Xavier and his parents are in Abilities United Early Intervention. They enrolled him when he was 1 year old because of his speech delay.

His mother states, “This program helped my son drastically improve his speech, social and fine motor skills. The staff has been extraordinary, they have treated Xavier like family. I am very grateful that he was given the opportunity to interact with other children his age and was easily able to relate to his classmates. As a parent it was wonderful to see him improve and participate in the classroom routine. Xavier is doing very well and will enroll in preschool very soon.”

“Leap Frog” Mixed Media

Xavier created Leap Frog in his Early Invention session. He was hesitant about getting his hands “dirty” with paint but with the appropriate coaching he has created beautiful artwork.
Early Intervention provides therapy, education, and support to children with a developmental delay, and their families.
Mark started in the Abilities United Milestones Preschool on his birthday on May 19, 2015. His mother states, “As soon as Mark started going to Milestones Preschool we knew that Milestones was our ticket to success. Mark’s language and social skills are improving with each day. He loves the teachers and seems to have a wonderful time in the class.” Mark adores his grandma, Babooshka in Russian, and named this painting after her.
**Milestones Preschool** teaches children of all abilities, ages 2-5 years old, in a developmental and play-based environment.

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- **Groundhog Day**
- **Rosa Parks Day**
- **Chinese New Year**
- **Mardi Gras**
- **Ash Wednesday**
- **Valentine’s Day**
- **Presidents’ Day**

**February**

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*Sponsors, neighbors, and coworkers with disabilities*

**abilities united**
Peyton started in the Abilities United social skills group in 2012 while enrolled at Milestones Preschool. In the three years he has been attending a social skills group, his skills have improved tremendously and he has made a ton of friends.

Peyton is now six years old and in first grade. He loves math and science, and enjoys swimming and playing outside. He recently started playing on the Wii gaming system and is hooked!

“Turtles”
Mixed Media
Peyton created this beach scene to commemorate the joys of his summer.
**Therapy Clinic**

Offers occupational, physical, and speech therapy to children of all ages who can benefit from therapeutic intervention.

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### Calendar for March 2016

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- **13 March**: Spring Equinox
- **20 March**: Daylight Savings Time
- **21 March**: Palm Sunday
- **22 March**: St. Patrick’s Day
- **27 March**: Easter Sunday
- **29 March**: César Chávez Day
- **25 March**: Good Friday
- **26 March**: Holy Saturday
Ryan Russ-Navarro and his family came to the Early Intervention program when he was 3 years old. In addition to the therapies and education Ryan received, his family benefited from support and training to help him best develop physically, mentally and emotionally.

Ryan enrolled in the After School Socialization program when he was 10 years old. Today, at age 20 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.

“Monster” Watercolor  
Ryan painted this whimsical Monster on a coffee filter during a theme day at After School Socialization.
After School Socialization helps children gain the social skills, academic success, and physical fitness they need to be successful in school.
Naoki Minaki has been with Abilities United for 8 years as a participant in Respite Services. He began drawing when he was 3 years old and has continuously produced work inspired by events in his life. Recently Naoki has learned beading techniques and hopes to incorporate his passion for beading into his art making. His artwork showcases his love of vivid colors and playful characters. Naoki creates art to make people smile.
Respite provides educational and recreational activities to individuals of all ages to allow their family members time for personal and professional interests.
Judy Wachner enrolled in Abilities United Computer Education to expand her artistic talent through the use of computer technology. She now creates digital works of art which has helped her improved her general computer skills. Judy also participates in the Independent Living Skills program to further her independence.

A prolific artist, Judy has exhibited her work at various institutions including the de Young Museum and Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose. She is deeply inspired by abstraction and colors.

“Vivid”
Acrylic

“Vivid” features Judy Wachner’s brilliant use of color. She painted this piece to commemorate the spring season.
Computer Education classes teach individuals of all abilities and ages how to utilize computers and technology in their daily lives.
Anne Berry has created beautiful works of art while in the Abilities United Community Connection program. Since joining the program in January 2011, she has taken 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. She moved into a Sunnyvale house with three room-mates in January 2012.

Anne’s new goals are to socialize more and learn to sing and write songs. She loves to paint watercolor and uses her outings and adventures to influence her artwork. Anne uses her favorite colors, purple and pink, to dominate the field which creates a playful composition.

“Lovely”  Anne created Lovely during her art classes at Community School of Music and Art (CSMA) in Mountain View.
Adult Day Activities engages individuals in community-based activities where they learn, work, and socialize with their colleagues.

- **Independence Day**
- **Ramadan Ends**
Christina Knestrick has been a participant of Abilities United since she was an infant enrolled in Early Intervention. As a child, she also participated in the After School Socialization and Respite programs. She is a long-time participant of the Adult Day Activities program where she created this piece as a way to make the viewer happy and optimistic. Nature is a large influence in Christina’s paintings. In this piece, she uses her love of flowers to dominate her composition. She is able to capture human attention and emotion through her bright and outgoing personality.

“Purple Flowers”
Acrylic

Christina created Purple Flowers during her art classes at Community School of Music and Art (CSMA) in Mountain View.
Community Connections offers adults volunteer, educational, and work experience with our 50 local nonprofit partners.
Michael Broadhurst has been employed at Menlo College since 2012 after years of volunteering at the Palo Alto Children’s Zoo and Museum. He is enrolled in the Abilities United Independent Living Skills program with a goal of moving into his own apartment. Michael supplements his income with art sales and has sold dozens of original works to art lovers across the United States.

In 2013, Michael was featured in a Mercury News cover story and in an ABC 7 TV news story. His vision and long-term goal is to own a ranch where he can share his love of animals with the world. In summer 2015, Michael shared his vision with the community when he was the featured artist at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose.

Puma shows Michael Broadhurst’s love for animals and the environments they live in.
**Independent Living Skills** provides personalized, 1:1 coaching to individuals so they learn the daily life skills needed to achieve independence.

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- **Labor Day**

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- **Patriot Day**
- **Autumn Equinox**
- **Native American Day**
Philip Ma is a graduate of the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where he studied animation and fine arts techniques. His artistic inspirations come from his strong interests in human emotions and environmental motions. He uses traditional and digital art mediums to express his passions. Philip has sold numerous original works of art. In 2014, his commissioned pieces garnered him the Cupertino “Emerging Artist Award” and in September 2015, he was the featured artist at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose.

Philip enrolled in the Abilities United Independent Living Skills program in 2012 to learn to live independently. He is employed at Ada’s Cafe in Palo Alto.

“Himeji Castle”
Pen

Philip was inspired to draw Himeji Castle after a 2004 family vacation to Japan.
Employment Services
assess, place, and coach individuals in jobs that are appropriate to their skills and interests.

- Columbus/Indigenous Peoples
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- White Cane Safety Day
- Halloween
Ingrid Lai learned about Abilities United early in 2012 through a friend and her doctor. She started in 1:1 aquatic rehabilitation and graduated to aquatic fitness. “I am so happy to find this place. Everyone is so supportive and understanding.” Traditionally rendering her subject in oils, Ingrid Lai is a talented artist who has sold many works of art throughout the Bay Area. Her bright and happy personality comes across in her paintings, which frequently feature vivid colors. Ingrid was a featured artist at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose in 2015.
Aquatic Services help individuals of all ages and ability levels benefit from water rehabilitation, fitness, and recreation.

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First Sunday of Advent

Daylight Savings Ends

State Election Day

Veteran’s Day

All Souls Day

First Sunday of Advent

All Saints Day

Thanksgiving Day

abilities united
Mark Gregory and his sister found Abilities United through a San Jose Mercury News article about the art program. Since joining Abilities United in 2014, Mark Gregory has exhibited in various locations including the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose and Philz Coffee in Palo Alto. His art practice is dominated by his love for color and lines. His many abstract pieces feature tessellation, which is the use of one or more geometric shapes with no overlaps and no gaps. Mark is inspired by surrealist artists with their odd and quirky subjects.

“Groove”  
Acrylic

Mark Gregory’s work, *Groove*, is a beautiful, fun, and colorful take on an all-over composition. He brilliantly allows the viewer’s eyes to dance across the piece.
Volunteers are a vital resource to Abilities United. 350 individuals contributed over 7,250 hours of their talent and time, valued at $190,000!
Dear friends of Abilities United,

We are proud to be a part of this important agency that you helped create and sustain and are pleased to report the service and financial highlights of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (FY14/15).

Our success is due to you, our thousands of donors, volunteers, partners, participants, staff members, and long-time friends who support Abilities United. Each of you was critical to the successful completion of our “United for the Future” campaign, which raised over $2 million in one time gifts and multi-year pledges to create, expand and sustain services. We also had record revenue from the Authors Luncheon and Aquathon, which together raised $450,000, and The Sobrato Family Foundation Challenge grant which contributed an impressive $225,000.

Highlights of FY14/15 accomplishments you made possible include:

- **adult services** Adult Services received regional center authorization to open two new services: Tailored Day and Integrated Living, both of which offer one-to-one coaching for adults to expand their skills to live independently. Continued partnerships with over 100 Bay Area employers ensured that we placed 32 individuals in appropriate jobs, including placements at new partners, Homewood Suites-Hilton in Palo Alto and Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara.

- **children’s services** Milestones Preschool was licensed for and expanded to full-day with a half-day option. We also launched our collaboration with Stanford University to offer social skills classes to children with and without autism.

- **family support** We continued our partnership with the City of Palo Alto for a second year to manage the city’s “Summer’s Excellent Adventure Camp” designed for children of all abilities.

- **aquatic services** The rehabilitation, fitness and recreation aquatic programs continue to be offered in local warm-water pools including the Timpany Center in San Jose and Channing House in Palo Alto, as well as our new Redwood City partner, Hoover Pool. We are proud and delighted to have provided swim and water safety lessons and education for over 600 low-income children from Redwood City and their parents.

The Abilities United Board of Directors had an extremely fruitful year. In September it approved the Abilities United 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, which positions us to address the changing needs of people with disabilities and our community. Specifically, our 2015-2018 goals are to

- Provide seamless transition from one service to another throughout the lifetime of participants.
- Increase community awareness of Abilities United.
- Assess the needs for redevelopment of Abilities United facilities.

We can’t thank all of you enough for the diverse contributions you made to Abilities United in this past year. Each of you truly makes Abilities United a successful and a valued member of the local community. All of our accomplishments are only possible because of your support and belief in this organization and your ongoing commitment to the people who benefit from Abilities United services.

Sincerely,

David Kabakov
Board President

Charlie Weidanz
Executive Director
**United for the Future 2 year campaign concluded and raised $2.2 million in one-time and multi-year pledges to expand and add new services.**

- 32 adults were hired by local employers and 10 new employment partnerships were formed.
- 19 Independent Living Skills program participants moved into their own independent housing.
- Adult Day Activities Program/Community Connections enrolled 23 clients at Foothill College.
- More than 600 low income children and their parents received low or no cost water safety lessons.
- Milestones Preschool expanded to a full-day program in addition to the half-day program.
- Early Intervention and the Therapy Clinic partnered with Stanford University to research the benefits of social skill development on children with Autism.
- Community Connections’ television program featuring an interview with Dr. Temple Grandin won the 2014 W.A.V.E. Award, recognizing the best community media programming in the western states.
- Stanford University recognized Abilities United as their community partner of the year because of our employment partnership.

**Our mission**
Abilities United supports children and adults with disabilities, their families and the community, and champions a culture in which all members of society are included and appreciated for their distinctive contributions.

**Our vision**
Abilities United sees a society where people of all abilities learn, live, work, and play together creating greater fulfillment, benefit, and unity for everyone. It is a society where there are no barriers to the full inclusion and contribution of people with disabilities and their families.

**Strategic direction**
Abilities United ensures that thousands of people with developmental and physical disabilities fully participate in community life. Abilities United provides comprehensive training, education, and support to individuals and their families. We build strong connections with and among the people we serve, and to community resources, to further enrich their lives with personal, meaningful experiences.

**Our funds came from**
- **Government Revenue**: 60.8%
- **Donated Revenue**: 30.5%
- **Management Support**: 24%
- **Children Services**: 15.5%
- **Family Services**: 7.5%
- **Aquatic Services**: 5.5%
- **Fund Raising**: 1.1%
- **Others**: 0.4%

**Our funds were spent on**
- **Adult Services**: 40%
- **Fund Raising**: 1.1%
- **Aquatic Services**: 5.5%
- **Management Support**: 24%

These financial statements are based on a final audit report prepared by Robert Lee and Associates, LLP which is available upon request.
we extend our sincere thanks to each and everyone one of our generous donors!

Special gift of $100,000+
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Oracle+
Rachel and Adam Paley+
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++ indicates donor for 20+ years
+ indicates donor for 10-19 years

** indicates donor for 20+ years
+ indicates donor for 10-19 years

** indicates donor for 20+ years
+ indicates donor for 10-19 years

** indicates donor for 20+ years
+ indicates donor for 10-19 years
Sustainers $500-$999

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together we “united for the future”

You have enabled Abilities United to exceed our “United for the Future” goal of $2,000,000. Throughout the two-year (2013-2014) campaign you contributed a total of $2,161,179 in one time gifts and multi-year pledges! Through your generosity, Abilities United launched new integration and inclusion programs for individuals with disabilities and their families. Highlights of the new and expanded services for participants with disabilities include:

• An art program for resident artists in which their original works of art are exhibited and sold
• Increased job placement for adults so they can utilize their skills and talents to benefit local businesses
• Additional therapy equipment for children so they can receive the most up-to-date therapeutic techniques
• Scholarships for low-income individuals and families to benefit from our preschool, therapy, and aquatics.

To improve our capability to deliver those services, your generosity also allowed us to install an improved reporting system so that we work more productively and effectively, thus freeing up staff time to provide the services needed by the children and adults we serve. All these changes and improvements will make it increasingly possible for people of all abilities to live, learn, work and play together for greater fulfillment, benefit and unity for everyone.

Throughout your generosity, you have changed the lives and the futures of thousands of children, adults, and their families. On behalf of everyone at Abilities United, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the extraordinary difference you have made in the lives of community members who need and benefit from Abilities United services.

Supportive community members led this successful campaign, and we are eternally grateful to these individuals.

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Special thanks to the following, and other generous donors, whose gifts total $1.2 million:

• David and Lucile Packard Foundation for their lead gift of $250,000
• David E. Hahn Employment Services Placement
• Elizabeth Wolf Art Scholarships
• Lynda J. Steele Leadership Development
• Merrill E. and Alicia M. Newman Drowning Prevention
• Reller-Moragne Staff Training for Children and Family Services
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• Vera and Boris Bogart Foundation Early Intervention Playground
• Art Program Coordinator funded by an anonymous donor

Thank you for uniting with us to improve services for our community members!
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Abilities United supports children and adults with disabilities, their families and the community, and champions a culture in which all members of society are included and appreciated for their distinctive contributions.

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525 E. Charleston Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Phone: 650-494-0550
Fax: 650-855-9710
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Editing: Wendy Koven, Charlie Weidanz
Design: Laurie Zieter
Photography: Inside: Albert Ford, Mike Persson
Cover: Mike Persson

Printing: Prodigy Press, Palo Alto, CA

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