Many of us have to think really hard about a time when we didn’t have a computer in our homes. But there was a time when the cost of such items pushed them out of the reach of the average American.

Over time, as the technology improved and became easier to produce, the dream of owning a home computer became a reality; a luxury that most of us take for granted. We rarely give it a second thought when we flip open a laptop to surf the Web, or power up a tablet to download a novel to read.

Believe it or not, there are still those among us who do not know such comforts.

Thanks to a partnership between The Able Trust and The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST), several high school students with disabilities across the state of Florida are receiving refurbished laptops loaded with all the latest software. Twenty-five laptops have been distributed so far this quarter. Each student submitted an application describing their disability, and how a lack of technology affected their lives.

“FAAST, Inc. is pleased with our partnership with The Able Trust’s High School / High Tech Program as we continue to work to increase access to, and acquisition of, assistive services and technologies,” FAAST Executive Director Steve Howells said. “To this end, the provision of these Dell refurbished computer laptops are a cost effective way to help students with disabilities access electronic information and information technologies – essential for them to compete, seek employment and to participate in American society.”
BECAUSE PEOPLE WANT TO WORK

These are exciting times for The Able Trust, as the state and nation is concentrating on what needs to be done to get the economy back in balance, the foundation of which is a healthy employment figure. As I often repeat in presentations, business is where the jobs are, and if businesses are growing, there are more jobs and more career opportunities for everyone, including people with disabilities. As we work with people with disabilities and their families, we learn firsthand about the life adjustments made for the individual and those close to them.

The important lesson is that one person with a disability affects many people, and more than one life is changed when a disability enters the picture.

On the difficult end, we learn of overwhelming financial challenges that come with a disability, and know that many families spend any extra income they might have and in fact sometimes spend themselves into poverty trying to find a cure or an accommodation that might change the life of their family member with a disability. Poverty changes all lives in the family – one of my good business friends often said that poverty makes people sick. And so the dominoes would fall if we let that happen.

On the other side, we learn of the successful and happy lives that people with disabilities have if they can just work, find a career path that is suited to their skills, and thus be allowed to be a productive and welcome member of their community. We learn of the positive change in the culture of an organization that hires people with disabilities, as co-workers learn how easy it is to work with them, and how that can reflect well with customers of the organization when the job is a good fit. We learn how that changes the way customers view that company, and how that has a positive effect on its bottom line.

The pathway to a job and a career path is complicated and full of changes for anyone, but the Able Trust is committed to urging people with disabilities to get on with that journey, and we use both established programs and new ideas to make that happen. Some of the new ideas this year include a foster care pilot for high school students using our High School High Tech Guideposts to help them transition from high school to post-secondary pursuits; funding professional career placement grants so that students with disabilities in college have assistance in job seeking; and expanding our mentoring and internship programs to encourage activity more often than once per year. We continue to seek new ways to help returning veterans and older adults with disabilities, who are anxiously looking for employment.

If you are a business leader and want to participate in this part of Florida’s economic growth, feel free to contact me personally for suggestions and direction. The Able Trust has very capable staff, willing to connect you with the best resources in seeking capable workers with disabilities. You can reach me at 850-224-4493, ext. 222. In the meantime, please remember to include people with disabilities in your recruitment and hiring process.

Kindest regards,

Susanne F. Homant, MBA, DPA
President & CEO

A Message from the President
Meet the Board of Directors

The Able Trust is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, all appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida. The Board of Directors is primarily responsible for the overall governance of the organization, which includes fiduciary duties to assure the financial viability of the organization, to provide strategic and long-term direction to the organization, to approve grants, and to hire its CEO. The Able Trust is very fortunate to have nine very talented Directors, all of whom have extensive knowledge of the disability network or have a disability themselves, and all of whom have impressive business backgrounds. The Grantor will feature three of the Directors in each edition during 2012. In this edition, three of the officers of the Board are presented.

Richard L. Cole, Jr, Esq.

Elected as Chairman of the Board in September, 2010, Richard is an attorney who retired to Florida in 2004 and immediately became involved in issues related to employment opportunities for people with disabilities. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he served in Governor Dick Thornburg’s administration as Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, and later as VP and General Counsel of United Hospitals, before returning to private practice. In addition to his extensive volunteer work for The Able Trust which includes chairing its Legislative Committee, Cole is a member of the Sumter County Zoning and Adjustment Board, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Sumter County. Cole also chairs the Sumter County Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee. Shortly after moving to Florida, Richard lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident, so he brings personal experiences as well as business background to the work of the Board. He earned his undergraduate degree from Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts, and his law degree from Villanova University School of Law. He is a car buff, very physically active, loves to travel with his wife Barbara, and enjoys the activities of The Villages, where he and Barbara make their home. Together they have eight children and eleven grandchildren.

Bridget Pallango, MBA

Past Chair of The Board of Directors, Bridget currently serves the organization as its Secretary and chairs a Grant Committee. Originally from Oshkosh, WI, she moved to Florida in 1967 and in 1969 began her long and productive career at Goodwill Industries of South Florida, Inc. She currently serves as Senior Vice President, moving into that position through an extensive background working and teaching in the disability community. This includes earning a specialized certification in education for people with disabilities from Florida International University, working with the Miami-Dade Public School System to teach Office Careers to people with disabilities, and becoming Department Head of the Education Department at Goodwill. She assumed the position of Director of Rehabilitation at Goodwill under a contract with the Miami-Dade County School Board, directing all (continued on page 4)
of the human services operations, programs which became award winners with national recognition. She is second in command at Goodwill Industries, an organization which grew from $1.9 million to $27.5 million during her tenure. Bridget earned her bachelor’s degree at Barry University of Miami, and her MBA from the University of Phoenix. She loves music, enjoys NASCAR racing, and is deeply committed to serving people with disabilities. She resides in North Miami and has seven children and seven grandchildren.

Barbara MacArthur, RN, MN, FAAN

Barbara MacArthur is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, and also serves as the chair of its Ethics, Bylaws and Policies Committee. She is the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare and serves on its executive team, which oversees a 770-bed acute care hospital, providing care for a catchment area of over 300,000 people. She has a long and impressive career in healthcare, which includes positions at Tallahassee Memorial in the Heart & Vascular Institute, and as administrator of its Cardiovascular Service Line. Prior to her tenure at Tallahassee Memorial, she worked as Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Abilene Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery center in Texas, as a Fellow with The Annenberg Washington Program in Washington, DC, and as Director of Education for the Partnership for Organ Donation in Boston. She has also served Florida as VP of Nursing for the Florida Hospital Association. Barbara has impressive skills in management of the many nurses who serve the patients of Tallahassee Memorial, assuring good care for those patients around the clock. In addition to her extensive nursing experience, she has personal experience working with people with disabilities in her family. She earned her BS in Nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her MN in Nursing from the University of Kansas. Barbara loves college basketball, exploring cities, is very active in the Tallahassee community, and resides with her husband, Richard MacArthur, MD in Tallahassee. They have three sons.
Supporters Making A Difference - Dr. Leon Golden

by Kathryn McManus

Editor’s note: Welcome to the first edition of a new feature in The Florida Grantor, which will share the insights and stories of Able Trust supporters who continue to enrich the lives of Floridians with disabilities.

It was just two years of service, in Germany toward the end of the Korean War. “Uneventful”, Dr. Leon Golden modestly characterizes it. But a part of his life for which he is grateful and proud.

“One of the insights Dr. Golden gained from his service was a sobering reality that war is not as glorious as it is sometimes portrayed on TV or the movies.”

“Many veterans, ordinary people not unlike myself had gone off and not come back whole or healthy.”

In the years after the Army, Dr. Golden pursued a career in literary criticism, was a Professor of Classics and Humanities at Florida State University, and a prolific author. Even in retirement, he is passionate about his writing, and about leaving behind a written legacy for those who read his books. He has also found a way to leave another permanent legacy, one for those veterans with disabilities for whom he feels too little has been done in repayment for the services they have rendered to their country. Part of his estate plan includes establishing an endowment fund at The Able Trust to impact veterans with disabilities, including help with re-employment and training.

“I feel good about assisting those who exposed themselves to danger and injury,” he said.

Dr. Golden is also very enthusiastic about the young people he has met through The Able Trust’s Youth Leadership Forum, and their optimism about the future despite the challenges they face. He is a staunch supporter of the Forum, in addition to his focus on veterans. When asked what he would tell others considering supporting the programs of The Able Trust, he explained that he has “seen the results” firsthand, and passionately supports the Trust’s goals. He feels strongly that his investment in The Able Trust is “an important investment in the future”.

Thank you, Dr. Golden, for your faith and steadfast support.

For more information about how you can make a difference in the lives of Floridians with disabilities, please contact Chief Development Director Kathryn McManus at Kathryn@AbleTrust.org or 813-240-1527.
The Able Trust Board of Directors proudly announces three new grant awards made to organizations making a difference in providing employment placement in their Florida communities. The recipients are:

- **Hope Haven Children’s Clinic & Family**, – in Jacksonville, was awarded $50,000 for their Project Search program that will assist young adults with disabilities gain internships and employment in the multicounty area of North Florida.

- **Quest, Inc.**, – in Orlando, was also awarded $50,000 for their Project SEARCH program in the Orlando-metro area that will assist young adults with disabilities secure internships and employment opportunities.

- The third grant awarded was in the amount of $60,000 to **WestCare Gulf Coast- Florida, Inc.** – that will assist youthful offenders with disabilities gain job training, support and job placement as part of a Jail Diversion program in Pinellas County.

The Able Trust has awarded more than $28 million to grantees across the state of Florida, enabling thousands of Floridians with disabilities to enter the workforce each year.

**Grantee Spotlight: Southwest Florida Job Squad**

by Guenevere Crum

Since she was 10 years old, Alissa knew she wanted to be a physical therapist.

She pursued her dream by earning a bachelor’s degree in Recreational Therapy, and then was accepted in a master’s program. A year later she started a clinical course, which is when the challenges began. Alissa’s Cerebral Palsy created too many physical limitations to becoming a Physical Therapist. As a result, she shifted her goals and received a master’s in Health Administration in 2007.

The job hunt was disappointing, with many interviews and two internships. Alissa eventually sought career assistance from The Southwest Florida Job Squad. Working together, Alissa was hired by the Social Security Administration.

“I am now working as a Reader Assistant for a visually impaired attorney, she says. “Not exactly the plan, but the point is hard work pays off and you never know where you will end up. I am excited to be part of the Social Security team.”

Thanks to grant funding from The Able Trust, the Southwest Florida Job Squad has helped many Floridians like Alissa.
Florida Disability Employment Awareness Month/Disability Mentoring Day (DEAM/DMD) is part of a large-scale national effort to promote career development for students, job seekers, and veterans with disabilities through hands-on career exploration, on-site job shadowing, and ongoing mentoring, potentially leading to internship and employment opportunities. Participating students and job seekers have the opportunity to visit an employer mentor’s job site. They will learn about their mentor’s day-to-day job experiences in an effort to better prepare and sharpen their skills for a particular career path. Employer mentors gain access to a pool of emerging talent and potential interns while demonstrating positive leadership in their community.

DEAM/DMD 2011 Highlights

- The Able Trust released a new logo and updated materials for the program.
- Liaisons offered DEAM/DMD activities in each Florida county in 200 cities.
- The number of US Veteran mentees quadrupled since last year.
- The number of employer mentors increased by 700 (nearly doubling mentor participation in a single year).
- 95 ongoing mentoring opportunities were reported, including volunteer positions and internships.
- 5,500 staff and volunteer hours were reported by liaisons.
- $26,000 was raised at the local level to support DMD activities.
- Employer mentors collectively contributed 15,000 hours of their time, which has a numeric value of $500,000.

“I believe that at several businesses, fears were alleviated...fears employers typically have about hiring people with disabilities. That alone will help future applicants with disabilities get their foot in the door.” –Gainesville Area DMD Liaison Jennifer Valenzuela

Florida DEAM/DMD 2011 was supported financially by: American Express, Darden Restaurants, Florida Power & Light, Publix Supermarkets, WeLocalize, Inc., The Able Trust, The Agency for Persons with Disabilities, The Dan Marino Foundation, and The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Corporate employers who participated in statewide activities were: Darden Restaurants, Florida Power & Light, Florida State Parks, Publix Supermarkets, Sam’s Club, and Wal-Mart.

The Able Trust encourages all its supporters to patronize these wonderful companies, who help to change the lives of so many Floridians with disabilities.
Recipients were honored at award ceremonies where they received their computers. Tears of joy streamed from the eyes of many proud parents in the audience, knowing that this gift of technology would make a huge difference in the lives of their children. Brittney Howard is one of them.

“A laptop will help me achieve my goals by allowing me to type my assignments legibly for my college professors to read. It will also allow me to pursue my educational goals without my disability interfering with my potential.”

- Brittney Howard

De’Vante Ridley of Ft. Walton Beach was one of five students from the Okaloosa/Walton area selected to receive a laptop. De’Vante’s dream is to be a graphic designer, a field of study that heavily relies on one’s ability to understand technology.

“A laptop will help me achieve my goals by allowing me to type my assignments legibly for my college professors to read,” she said. “It will also allow me to pursue my educational goals without my disability interfering with my potential.”

A recent graduate of Palatka High School, Brittney wants to enroll in a four-year university to pursue an undergraduate degree in Communications. However, Brittney has a form of Muscular Dystrophy that makes it hard for her to write at times.

“Going to the public library is a real problem for me because they only allow you to use it once a day, for an hour,” she said. “I get very nervous when my time ticks away, and it can be very distracting for me when trying to finish exams.”

Thanks to her new laptop, Malaya can now study in the comfort of her home, bringing her one step closer to fulfilling her dream of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.

“I want to thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. All of my career goals (especially my online high school diploma) depend on a computer.”

- Malaya Stephan

Project SEARCH student Thierno is jointed by his teachers at his job at the Miami Zoo where he received his laptop.
Meet Gaby, a success of the Best Buddies Project Search program in Miami, funded in part by The Able Trust. Leadership at Best Buddies has provided opportunities for its clients to enhance employability and independent living skills, in combination with real-life work experiences in the Miami-metro area. Gaby acquired critical skills and confidence as she moved through the program, and as a result she gained employment as an Administrative Assistant at a women’s clinic. Gaby uses the computer on a regular basis as she manages the patient database, and works with the Human Resource Manager to compile materials for training. She is noted in her workplace for her enthusiasm and contagious smile, and is a valued employee.

The main objective of the Best Buddies Project Search program is to provide employability skills to each individual by finding an inclusive working environment suited to their talents and interest. By providing follow-along service in the workplace, the young adults are able to gain real life skills and experiences that will be the start of their employment goals and careers. Gaby has put her skills to good use, not only to secure employment, but remain productive and successful, truly earning the paycheck she brings home.

Support The Able Trust While You Surf

Supporting The Able Trust has never been easier!

Our organization is now registered with GoodSearch.com, a company that helps non-profits like ours raise funds through the everyday actions of our supporters. Every time you shop online, search the internet, or decide to eat out, a donation will be made to The Able Trust in support of our programs which provide valuable employment opportunities for Floridians with disabilities.

Here is how you can help:

- Use GoodSearch, powered by Yahoo, when you search the internet – they will donate a penny or so to us for each search.
- Use GoodShop.com when you shop online – they work with more than 2,500 major brands offering thousands of money-saving coupons; and a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to The Able Trust.
- Enroll in the GoodDining.com program - they will donate up to 6% of every dollar you spend when you eat at one of 10,000 participating restaurants.

Please join our community on GoodSearch.com and help us raise money for our mission. Each donation may seem small, but multiplied by hundreds or thousands of supporters, it will add up. It’s free for you, and can make a difference in the lives of Floridians with disabilities who want to work.

Get started by clicking the “Become a Supporter” button on our profile page at http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/the-able-trust.aspx

Have questions? Check out the “About Us/FAQ” at the bottom of the page at www.Goodsearch.com, or contact Chief Development Director Kathryn McManus at Kathryn@AbleTrust.org. And thanks for “GoodSearching” for The Able Trust!
The Florida High School/High Tech Program (HS/HT) improves postsecondary outcomes for youth with disabilities. The program achieves this goal by setting high expectations; encouraging youth to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math – all high-demand and high-growth industries; and encouraging the involvement of family members and other caring adults. HS/HT is a year-round program that is conducted in school, after school, and on weekends. It provides a wide variety of experiences to create a comprehensive program of services. Learning opportunities include:

- Corporate Site Visits
- Job Shadowing
- College Campus Tours
- Peer and Adult Mentoring
- Career Development Workshops
- Community Volunteer Experiences
- Summer Internships
- Peer and Adult Mentoring
- Community Volunteer Experiences

HS/HT has entered its third year of a federally-funded expansion project at seven sites (Gilchrist, Columbia, Union, Dixie, Nassau, Clay and Duval counties): The Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP). RAMP is a high-tech, career-focused mentoring program for youth with disabilities involved with, or at risk of becoming involved with, the juvenile justice system. Youth have the opportunity to assess and explore their career interests; develop a plan and set goals for their transition; interact with employers in a variety of work settings; give and receive peer support; and take advantage of group and personal leadership opportunities.

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Florida HS/HT Program served 1,711 students with disabilities in 35 Florida counties. Services were provided in 305 high schools and alternative education settings including Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. The Florida HS/HT Program experienced a one percent high school drop-out rate.

Florida HS/HT students develop service learning projects through the Project Impact Initiative, a partnership with the Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida). Project Impact connects students to national service and service-related careers through mentoring, paid summer internships, and student-driven community change projects.

Forty-seven percent of Florida HS/HT students entered post-secondary education after graduation, compared to twenty-seven percent of other students with disabilities in Florida.

Seventy-four percent of Florida HS/HT graduates entered postsecondary education or employment upon graduation. In addition, 199 Florida HS/HT students (representing all grades) secured employment through program services.
Update on the Florida Business Leadership Network

The Florida Business Leadership Network (FBLN) includes 13 volunteer organizations located around the state, with dual goals of improving the employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and serving as a resource to businesses in their communities regarding the recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities. The development of community-based Business Leadership Networks (BLNs) began in the early 2000’s and was supported by a federal-state grant to provide administrative support to the groups. The Able Trust became involved as national support was ending, providing administrative support, new member packets, communication vehicles such as the “Look at My Ability” campaign, a website, some webinars, in-person meetings as well as quarterly meetings for the Florida BLN Steering Committee, and Able Trust staff to maintain records and handle correspondence. During the years that The Able Trust served as the administrative agency, the United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN) was growing, and using its influence to attract national corporations to the movement. The USBLN headquarters are located in Alexandria, VA, and serve BLNs around the country as the national BLN membership organization. Because of its growth and singular mission of providing assistance to businesses to support the hiring of people with disabilities, The Able Trust is supporting the move of Florida BLNs to membership in the USBLN.

In Florida, BLNs have been very successful at the community level in the education of businesses regarding the talent that lies within the workgroup that includes people with disabilities. Many of the BLNs have initiated internship programs for those individuals, allowing the interns to learn more about a business or industry, and helping businesses feel very comfortable with these workers in their places of business. The Florida BLNs have also worked within their communities to change attitudes and eliminate barriers to hiring people with disabilities, by encouraging mentoring, and through networking meetings that are education-based. The next step in the evolution of BLNs in Florida is to encourage and assist them in becoming members of the USBLN, so that the range of membership services can move beyond the services that The Able Trust is able to provide within its mission, and importantly to allow the BLNs to have access to activities that only a national organization can provide.

With the leadership and commitment of current Florida BLN Steering Committee Chair Lara Burnside, the transition from state-based “membership” to participation in the USBLN is expected to be completed by late fall, 2012, with a celebration at the USBLN Annual Conference which will occur October 1 – 4 in Orlando, FL. Information on the USBLN, its corporate supporters, important research reports, and the Annual Conference can be found at www.usbln.org. Businesses interested in joining a BLN in their communities can contact The Able Trust for more information.
Forging Leaders - The 2012 Florida Youth Leadership Forum
by Ray Ford, Jr.

Applications for the 2012 Florida Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) are now available.

High school students with disabilities across the state of Florida 18 years old and under have the opportunity to experience a life-changing event. For four days in July, they will be exposed to leadership and social training events geared to increase their self-confidence while preparing them for academic success.

Kyle Chubb, a 2009 YLF participant has come back to serve as a volunteer for the past two years. A freshman at Hillsborough Community College, Kyle credits his experiences at the forum as a catalyst in striving toward achieving his educational goals.

“It’s an awesome, one-of-a-kind experience,” Kyle said. “It has helped me with my goals ever since I graduated from high school. YLF has encouraged me to continue to put myself in new situations and challenges every day.”

Leaving the confines of homes and family, venturing out into the unfamiliar can be a daunting task. For quite a few of the delegates, YLF represents the first time that they’ve ever been away from their communities. That alone is a step toward maturity, forcing students to take on personal responsibility and self-leadership even before the first event.

But the risk is well-worth it.

“I want this group of delegates to know more about friendship and how to be socially active,” YLF volunteer and alum Renzo Burga said. “I want to encourage them to think about their goals, their strengths and weaknesses, and what they want to do when they grow up.”

Many of the students that were first-time delegates less than a year ago are now vying for limited spots as junior staff members, looking to come back and lend a hand to the new crop of delegates scheduled to arrive on July 18, 2012. One of the many things they accomplished last summer was the completion of a Personal Leadership Plan (PLP). In this document, they laid out a blueprint for personal and academic success. One prevailing theme in the PLPs filled out by YLF 2011 delegates was a strong desire to help others who also struggle with disabilities.

“I feel that I and the others around me who have disabilities have the right to stand up for ourselves,” 2011 delegate Evan Geistfeld said.

YLF 2012 will begin on July 18 and run through July 22. For more information about YLF 2012, or to download an application, visit our website at www.floridaylf.org.

It takes courage to speak in front of an audience -- especially during a debate -- as 2011 Delegate Julie Meyers (pictured) learned during a mock session in the House Chambers of The Florida Capitol. At the Youth Leadership Forum, high school students like Julie discovered the importance of advocating for themselves and others.
We Make Donating to The Able Trust Easy!

You can make your donation by visiting The Able Trust Web site at www.abletrust.org and clicking the “Make a Donation” button. Or you can fill out the form below and mail your donation to:

The Able Trust, 3320 Thomasville Road, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida, 32308-7906

Tax Deductible Donation Amount ($): ____________________________________________

Cash, Check or Credit Card Donations are Accepted. Please make checks payable to The Able Trust.

Is this donation (please check one):

☐ To honor someone
☐ In memory of someone
☐ For a special occasion

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E-mail:

☐ Check if you would like to be put on our mailing list
☐ Check if you would like to be on our e-mail list

The Able Trust’s mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities successful opportunities for employment. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded more than $28 million in grants to nonprofit agencies throughout Florida for employment-related purposes, enabling thousands of Florida citizens of all ages with disabilities to enter the workforce each year. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition for thousands of students with disabilities since its beginnings, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school.

For more information about The Able Trust visit www.abletrust.org.

The Able Trust is recognized as exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. Federal ID: 59-3052307. The Able Trust is registered with the Florida Division of Consumer Services as required by the Solicitation of Contributions Act (#CH957). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free in Florida: (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.
Project Impact is a state-level and community partnership established in 2005 by The Able Trust and Volunteer Florida, and is held annually in conjunction with Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). The annual Project Impact training was led by Volunteer Florida and staff of The Able Trust in December, and was well attended by disability service providers and AmeriCorps program site representatives. Youth and young adults with disabilities from across the state will be collaborating with AmeriCorps programs in their local communities with the purpose of learning more about AmeriCorps & other service careers, connecting with additional mentors during a period of transition, and learning valuable leadership and project planning skills by developing and implementing a worthwhile community service project in April, 2012. Past Project Impacts have included:

- Building picnic tables for Fischer House communities
- Building butterfly gardens at nursing facilities & assisting the elderly with accessible recreation
- Sea Turtle and Oyster bed restoration in coastal communities
- Book drives and food drives
- Car washes and bake sales with proceeds donated to charitable organizations
- Painting murals to beautify group homes
- Assisting park staff in removing invasive plant species and restoring native plant beds, as well as building/restoring animal habitats and recreational areas.

Project Impact participants take a break during a volunteer initiative. This unique program gives young adults with disabilities the chance to give back to their home communities.
Memorial Gifts

There are many ways for you to make a gift in remembrance of someone special that will have meaningful significance for years to come. Here are a few options to consider:

Make a Deductible Gift and Receive Life Income

You may wish to make a memorial gift while providing current life income for yourself. If your memorial gift is made to fund a charitable remainder trust, you can receive income monthly, quarterly or annually. You receive a charitable deduction for your gift this year and avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of your appreciated assets. The remainder passes to us as a gift in memory of your loved one. Please contact us for more information on charitable trust plans.

A Memorial Gift of Cash or Property

A gift of cash is one of the simplest ways to remember your loved one or friend. You receive a tax deduction for the value of your gift to The Able Trust. Please designate the person you wish to remember and the best way that we can honor them. If you are making a memorial gift of appreciated stock or real estate, your deduction may depend on the type of property gifted. Please call us to discuss the treatment of your gift and the best way to transfer your property to us.

PLANNED GIVING

Please feel free to contact Mike Campbell, Regional Endowment Consultant, at 850-224-4493. You may also visit our planned giving website at www.myabletrust.org.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

March 29, 2012
Tampa-area Reception with Able Trust Board of Directors
Tampa, FL

March 30, 2012
Able Trust Board of Directors Meeting
Tampa, FL

June 15, 2012
Able Trust Board of Directors Meeting & Annual Meeting
Tallahassee, FL

June 15, 2012
2012 Ability Awards
Tallahassee, FL

July 18 - 22, 2012
2012 Florida Youth Leadership Forum
Tallahassee, FL

Contributions are deductible according to applicable IRS guidelines. The Able Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act.