2019 calendar
featuring artwork by Abilities United artists
Our vision
Abilities United sees a society where people of all abilities learn, live, work, and play together.

Our mission
Abilities United advances inclusion, advocacy, and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Our strategic direction
- Continuum of services
- Financial health
- Brand awareness
- Future development
Dear friends,

It is an honor and pleasure to thank each of you - our supporters, participants, staff, volunteers, partners, and artists - for making Abilities United a reputable, award-winning agency.

Please accept this 2019 calendar, featuring the artwork of participants of Abilities United’s various services, as a token of our appreciation.

You are vital to the success of Abilities United and we invite you to join us at our various events throughout the year. You also receive invitations to Abilities United fundraising events including the very popular and entertaining Authors Luncheon as well as the fun-filled Aquathon.

Watch for invitations to our numerous art exhibitions that feature original works of art created by the artists featured in this calendar.

Thank you for being a true partner in our achievements and accomplishments! Your involvement truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and adults with disabilities, and their families, who need and benefit from Abilities United services.

We cannot fulfill our mission, vision, or strategic direction without your involvement.

The entire Abilities United team wishes you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful 2019.

Sincerely,

Charlie Weidanz
CEO

Please visit us at Abilities United to see our services in action and meet some of the wonderful people in the calendar.

Contact 650-494-0550 or info@AbilitiesUnited.org to schedule a time that is convenient for you to join us on a tour.
Gabi Dedek, a lifelong participant at Abilities United, started out in the Early Intervention program at just two months old where she learned to crawl, walk, talk, eat, and so much more. What she learned at the program, her family replicated at home, so she could continue her therapy and learning. Gabi’s mother stated, “The fact that Abilities United was there for us made a big, big difference in our lives. It was essential to our survival. I have no idea what we would have done without the Early Intervention program.”

Today, Gabi, a graduate of the Palo Alto School district, volunteers full-time in the Abilities United Milestones Preschool and the Adult Day Activities programs. Gabi also is an artist with the Abilities United Art Program where her original works are exhibited and sold. Like her bright, bold, effusive artwork, Gabi is full of energy stating, “I want to spend the rest of my life at Abilities United! I love my life and work.”

**Gabi Dedek**

**Gabi Dedek**

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**Gabi painted “Totally Furry” in her art class.**
Early Intervention/Therapy provides therapy, education, and support to children with developmental delays, and their families.
Three-year-old Rhys Fletcher is enrolled in Early Intervention and Milestones Preschool. Since he uses a feeding tube, his family was delighted to find that staff can accommodate his needs and have helped Rhys regain his oral eating skills. For the first time in 2 years, Rhys eats solid food. Now that he has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), the staff further helps the family by working with the school district on tracking his progress.

Rhys’s mother states, “I’m happy to say he’s healthy and thriving. The hard work with early intervention, therapy, and Milestones Preschool has paid major dividends. I’m still in awe whenever I see him scamper up a rock wall like other kids. When the time comes, we plan to enroll him in public school.”

Rhys created, *The World is a Rainbow*, named after his favorite song, during an art class in Milestones Preschool.
### Milestones Preschool

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

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- **3rd**: Milestones Preschool opens
- **5th**: Valentine’s Day
- **10th**: Groundhog Day
- **13th**: Rosa Parks Day
- **16th**: Presidents’ Day
- **18th**: Chinese New Year
- **20th**: Mardi Gras
- **21st**: Valentine’s Day

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**Milestones Preschool**

- **February 2019 Calendar**

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abilities united

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February
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. He enjoyed his high school years and the friends he made there and in the Socialization program. He has developed important social and daily living skills and is very proud of his accomplishments. Today, at age 25, he has graduated to the Abilities United Adult Services program and participates in daily educational and recreational activities as well as volunteer and community service.
Socialization Training helps individuals gain the social skills, academic success, and physical fitness they need to be successful in school.
“E” has been part of Abilities United for the past nine years. She attends the Adult Day Activities and Community Connections and enjoys Independent Living Skills activities. She loves the Abilities United art, communication, and cooking classes and is a big fan of her Foothill College classes.

In her spare time, “E” loves listening to and singing to Cold Play and the Beatles. She also loves to dance with her friends and is always open for hiking and shopping. A big movie buff, her weekly treat is to check out the latest movie at the local theatre.

A kind, compassionate young woman with a great sense of humor, she glows when she states, “I love Abilities and never want to leave.”
Community Connections provides volunteer opportunities at dozens of local organizations and an educational series of classes to enhance communication and vocation skills.

march 2019
- Good Friday: April 19
- Passover Begins: April 14
- Palm Sunday: April 21
- Tax Day: April 15

april 2019
- Easter Sunday: April 21
- Earth Day: April 22
- Good Friday: April 19
- Passover Ends: April 27

may 2019
- Community Connections
- provides volunteer opportunities at dozens of local organizations and an educational series of classes to enhance communication and vocation skills.
Michael Parker received early intervention services where he improved his communication, fine motor, readiness, and social skills. He attended elementary, middle, and high schools in the Milpitas Unified School District. He attended Achieve Kids in Palo Alto before joining the Abilities United Adult Day Activities and Community Connections programs where he is active in educational and recreational activities as well as in volunteering at local nonprofits.

Michael enjoys playing basketball, exercising, and listening to music using his ipad. Michael recently discovered his artistic talents and prefers working with acrylic and watercolors. His focus is on geometric shapes, symmetry, and balance. His goal is to sell his artwork on a regular basis.

Michael painted *Osmosis* in his art class at Abilities United when they studied watercolor techniques.
### Day Activities

Day Activities engage individuals in activities so they can fully participate in their community through educational, recreational, and social activities.

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**May 2019**

- Cinco de Mayo
- Ramadan Begins
- Mother’s Day
- Harvey Milk Day
- Memorial Day
Daniel Arroyo has been drawing and painting since he was 5 years old when he started drawing cartoon characters. As a source of imagery, Daniel works from his imagination and photos. His favorite part of creating a painting is the process of adding one brush stroke after another, giving an impression of movement to the finished work.

Daniel participates in the Independent Living Skills and Computer Education programs at Abilities United. He has taken art classes at Young at Art in Cupertino and currently continues his art education at De Anza College. Daniel also attends Art Hub Academy in Saratoga and is a featured artist with Abilities United partner, ArtLifting.com.

Daniel painted *Fusion* in his home studio as one in a series of pieces showing transformation.
**Computer Education**
classes teach individuals of all abilities and ages how to utilize computers and technology in their daily lives.

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**Abilities United**

**June 2019**

- **23rd**: Father’s Day
- **24th**: Flag Day
- **25th**: Summer Solstice
- **30th**: Ramadan Ends
Ian Hucke, a resident of New Mexico, uses a variety of mediums such as acrylic, graphite, watercolor, pastels and ink to express himself while experimenting with a wide range of styles and subjects. His latest body of work is inspired by a curiosity in the people around him, fascinated by their appearance and possible lives. In response, he developed a series of portraits entitled People Watching, where he invents playful mini-stories about his anonymous models.

Ian says, “I love story telling. My art, if I do it well, provides the ability to be a storyteller without words. I am thankful for my ability to excel at it, in spite of my physical deficits. My goal is to draw what I love well, and be able to make a living doing that.”

In 2015, Ian traveled to San Jose to lead an art workshop at the Children’s Discovery Museum.
Art Program provides artists of all abilities and backgrounds access to the art community through exhibitions, sales, and promotions in the Bay Area and beyond.
Philip Ma started creating art as a child drawing and painting human, Disney, and animal characters. At 7 years old, he started formal artistic training in a private art studio where he learned to use a variety of mediums. He later received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 3D Animation and Visual Effects from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Philip truly believes both traditional art mediums and technology tools can work hand in hand to push his art to a different level in visual expression.

In 2014, he was awarded the Cupertino Emerging Artist Award. In 2015, 2017 and 2018, Philip led an art workshop at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose. Philip is also a featured artist with Abilities United partner, ArtLifting.com. Philip is enrolled in the Abilities United Independent Living Skills program to learn to live independently. He is employed at Ada’s Cafe in Palo Alto.
Independent Living Skills provides personalized, 1:1 coaching to individuals so they learn the daily life skills needed to achieve independence.
Michael Broadhurst has been employed at Menlo College since 2012 after years of volunteering at the Palo Alto Junior Zoo and Museum. He is enrolled in the Abilities United Independent Living Skills and Computer Education programs with a goal of moving into his own apartment. Michael supplements his income with art sales and has sold dozens of pieces to art collectors across the United States.

Michael’s paintings reflect his vision of an animal kingdom where all the animals of the world live harmoniously and experience the freedom to be wild. In 2015, his work inspired the exhibition Paradise Ranch at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose, where he led an art workshop as a visiting artist. Michael and his work have been featured in the San Jose Mercury News and on ABC7 News.

**Grand Canyon**  
Watercolor, ink, and graphite on paper

This painting reflects Michael’s love for nature, animals, and the environments they live in.
Ingrid Lai learned about Abilities United early in 2012 through a friend and her doctor. She then started one-on-one aquatic rehabilitation and graduated to aquatic fitness. “I am so happy to have found this place. Everyone is so supportive and understanding.”

Deeply inspired by plein air and impressionist painting, Ingrid is a talented artist who has sold many works of art throughout the Bay Area. Rendered with oils, and more recently with acrylics, her still-life paintings capture the beauty of stillness and everyday objects. Ingrid is also a featured artist with Abilities United partner, ArtLifting.com.

This piece has meaning, hidden words. Look closely to find them.
Aquatic Services help individuals of all ages and ability levels benefit from water rehabilitation, fitness, and recreation.
Judy Wachner enrolled in the Abilities United Computer Education program to expand her artistic talent through the use of computer technology. She creates digital works of art, which has helped her improve her general computer skills. Judy also participated 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’s 2015 Art Slam, the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose and the Palo Alto Art Center’s community gallery. She is a featured artist with our partner, Eklektic Art.
Donors

Generous contributions provide the vital services that benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities.

**October 2019**

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**Daylight Savings Ends**

**Veterans Day**

**Thanksgiving Day**
Palo Alto-based artist Jazthri creates abstract designs using markers on paper, one of her mediums of predilection. She usually spends a couple hours to complete one of her colorful and intricate drawings, replicating the same pattern over and over in different shades of color.

Animals and nature inspire Jazthri’s drawings and sculptures. She created an art piece in a plein air session held in the Abilities United Lynda Steele Heritage Garden, where she used to volunteer. In addition to volunteering for Abilities United, Jazthri participates in the Independent Living Skills program.
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**First Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Day**

**Kwanzaa Begins**

**New Year's Eve**

**Hanukkah Begins**

**Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Day**

**Kwanzaa Begins**

**Winter Solstice**

**Hanukkah Ends**

**New Year's Eve**

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**Volunteers** are a vital resource to Abilities United. 427 individuals contributed 9,326 hours of their talent and time, valued at $271,000!
Board of directors 2017-2018

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LaSandra Brill
Cassy Christianson
Mike de la Cruz
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Carl Feinstein, MD
Qing “Alex” Hua
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Ishrag Khababa
Christopher Murphy
Cynthia Owyoung
Patrick Romzek
Steven Schmidt
Rachel Segars
Susan Vaswani
Joey Vaughan
Jennifer Wagstaff-Hinton
Kim Wilford
Christy Wyatt

Special thanks to outgoing board members:
Cassy Christianson, Rachel Segars, and
Susan Vaswani

Abilities United advances inclusion, advocacy, and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Charlie Weidanz, Chief Executive Officer

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