picture a day when people of all abilities are fully included and valued for their contributions
Dear friends of Abilities United,

As we look back on the past 50 years of Abilities United, we recall the dream the 12 founding families had for their children: a world where people with disabilities are fully included and welcomed in all aspects of community life. We remember how they began with no resources, facilities or supporters, only a clear dream and a resolve to make their dream come true. Their founding spirit and determination is in the DNA of Abilities United.

For the past 50 years, Abilities United has been a lifeline for families in our community, providing comprehensive support services for children and adults with disabilities and helping thousands of people move from isolation in institutions or in their homes, to being present and actively engaged in community activities.

Today children with disabilities learn and play alongside children without disabilities in our Milestones Preschool. Individuals, like Maria, are dedicated and valued volunteers at local nonprofits, such as the Marine Science Institute, where she and her colleagues received the Volunteer of the Year award. We are privileged to know and serve Eriks, recognized in the community as an advocate for people with disabilities, who lives in an apartment in Sunnyvale and has a 20-year employment history. We represent artists, like Judy, who sold dozens of original artworks to art collectors and appreciators throughout the United States. Their lives have been changed by their hard work and our services. As their lives have changed, so they have changed the lives of all community members.

We have a clear vision for the next 50 years. We see a day when people with developmental and physical challenges have all the rights, resources and opportunities they need to lead the lives they choose. We see a society where there are no barriers—attitudinal or physical—to their full participation. Nothing will stop us from carrying forward this vision, entrusted to us by our founders.

Consistent with our past, our strategic plan ensures that, over our next 50 years, Abilities United service quality will continually improve and our commitment to people with disabilities and our community will remain our driving force.

We are on the threshold of an exciting future – another breakthrough – where the barriers to people with disabilities will truly come down. Abilities United represents the next 50 years, where all people, regardless of their individual abilities, will learn, live, work and play side by side, together, enriching our community. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey into the future which will enrich your life, as a participant, volunteer, employee, community partner or donor.

Sincerely,

Heidi M. Feldman, M.D. Ph.D.
Director

Lynda Steele
Executive Director
### Abilities United...50 years of inclusion and contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1963 Mental Retardation Facilities &amp; Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act passes</td>
<td>1975 Education of All Handicapped Children Act and Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act passes</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>1966 President’s Committee on Mental Retardation is established</td>
<td>1980 Americans with Disabilities Act passes</td>
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<td>1973 Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability</td>
<td>1990 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act passes</td>
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### Abilities United Milestones

| 1963 Abilities United is incorporated as C.A.R. Nursery School opens in local church basement | 1981 Employment Services opens | Abilities United will.... |
| 1966 3864 Middlefield building opens with Nursery School and recreation activities | 1983 Independent Living Skills begins | - continue our leadership role in full community inclusion and universal contribution |
| 1969 Betty Wright Swim Center opens Respite program opens | 1986 Adult Day Activities program begins | - expand our capability to serve more children, adults, families, and community partners |
| 1970 After-School Socialization opens | 2004 Milestones Preschool for children of all abilities opens | - expand our community-wide programs to provide greater interaction with those without disabilities |
| 1972 Early Intervention program begins | 2005 Computer Education program opens | - create additional innovative opportunities for community inclusion and contribution centered on each individual’s needs, preferences and abilities |
|  | 2007 Community Connections volunteer program begins |  |
|  | 2009 Therapy Clinic opens |  |

### Community impact

Families can now choose community-based education, recreation, and therapeutic services as an alternative to institutionalizing their child in facilities far from their homes.

People with disabilities have the right to individualized services to meet their specific needs and access to education and housing. They become members of the mainstream workforce, begin to live independently, and contribute to their community.

People of all abilities learn, live, work and play together creating greater fulfillment, benefit, and unity for everyone.

1963 - 1974 Isolation ends
1975 - 2012 Integration expands
2012+ Inclusion for all
Alex started in Early Intervention when he was 1.5 years old. By the time he graduated at age 3, he had developed a talent for language and linguistics. He then enrolled in Milestones Preschool where his interests expanded to climbing, music and dance. Also enrolled in Wright Swim School, Alex developed a love for swimming and now can swim the width of the pool. All the support and targeted intervention helped him stay on track to be ready for kindergarten which he will enter when he turns 5 in 2013.

left: Alex created *Colorful Fish*, done in tissue paper when he was a student in Milestones Preschool and learned about sea life.
Early Intervention provides therapy, education, and support to children with a developmental delay, and their families.

<table>
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<th>sunday</th>
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New Years Day

Ephiphany

Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
AJ’s parents enrolled him in Milestones Preschool when he was 3 years old. What attracted them to Milestones was the supportive environment and low teacher: student ratio. AJ is a bright, funny and sensitive boy who loves to learn - a good fit for the preschool and his social skills class. He has improved his peer interaction skills and has made great progress in playing well with other children.

left: AJ created *Purple Dinosaur*, done in paper, crayon, and glitter when he was a student in Milestones Preschool and he studied prehistoric animals.
### Milestones Preschool

Milestones Preschool teaches up to 60 children, of all abilities, ages 2-5 years, in a developmental and play-based environment.

**February 2013 Calendar**

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- **February 1:** Groundhog Day
- **February 3:** Chinese New Year
- **February 5:** Mardi Gras
- **February 12:** Ash Wednesday
- **February 14:** Valentine’s Day
- **February 17:** Presidents' Day
- **February 22:** Washington’s Birthday
- **February 24:** Milestones Preschool

**Milestones Preschool** teaches up to 60 children, of all abilities, ages 2-5 years, in a developmental and play-based environment.
Jessica attended the morning and pre-k classes of Milestones Preschool and is currently in the Abilities United Therapy Clinic.

Between her preschool education and occupational therapy, Jessica has made tremendous progress and is now able to focus and participate in the class along with her classmates.

left: Jessica created Volcano, done in paper, while she was a student in Milestones Preschool and she learned about the formation of the earth.
Therapy Clinic
offers occupational, physical, and speech therapy to children of all ages who can benefit from therapeutic intervention.
Ryan Navarro and his family came to the Early Intervention program when Ryan was 3 years old. In addition to the therapies and education that Ryan received, his family benefited from the support and training they received to help Ryan best develop physically, mentally and emotionally.

Ryan enrolled in the After School Socialization program when he was 10 years old. Today, at age 17 he loves his high school, the After School program, and the friends he has made at each. He has developed important social and daily living skills and is very proud of his accomplishments.

Left: Ryan created *White on Red*, painted in acrylic, in After School Socialization during an art session.
April Fool’s Day

Earth Day

After School Socialization helps children gain the social skills, academic success, and physical fitness they need to be successful in school.
Chelsey Fineberg was 8 years old when she was introduced to swimming by Betty Wright, the founder and namesake of Abilities United Aquatic Services. Chelsey learned the backstroke, butterfly, freestyle and dove to the bottom of the pool to retrieve rings.

Now an adult, Chelsey has used Abilities United Respite Services since 2005. Chelsey is engaged in many social activities through Respite, but her favorite activity is art class. She has sold many original works of art throughout the Bay Area and is a prolific painter.

above: Chelsey painted *Watermelon*, one of a series of fruit paintings, using acrylic, during her art lessons at Art For Well Beings in Palo Alto.
Respite provides educational and recreational activities to individuals of all ages to allow their family members time for personal and professional interests.
Judy Wachner has been enrolled in Computer Education at Abilities United where she is expanding her artistic talent by utilizing computer technology to create digital works of art. She is learning to use Microsoft Word and Excel to organize her life and improve her general computing skills. Judy also participates in Independent Living Skills to further her independence.

left: Judy created *Tea for One*, a digital work of art, on her tablet computer in her Computer Education class. Judy has sold original works of art to art lovers around the Bay Area.
Computer Education classes teach individuals, of all abilities and ages, how to utilize computers and technology in their daily lives.
Alan Gregory was a toddler when he learned to swim at the Betty Wright Swim Center. In 2010, Alan enrolled in the Adult Day Activities and Community Connections programs. He loves the social activities and volunteer jobs he participates in. More recently, he has been learning to cook, clean and shop through the Independent Living Skills program. His goals are to live in his own apartment and get a job.

left: Alan painted *Heart*, in acrylic, during his art lessons at the Community School of Music and Arts. He was inspired by the Valentine’s Day season.
Adult Day Activities engages individuals in community-based activities where they learn, work, and socialize with their colleagues.
Anne Berry enrolled in the Community Connections program in January 2011. She takes advantage of all the program offers, volunteering at local nonprofits and participating in the many social group activities. In April 2011, Anne joined the Independent Living Skills program to develop the skills she needs to live in her own apartment. In January 2012, she moved into a Sunnyvale house with three roommates. Anne’s new goals are to socialize more and learn to sing and write songs.

Anne painted *Tie Dye*, in pastels, during her art lessons at the Community School of Music and Art. Her love of vibrant colors and zebra stripes is reflected in this piece.
Community Connections offers adults volunteer, educational, and work experiences with our 40 local nonprofit partners.

Ramadan Ends
Michael Broadhurst has been enrolled in Independent Living Skills since November 2009. He is learning daily living skills with a goal toward moving into his own apartment. Michael recently found employment at Menlo College after years of volunteering at the Palo Alto Children’s Zoo and Museum. Michael supplements his income with art sales and has sold over a dozen original works of art to art lovers across the United States.

left: Michael painted *Golden Gate Bridge*, in acrylic, during his daily art lessons in Daly City. This is one of over 150 original works of art Michael has painted over the past 10 years.
Independent Living Skills provides personalized, 1:1 coaching to individuals so they learn the daily life skills needed to achieve independence.
Joseph Omolayole enrolled in Employment Services and Independent Living Skills in 2005. He quickly landed his dream job at a fashion store and has continued to work in the fashion field as well as a volunteer at the annual Macy’s Fashion Week. He has most recently started his own fashion design company and designed and built his company website.

left: Joseph was inspired to paint *Aztec & Mayan Calendar*, in acrylic, when he heard that the Mayan calendar ends in 2012.
Employment Services assess, place, and coach individuals in jobs that are appropriate to their skills and interests.
Nick Golick is a graduate of the Early Intervention program and learned to swim at the Betty Wright Swim Center.

Now an adult, Nick has been employed at Safeway since 2006. Each week he meets with his Employment Services coach to hone his job skills. Nick is also an accomplished artist, having sold over a dozen original works of art to art collectors around California. He is also a donor to Abilities United, donating half of his art sales to the organization.

left: Nick painted *Cactus in Yellow*, using watercolor and pencil. Nick is inspired by Frida Kahlo and the southwest.
Aquatic Services provides warm-water, in-door rehabilitation, fitness and recreation activities to children and adults of all abilities.
Xenia Rohlfs was 6 years old when she learned to swim at the Betty Wright Swim Center. Her family also used Respite Services so they could go on an extended vacation.

Today, at age 24, Xenia is in Independent Living Skills and has developed her time management skills. She has also become much more independent and now thinks about her future and what she needs to do to live independently.

above: Xenia created *Stainglass*, in acrylic, during her weekly art lesson at Art for Well Beings in Palo Alto. This piece reflects Xenia’s delightful sense of color combination.
Abilities United raised over $1.2 million in FY11/12 in donated revenue which goes directly to provide services and scholarships to the individuals we serve.
$$2,987,585$$
$$255,565$$
$$920,257$$
$$2,032,804$$
$$942,762$$
$$508,778$$
$$14,906$$
$$397$$
$$1,302,682$$
$$34,625$$
$$339,677$$
$$2,061$$
$$1,213,914$$
$$264,092$$

Congratulations to our award winners

- **Children’s Development Services** made the “Bay Area Parent” Best of the Best list for Peninsula Special Needs Services.
- **Community Connections** volunteers received the Marine Science Institute “Robert G. Brownlee Award” for outstanding community service.
- Hellen Hsieh with the agency since 2010, each received the United State’s President’s “Call to Action” Volunteer Service Award.
- Two long-term Abilities United volunteers, Becky Beacom who has been with agency since 1981 and Hellen Hsieh with the agency since 2010, each received the United State’s President’s “Call to Action” Volunteer Service Award.
- **Cisco Systems** hosted the first Abilities United online art auction in which 25 pieces of original works of art sold for over $2,500. All sales proceeds went directly to the artists.

2011-2012 finances thank you for your support!

### Government revenue
- State government: $2,941,756
- City of Palo Alto: $37,642
- City of Sunnyvale: $8,188

### Earned revenue
- Private service fees: $1,261,302
- Contract income: $18,076
- Miscellaneous income: $14,906
- Interest income: $8,398

### Donated revenue
- United Way Silicon Valley: $2,061
- Individual donations/foundations/corporations: $851,443
- Special events: $397,842
- (less direct expenses): $(72,071)
- Donated services: $34,625

### Total operating revenue
- $5,504,167

### Endowment investment
- ($5,948)

### TOTAL REVENUE
- $5,498,219

These financial statements are based on a final audit report prepared by Berger/Lewis Accountancy Corporation and is available upon request.
Abilities United salutes our Caring Circle members

We thank these individuals who have made a legacy gift to Abilities United

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Thank you to these donors who have made a gift to the Abilities United Endowment Fund

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If you have included Abilities United in your estate plan, or would like information about making a bequest or endowment gift, please contact Carol Lillibridge at 650-618-3328 or Carol@abilitiesunited.org
Abilities United salutes our donors who have supported us for 20 years or more. Thank you for your ongoing belief in Abilities United and our mission.

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Wilbur Woodside

Sobrato & You ...
Rose to the Challenge!

The Sobrato Family Foundation gave us a 2:1 challenge capacity building grant in 2011-12.

Sobrato challenged Abilities United to raise $80,000 from new and lapsed donors, or increased donations from current donors. If we could meet that challenge, Sobrato would donate a total of $164,000.

Thanks to you, we raised well above the required amount. Donors came through with generous gifts for a total of $325,278; $118,000 came from new donors and $100,000 from lapsed donors!

In total, we received an impressive $489,278 from Sobrato and you, our generous donors!

Lynda Steele, Executive Director of Abilities United was elated, “The Sobrato Family Foundation knows the value of strategic planning and holds us to our goals. They have an investment in the future of Abilities United. They support us to increase our donor base and they enable us to seek new donors. They believe what we do is important enough that they want others to invest in Abilities United.”

We couldn’t have had this tremendous success without the 2:1 Challenge and your support.

Many, many thanks to the Sobrato Family Foundation and to all of you, our wonderful donors!
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Anonymous +

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Donors and volunteers make events a success!

Once again, dedicated donors, participants, staff, and volunteers were instrumental in the success of our two major community events, the Aquathon and the Authors Luncheon. Together these popular events raised nearly $400,000 for program services in 2011-2012!

Aquathon 2011

A very special thank you to our Corporate Sponsors

• $10,000: NVIDIA and Oracle
• $5,000: Intuit and Lockheed Martin
• $2,500: Webcor Builders

Stellar results!

• The Top Ten 2011 Aquathon fundraising teams raised a total of $93,579
• The Top Ten 2011 Aquathon individual fundraisers were: Charlotte Rayfield, Marc Weeks, Michael Rayfield, Michael Skarpelos, Philip Decker, Keely Castedoat, Jesse Smithnosky, Michael Seiders, Dan Logan and Robin Flecha

Many thanks to honorary swimmer Mike Seiders and to all our wonderful Aquathon volunteers!

Authors Luncheon 2011

Our 20th anniversary celebration was a huge success!

• Authors Luncheon received sponsorship support from 41 individuals and corporations, which totaled $170,000
• Carolyn Brennan and Gina Rayfield, co-chairs, led our committees of volunteers, which worked throughout the year to plan the 20th Anniversary Authors Luncheon
• Books, Inc., our Book Salon partner, contributed 20% of event book sales ($4,250) to Abilities United
• Carolyn Johnson of ABC7 joined us as the event emcee
• Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen spoke about philanthropy and gifted her book “Giving 2.0” to all of the luncheon guests in commemoration of her mother and first Authors Luncheon honorary chair, Fran Arrillaga.

Thank you for making these events such a tremendous success, year after year!
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Abilities United champions people with developmental and physical challenges and provides the training, education, and support they need to lead the lives they choose.