

About The Able Trust

activities and carry out its goals. In 1994, an Executive Order named The Able Trust as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities. Since then the Foundation has taken on state and national initiatives to increase employment opportunities, address cultural diversity, educate employers and prepare young adults for life beyond high school. The mission of The Able Trust is simple: to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through fund raising, grant programs, public awareness and education.

The Able Trust believes that when people with disabilities want to work, they should. The Florida Legislature created The Able Trust in 1990 to provide support for the employment of Florida citizens with disabilities and to promote public awareness about vocational rehabilitation. Considered a public-private partnership foundation, The Able Trust receives its funding from a perpetual endowment, charitable gifts, and support from the public and private sector. A volunteer Board of Directors is appointed by Florida's Governor to help manage the Foundation's

A Grant Making Foundation

Creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities is the focus of The Able Trust's grants program. For every dollar invested in vocational rehabilitation, approximately \$16 are returned to society in saved public funds and taxes paid. Making grant funds available for disability employment projects helps not only persons with disabilities, but also local and state economies.

The Able Trust makes grants to Florida nonprofit agencies and individuals with disabilities. These grants support a diversity of projects including job skills training, supported employment, employer out-

reach and other programs leading to employment. The positive impact of The Able Trust's grant awards has been felt by nonprofit agencies serving people with all types of disabilities, in both urban and rural areas throughout the state.

The Able Trust awards approximately \$2 million in grants annually. Requests for funding are received by the Foundation year-round and are awarded quarterly. Information about criteria, eligibility, and submitting a grant proposal is available by calling 888.838.2253 or on the web at www.abletrust.org.

Because People Want to Work

When people with disabilities have programs like those supported by The Able Trust, the successes are overwhelming.



Renee At age 49, Renee works as a wire harness assembler at a local electronics firm in Holly Hill. She has developed friendships with work colleagues and lives in her own apartment. What is so unusual about Renee's story? It is her first real job thanks to the help of the Florida Lions Conklin Center for the Blind. A grant from The Able Trust enabled the Conklin Center to develop a community-based support services program to help people with multiple disabilities maintain employment, live in their own homes and participate in community life. Today the agency helps many people, just like Renee, gain the freedom to make their own choices.

Trenton A high school senior, Trenton hasn't let his disabilities prevent him from achieving success at school and in his community. A member of the National Honor Society and Technology Club, Trenton also plays the viola and has worked as an algebra peer teacher. Trenton attributes much of his academic accomplishments to the Children's Haven and Adult Community Services Inc.'s (CHAC) High School/High Tech program in Sarasota. Funded by a grant from The Able Trust, CHAC's High School/High

Tech staff work closely with Trenton and other students to help prepare them to excel in high school and higher education to gain careers in science and technology. With the help of the program's study tools, Trenton has achieved academic excellence, but more importantly, the self-confidence he needs to succeed in life.



Additional Programs Include

The Florida Business Leadership Network (BLN)

provides employers pertinent disability information, access to a pool of qualified candidates with disabilities and recognition for best disability employment practices. Membership in the BLN is FREE to all Florida employers.

Youth Leadership Forum brings high school students with disabilities together for a unique, career and leadership training experience. Student delegates are chosen to come together for a four-day conference and learn about disability history, self-advocacy, academic resources and career opportunities.

The Able Trust's Annual Gala at Mar-a-Lago is the sole fund raiser for the Foundation. The event benefits The Able Trust endowment, which provides perpetual funding for The Able Trust grants and additional programs that assist Floridians with disabilities.

High School/High Tech offers high school students with disabilities an opportunity to learn more and prepare for careers in science, math, engineering and technology. Participating students enjoy field trips, hands-on enrichment activities and student internships.

How You Can Help...

You can support The Able Trust through a tax-deductible contribution to the endowment. Multiple gift opportunities are available, from individual donations to corporate sponsorships. The Able Trust has helped countless individuals with disabilities overcome obstacles. With your help, we can accomplish even more.

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Currently, almost one in every five Americans has a disability—that's nearly 50 million people. About 2.2 million of those live in Florida. Whether the disability is severe or not, it presents a barrier to carrying out daily routines. Even more discouraging is the fact that these individuals face enormous challenges in the job market. Today's unemployment rate for persons with disabilities is a staggering 65%, and this lack of

Hiring People with Disabilities Makes Good Business Sense

labor force participation is costing our nation's economy \$200 billion annually. Studies show that hiring people with disabilities makes good business sense. In Florida 72% of companies who hired people with disabilities reported they had a favorable effect on their business. Workers with disabilities demonstrate above-average attendance records, job performance and company loyalty. And the average cost of accommodating a person with a disability is typically less than \$500.

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