continued on the next page)*



The Ohio State University  
Perrysburg Woodland Elementary  
School  
The Principle Business  
Enterprises, Inc.  
The ProMedica Flower Hospital  
Auxiliary  
Steph Prost  
NurJehan Quraishy  
Malcolm & Peggy Richards  
Christopher Riling  
Scaife Family Foundation  
Samuel F. Scott\* Trust  
The Sisters of St. Francis  
Foundation

The SJS Investment Services  
The Lucy Stevens\* Endowment  
Fund  
Barbara Stewart  
Mary Suchy  
Claudia Sundberg  
Taylor Automotive Family  
The University of Toledo  
Foundation  
TKBW Private Foundation  
The Toledo Museum of Art  
Toledo Walleye Hockey Club  
Trinity Door Systems  
Dr. Mark Tucker

VFW Post 2898  
Waite-Brand Foundation  
Walker Funeral Home  
Waterford Bank, N.A.  
Deke & Hope Welles  
Mike & Arlene Whelan  
Joann Wyatt  
Terry & Erika Yoder  
Tim & Jenni Yoder  
Thomas Young  
Zeisloft Family Trusts  
The Sandra M. Zima Fund  
Mark & Gretchen\* Zyndorf  
Foundation

*Every effort has been made to ensure names are accurate. We apologize if any errors have been made. Donations from 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023. \*Denotes deceased*

## ***Progress involves gathering diverse individuals***

*to create a well-thought-out plan that aligns with an organization's philosophy and ensures its future financial stability to bring these plans to fruition. The Ability Center has continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of future generations of people with disabilities.*

*With over 100 years of history, The Ability Center has consistently ensured that people with disabilities have the rights and tools to live the lives they desire.*



*At 65 years old, I am living proof of The Ability Center's success. Since my teenage years, this organization has been there when I needed support while allowing me the freedom to live independently within the community.*

**Renee Wood**  
**2023 Board of Directors Chair**



# HARRINGTON SOCIETY

## **Tim Harrington Lifetime Giving Society**

The society honors Tim Harrington's dedicated lifetime service to The Ability Center, supporting those with disabilities to thrive within their community and advocating to make our region the most disability-friendly in the nation. Donors committed to our mission whose gifts total \$50,000 or more throughout their lifetime are recognized with permanent membership in the Harrington Society.

Ann Mitchell Anderson Charitable Trust\*  
The Auxiliary to The Ability Center  
The Dana Open  
John & Susan Dignam  
Suzanne Openlander Frankie  
Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.  
Geraldine Halaus Estate\*  
Herrick Foundation  
Iams Company  
Paul & Stephany Johnson  
Kathleen Juzwicki\*  
Holly Koester  
Bill\* & Mary LeStrange  
Marathon Classic

McIntosh Family Funds  
Carolyn & Herbert Metzger Foundation  
Don & Gail Mewhort III  
Northwest Ohio Community Shares  
Ohio Elks Association, Toledo Lodge 53  
Ohio State Aerie - Bryan Eagles #2233  
Marilyn I. Payne\*  
PetSmart Charities  
Helen Raissle\*  
Jeanne Reed\*  
Scaife Family Foundation  
Samuel F. Scott\* Trust  
St. Michael Lutheran Church

Louise\* & Joanne Steinbauer  
France Stone Foundation  
Therma-Tru  
TKBW Private Foundation  
Toledo Refining Company  
Trinity Door Systems  
Waite-Brand Foundation  
Walgreens Distribution Center  
David K. Sr. & Georgia Welles\*  
Deke & Hope Welles  
Tim & Jenni Yoder  
Zeisloft Family Trusts  
Mark & Gretchen\* Zyndorf Foundation





# LIBBEY SOCIETY

## Edward Drummond Libbey Legacy Society

The society remembers Edward Drummond Libbey, whose transformational planned gift in 1931 created the foundation for our organization nearly 100 years ago. Donors who further secure our sustainability through thoughtful planning and have made a lasting commitment by planning a deferred gift in their will, trust, life insurance policy, estate/promissory note, or other instrument are recognized with permanent membership in the Libbey Society.

Ann Mitchell Anderson\* Charitable Trust

The Eleanor Bainbridge\* Trust OH ITFA Max

Donna L. Batig Estate\*

Estate of Thelma Jean Clark\*

Norene Drewicz Estate\*

Suzanne Openlander Frankie

Geraldine Halaus Estate\*

Carole Ann Harrison Charitable Fund\*

Victoria A. Hatton\* Estate

A.S. Hickok Trust

Mike Jaynes\*

Kathleen Juzwicki\*

Walda Kelly\*

Carol Knorr

Clifford J. Kujawa\*

Edward Drummond Libbey\*

Bill & Susan Logie

Howard & Mary Madigan\*

Marilyn I. Payne Trust\*

Allie L. Ritter Memorial Foundation Trust

S. Dean Roberts\*

Beulah Rochte

Stanley Sanders Revocable Trust\*

Samuel F. Scott\* Trust

William & Susan Tanner Trust\*

Deborah Wagner

Elizabeth J. Watson\* Charitable Remainder Trust

Eugene Williams Trust\*

Mark & Gretchen\* Zyndorf Foundation

*Every effort has been made to ensure names are accurate. We apologize if any errors have been made. Donations from 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023. \*Denotes deceased*

If you have or would like to make a planned gift to The Ability Center in your estate/will, please contact Nick Vargas, Director of Development:

**[nvargas@abilitycenter.org](mailto:nvargas@abilitycenter.org) | 419-885-5733 ext. 350**

# HONORARY TRIBUTES

**In honor of Assistance Dog Staff of ACT**

Greg and Karen Bade

**In honor of The Ahmad Family**

Kimberly Denis-Mize

**In honor of Kadee Anstadt**

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**In honor of Carol Ball**

Elizabeth Wilson

**In honor of Kate Barton**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Roger & Mary Ann Bell Family**

Helen Martaus

**In honor of Assistance Dog Bently & Former Assistance Dog Lucy**

Vincent Dorsey

**In honor of Emily Berger**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of Eric Berger Family**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of Karen Burford & Jet**

Donald J. & Patricia A. Davis

**In honor of Annette Coker**

Ted and Dawn Riegert

**In honor of Susan Conda**

Joe & Judith Conda  
Brooke Simonds

**In honor of Cindy Feasel**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of Carol Fingerhut**

David Mraz

**In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Harmon**

Colette Egner

**In honor of The Bill Hickerson Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Darla Holtz**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Amy Hubay**

Carol Fingerhut

**In honor of Bob Jump Family**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of Mary Kelly**

Fred & Carri Dannhauser

**In honor of Holly Koester**

Koester, DiSalvo & Fried, Inc.

**In honor of Allie Leatherman**

The Blarney Irish Pub James C. & Pauline K. Leatherman

**In honor of Doris Lemoine**

Caren Dudley

**In honor of Lou & Rene Levy**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of The Martin Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of The Randy McIntyre Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of The William McIntyre Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Deborah McVicker**

Aaron McVicker

**In honor of Tom & Teddy Meyer**

The Warren and Bernice Hensel Foundation, Warren Hensel Jr.

**In honor of Ross Michalski**

Sandy Michalski & Ross Michalski

**In honor of Chris Mraz**

Carol Fingerhut

**In honor of David Mraz**

Carol Fingerhut

**In honor of Brett Neff Family**

Ruth Dotterer

**In honor of Marc Pardee**

Paula Pardee

**In honor of Sue Roberts Seary**

John & Darcy Hamrick

**In honor of Max Russell**

Kathleen Russell

**In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Saxton**

Carol Fingerhut

**In honor of The Jay Seeman Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Joanna Shaw, CNP**

Teresa Sulier

**In honor of Sandy Sundermeier & Reba**

Sally Frizzell Coleman Robert J. Coleman  
Betsy Wilson

**In honor of Helen & Gerry Szostak**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of The Eddie Troxell Family**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Lourdes University**

Terry M. Keller, Lourdes University

**In honor of Kelsi Weaver & K9 Jackson**

Debbie Joseph  
Nathan Turner

**In honor of Barb Wilbert-Howe**

Kim Holmes  
Steve Blausey & Robin Agen-Blausey  
Suzette Biela

**In honor of Mary Wright & Journey**

Kim Holmes

**In honor of Lowell & Marylin Yoder**

Terry and Erika Yoder

**In honor of Tyler Yoder & dogs Duke, Tucker & Brady**

Tim & Jenni Yoder

**In honor of Jane Zbeirjewski**

Denise Antoine

**In honor of Harley Zachary and Coquette**

Arndt Harley

**In honor of Ike**

Mark Agee & Shelly Wanner-Agee





## NAVIGATORS

The Navigator Program, launched in 2023, was created in response to the observed need for consumers to have streamlined access to The Ability Center's resources from their first interaction. Navigators assist people via phone and in-person, engaging them in conversations to understand their immediate needs and using social determinant questions to identify additional connections within the program or community. This engagement helps ensure that consumers maintain their independence and achieve their life goals. Navigators perform intakes, match individuals with essential funding, and assist with applications for the Home Accessibility and Assistance Dog Programs. The program is especially beneficial for those new to disability or caregivers, helping them leave with a sense of being heard and a clear plan for maintaining independence. In 2023, we distributed 3,240 pieces of assistive technology and durable medical equipment — a 51% increase over 2022.





*Chase STEMM Academy School Facility Dog Hugo and his handler Shelly Juhasz. Hugo is sponsored by the City of Toledo.*

## ASSISTANCE DOGS

The annual School Facility Dog workshop had a significant impact, attracting over 51 educators and highlighting the growing interest in using facility dogs to enhance student well-being. The event featured the debut of a new mental health module based on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, offering evidence-based strategies for supporting students' mental health. An interactive panel discussion provided valuable insights from experts and practitioners, fostering collaborative learning. Participants also enjoyed "Pupdate" presentations from various schools, showcasing the positive impact of facility dogs in educational settings. The workshop provided practical tools, knowledge, and inspiration for educators to integrate facility dogs into their schools.





## ADVOCACY

In 2023, The Ability Center passed an ordinance outlawing disability discrimination in custody decision-making (Ohio Senate Bill 202) and helped to raise wages for direct care workers in the Ohio Budget Bill.

The Ability Center's annual ADA Seminar, "Communicating Without Barriers: Empowering ADA Compliance through Effective Communication," was held on October 6, at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library. The hybrid event featured a resource fair, a keynote speech by Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of the Deaf, and a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Rebecca Monteleone, Assistant Professor of Disability Studies at The University of Toledo. The seminar emphasized the importance of effective communication to eliminate barriers and ensure ADA compliance, offering Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for attendees. With accommodations such as ASL interpreters and CART services, the event aimed to provide accessible and inclusive learning opportunities for all participants.





## COMMUNITY

On Saturday, July 22, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's main branch was transformed by The Ability Center. This family-friendly event aimed to empower, educate, and include individuals of all abilities through a variety of fun and educational activities. Highlights included dog demonstrations, celebrity book readings (featuring Larry Stephens, a wide receiver for the University of Toledo Rockets football team), wheelchair basketball, art installations with adaptive tools, the announcement of Disability-Friendly Awards winners, resource vendors, hands-on activities, wheelchair yoga, sensory spaces, and an interactive exhibit on exploring various ramp angles. The event successfully showcased inclusive practices and celebrated the diverse abilities of all attendees.





*Holly Koester, U.S. Army Captain (retired), and Flare*

## VETERANS FUND

In 2023, The Ability Center launched the Veterans Fund to empower veterans with disabilities and their spouses, providing essential support for increased independence. Since 2021, we have assisted over 700 Veterans and their spouses. The Veterans Fund offers durable medical equipment, home accessibility projects, assistance dogs, recreational opportunities, and information and referrals. U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Paul Johnson and his wife Stephany, as well as U.S. Army Veteran Holly Koester, have been instrumental supporters, emphasizing the profound impact of our services. With the recent expansion of our service area to 13 counties in Northwest Ohio, we ensure that 100% of the funds raised stay local, enhancing the lives of veterans in our community.





## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Barb Murphy began her journey with The Ability Center's Assistance Dogs program in late 2020, after transitioning to remote work due to Covid-19. Inspired by a Facebook post seeking foster volunteers, she researched the program and quickly applied. Within a week, she picked up her first foster, a 10-week-old puppy, and despite initial nerves, found immense support from the staff and other volunteers. Over time, Barb fostered six dogs, each at different training stages, and found joy in watching them grow and develop their unique personalities. Her first foster became a skilled companion dog for a young boy, bringing happiness to his family, and Barb continues to receive updates and photos of the dog.

Beyond fostering, Barb has volunteered with the Agility Dog program, cherishing the smiles on the children's faces and the connections they form with the dogs. Volunteering at The Ability Center has been a rewarding experience for Barb, with supportive staff and a sense of contributing to a meaningful cause. Her dedication and passion for the program exemplify the impact of committed volunteers on the lives of those they serve.





## INDEPENDENT LIVING

Our Youth Leadership Forum was a grant-funded event through OSILC and OOD. We hosted 13 delegates with disabilities from across Northwest Ohio at BGSU from July 27-30. During the week, we hosted seminars on employability skills, independent living activities, and advocacy. The keynote was an inspirational presentation from a professional surfer named Jacob Pacheco who has Cerebral Palsy. There was a panel of speakers from different area colleges about support on campus for people with disabilities.





## INDEPENDENT LIVING

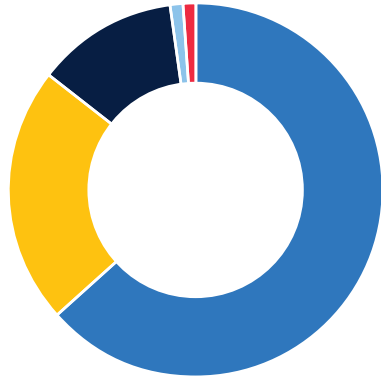
On September 23, The Ability Center hosted Family Fun Day, welcoming 434 participants, 72 staff and volunteers, and 44 vendors/station hosts, totaling 550+ people on campus. Children of all abilities enjoyed bounce houses, creative face painting, and tree climbing adventures. The event also provided a valuable resource hub for families with children, fostering community connections and access to essential family services.

We extend our gratitude to our partners: Air Max Bounce Houses, Assistance Dogs, Avenues for Autism, Courageous Community Services, Happy the Clown, Imagination Station, Mudhens/Walleye, Musically Me, Sylvania Fire Dept, Sylvania Police Dept (DARE truck), Sylvania STEM Center, The Sight Center, Toledo Metroparks, Toledo Museum of Art, and Toledo Zoo.

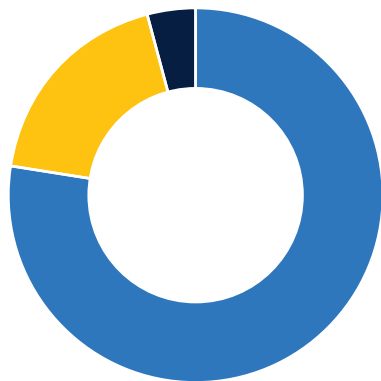


# FINANCIAL REPORT

All financial contributions directly benefit designated Ability Center programs. Administrative costs are fully covered by our endowment. Fiscal year 10/1/2022–9/30/2023.



## Revenue Report



## Expense Report



# GRANTS

## Community

Andersons Fund Supporting Organization at GTCF  
Assistive Technology of Ohio  
Dana Open  
Fund for the Elderly at GTCF  
Mercy Grey Nun Community Fund  
Ohio Elks, Toledo Lodge 53  
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council  
Oswald Supporting Organization at GTCF  
Scaife Family Foundation  
Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) Fund at GTCF  
Stranahan Supporting Organization at GTCF  
Waite-Brand Foundation  
Zeisloft Family Trusts

## Local Government

Area Office on Aging – Caregiver Support  
Area Office on Aging – PASSPORT  
City of Toledo  
Lucas County Community Development Block Grant

## State Government

Ohio Development Services Agency – Ohio Housing Trust Fund  
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

*\*GTCF – Greater Toledo Community Foundation*

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

## **In memory of Kennedy & Magic**

Trisha Flint

## **In memory of Margaret Ankney**

Susan Allman

## **In memory of Patricia Bade**

James & Constance Flahie

Frank Booth & Gale Tedhams

## **In memory of Amanda Baird & Jake**

Joseph Stout & Paulette

Petrimoulx

## **In memory of Betty Bauer**

Sandra Bauer

## **In memory of Donald Baumgartner**

The Auxiliary to The Ability

Center

## **In memory of Mary Ann Bell**

Helen Martaus

## **In memory of Bodie**

Judi Uhrman

## **In memory of Michael F. Bogdanski**

Robinne Antonacci

Lawrence P. &

Cynthia T. Bobash

Barbara Dietze

Bonnie Johnson

Steven T. & Barbara Maniak

Karen Tucholski

## **In memory of DJ Boyd**

Anonymous

Debbie Arquette

Greg and Karen Bade

Paul E. & Pamela S. Bonfiglio

Donald & Stephanie Boyd

Jim Furstman

Kim Holmes

Christine Lewis

Brittney Murphy

Maryalice Radon

Sharon Sabath

John R. & Deborah G. Sawvel

William Schmidt

Constance Shriner

Sally Speelman

## **In memory of Master Sargent**

### **Roy J. Burkett**

Catherine Burkett

Beth Lawson

## **In memory of Champ**

Sue & Chris Hirsch

## **In memory of Christine Cope**

Charles Cope

## **In memory of Charlotte**

### **DeCapito**

Dean DeCapito

## **In memory of Peggy Ducan**

Randall & Casey Graffis

## **In memory of Kim Feehan**

Rusty & Sue Goebel

Felicia Rather

## **In memory of Kevin French**

David & Luana Emline

Diana French

Monroe County MI Chapter of

Thrivent Financial for

Lutherans

## **In memory of Troy Garling**

Greg and Karen Bade

## **In memory of Clyde & Craig**

### **Givens & Bronco Willy**

Nathalie Givens

## **In memory of Ron Golightley**

Samuel & Jodi Black

Jeff & Macia Bourdo, Nicole &

Tyler

Thomas & Joan Coats

Elizabeth Crissman Beth,

Crissman, Eric Deuschle,

Violet & Sally

Dale & Karen Fahle

Renee Farmer

Jayne Ferreira

Mike & Beth Fritz

Earl & Sharon Golightley

Kenny & Sue Greulich

Dan Kemner

Denny & Cathy Layman

Ben Lindsey

Joey & Joshua Marten

Lyle & Helene Moog

John & Debra Opdycke

The Pemberville Sons of

American Legion

Kent & Jen Schuerman

## **In memory of Mark Gorlier**

Jerome Schmidt

## **In memory of Assistance Dog Greta**

Franklin Park Vision, LLC

## **In memory of John Helman**

Robert and Lucinda Biglin

## **In memory of Patricia Hilfinger**

The Auxiliary to The Ability

Center

Matt & Karen Caputo

William & Lois Hoover

Neeraj and Susan Kanwal

Diane Shull

Marilyn Stoner

## **In memory of Cresta Lee Holmes**

Kim Holmes

## **In memory of William**

### **Holt-Frieter**

Warren Wright

## **In memory of William Imes**

The Auxiliary to The Ability

Center

## **In memory of Emma Jackson**

Mary Pat Weston

## **In memory of George M. Jones**

Barry & Amy Nistel

## **In memory of Lois Karmann**

Keith and Toni Sturton

(Antoinette)

## **In memory of Jim Keeler**

Alan & Vickie Jo Geha

## **In memory of Robert Krause**

James Stamm

## **In memory of Maceline Joan**

### **Kump**

Sheldon & Susan Kowalski

## **In memory of Samantha Laux**

Chris and Gail Laux

## **In memory of Peg Lentz**

Randall & Casey Graffis

## **In memory of Louise Ann Little**

Sheldon & Susan Kowalski

## **In memory of Marilyn Lombard**

The Auxiliary to The Ability

Center

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

## **Loudenslager**

Sandra Baum  
Christine Scranton  
L. Carlton Stucky

## **In memory of Robert Lucht**

Roger and Mary Brushaber

## **In memory of Jackie Lyell**

Richard & Luann Sherrill

## **In memory of Nancy Manworren**

Franklin Park Vision, LLC

## **In memory of Helen Martaus**

Roger Bell Family  
Barry & Jessica Brown  
Joan Connors  
Sandra Drabik Collins  
Diana French  
Mary Lemerand  
Julian & Marlene M. Lippens  
The Martaus Family  
Charitable Fund  
Donna McCarthy  
Sharon Porter  
Dean & Carmen Price  
Elizabeth Stein AKA  
Wednesday Breakfast Club

## **In memory of Assistance Dog**

### **Max**

James & Sharon Hightower

## **In memory of Donald V. McIntyre**

The Ability Center, Stuart James

## **In memory of Gary Meinke**

Randall & Casey Graffis

## **In memory of Helen Metz**

James & Sharon Hightower

## **In memory of Fred Miller**

Audrey Johnson

## **In memory of Richard D. Miller**

Sheldon & Susan Kowalski

## **In memory of Beloved pet,**

### **Moocher**

Elizabeth Cousino

## **In memory of Ruth E. B. Moore**

Randall & Casey Graffis

## **In memory of Dr. James L. Niday**

Donna Windisch

## **In memory of Gene Nissen**

Randall & Casey Graffis

## **In memory of Amy's pet, Riley**

Sue & Chris Hirsch

## **In memory of Phred, Phreyja & Lady Bug**

Linda Baranowski-Smith

## **In memory of Sandra Pross**

Kate Barton  
Janet Bodnar Smith  
Donna & Mike Ciralsky  
Paula Donnell  
Paula Evers  
William & Judith Furlong  
Nancy Gagnon  
Greater Toledo Obedience  
Training Club, Inc., Joan L.  
Malak  
Kim Holmes  
Carol Ann Howell  
Jane Hufstader  
Richard & Mary Kaufman  
Tina Leach  
Karen Lemle  
Gerald & Sharon Masica  
Sandy Michalski & Ross  
Michalski  
NOSE: Northwest Ohio Scent  
Work Enthusiasts

Sheryl Pross

Lisa Redick

Maria Rohrer Ann Arbor Dog

Training Club

Kathy Rosenfeld

Tammy Rothhaar

Jen Schnebele

Leah Semrock

Leslie Shimp

Robert & Lorrie Shreve

Dixie Smith

The Toledo Kennel Club

Donna C. Anderson

Susan & James Traver

Carol & Jack Vogelpohl

Catherine Westfall

Raymond & Vicky Woods

## **In memory of Sharon Putry**

Benjamin Dansard

Tracey & Steve Edwards

## **In memory of Garry Raabe**

Roger and Mary Brushaber

## **In memory of Service Dog Reba**

Teresa Leo  
Reba Karyn Smith

## **In memory of Sally Ross**

NPO Your Cause  
Disbursement/Blackbaud

## **In memory of Garry Saccone**

Franklin Park Vision, LLC

## **In memory of David Schupp**

Elizabeth Schupp

## **In memory of Frank Semersky**

Carol Semersky

## **In memory of Robert Shelley**

Kim & JoLynn Koren

## **In memory of Beloved pet, Shine**

Patricia Eckhart  
Stuart James

## **In memory of Nathan Shumaker**

Kim & JoLynn Koren

## **In memory of Debbie Skuggen**

Robert A. & Suzette K.  
Bernatchez  
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# The Ability Center



## Disability Awareness **EXPERIENCE**

**Discover a fresh perspective on disability**  
through authentic conversations and hands-on experiences.

***No question is off limits!***

*"My favorite station was wheelchair basketball because it really helped me understand how having a disability is not 'bad' it's just different and no matter someone's physical abilities, they can still have fun with the same experiences."*

The following organizations are now thinking differently about disability:



**Request Your Experience Today! Call 419-885-5733**



# The Ability Center

## Programs and Services



### Independent Living

#### Skills for Independence and Community Support

Our goal is to encourage teens and young adults to dream about an independent adult life and develop the skills to make it happen! We offer interactive skill building for all aspects of life, goal setting, events, clubs, and support for individuals of all abilities and ages.



### Community Living

#### Home Accessibility and Disability-Related Equipment

Get the disability-related equipment you need, hassle-free. Contact us to inquire about specific items or donate used equipment. Home accessibility modification projects are completed to ensure safety in the home. We strive to keep people independent and thriving in their community.



### Advocacy

#### Housing, Transportation, Health Care, and Public Access

Working at local, state, and federal levels, our advocacy team promotes positive change for people with disabilities through our focus areas of housing, transportation, health care, and public access. We also conduct policy analysis to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live in an inclusive community of their choosing.



### Assistance Dogs

#### Service, Skilled Companion, and School Facility Dogs

People living with mobility disabilities are paired with a Service Dog specifically trained to complete tasks needed to increase their partner's independence. Skilled Companion Dogs provide support and companionship, and contribute to mental and emotional well-being. School Facility Dogs boost social skills and improve student development.

# EXPAND YOUR IMPACT

## Discover Countless Ways to Make a Difference



### LOVE PUPPIES?

Be a part of the mission providing independence through a love for dogs!

Scan this code to begin  
**Puppy Raising Today!**



### INDEPENDENCE AT YOUR DOOR **Deliveries & Pickups**

Our Durable Medical Equipment program provides individuals with disability-related equipment at no cost. Talk with a Navigator to schedule your delivery or pickup.

**Call 419-885-5733**



*Group photo of the 2023 Scholarship recipients*



## The Ability Center

AUXILIARY

Members of the Auxiliary to The Ability Center are dedicated ambassadors and fundraisers who use their time and talent to support individuals who benefit from The Ability Center's programs.

**Call 419-885-5733**

To learn more about membership





# The Ability Center

5605 Monroe Street  
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**419.885.5733**

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