



**For Immediate Release**

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**The Able Trust Presents \$250K Grant to Vincent Academy  
in Sarasota Grant Presentation**

*Senator Steube, Along with Local Business & Community Leaders, Show Support of Valuable  
Vocational Training Program*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Able Trust today presented a \$250,000 strategic grant to the Vincent Academy in Sarasota, Fla. The grant will give the Vincent Academy the ability to establish an on-site “Employment Placement” program, staff a community/business liaison position, and help individuals gain the confidence and the skills necessary to join the workforce and find success in the Sarasota community. Further, the grant, which will be awarded over a three-year period, will allow the Vincent Academy to establish and develop relationships with the Sarasota business community and give individual members a chance to join or rejoin their chosen careers.

“At the Vincent Academy, we equip adults with mental illnesses with the tools they need to have a productive, engaging work day,” said William McKeever, executive director of the Vincent Academy. “We take great pride in our members and want to give them the best experience we possibly can, and the support we receive from The Able Trust helps us accomplish this goal. We have the capacity to serve up to 300 members per year, and we are truly grateful for such a generous, accepting community, as well as partners, like The Able Trust, that support and help us achieve our overarching mission.”

“The Vincent Academy does an excellent job of ensuring adults with mental health challenges are prepared for the workplace, and we are pleased to support them with this strategic grant,” said Dr. Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust. “We are beyond honored to be a partner with the Vincent Academy as they have such a positive and far-reaching impact on the local community and the entire State of Florida. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow their organization and successfully provide employment opportunities for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in Sarasota County.”

Today’s grant presentation was attended by State Senator Greg Steube (R-Sarasota), State Representative Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota), and business and community leaders, including Joan and Bob Geyer, owners of Sunset Automotive Group, and Don Osborn, general manager of Sunset Auto Group, to show their support.

(MORE)

“The Vincent Academy saw a need and a void for vocational training for adults with mental illnesses in Sarasota, and through their programs and mission, the academy has helped fill that void in our community,” said Senator Steube. “The Vincent Academy has truly risen to fill this void and The Able Trust has been vital in providing the support the academy has needed to successfully grow in the area of recovery and employment for people with disabilities.”

“Thanks to the Vincent Academy, I built up my skills in Culinary Arts. I feel proud to be back in the workforce at such a fine restaurant,” said Rob Armstrong, employee of Libby’s Café & Bar and member of the Vincent Academy.

“Sunset Automotive Group greatly supports what the Vincent Academy is doing,” said Don Osborn, general manager of Sunset Auto Group. “When clients of the Vincent Academy come to us prepared with the skills, knowledge and training we look for in employees, they truly shine in a professional, work setting. It is through community support, such as The Able Trust, as well as the outstanding staff and members at the Vincent Academy, that make their programs so remarkable. We look forward to seeing firsthand how they utilize this strategic grant from The Able Trust.”

To learn more about the Vincent Academy, please visit [vincentsrq.org](http://vincentsrq.org).

Created by the Florida Legislature in 1990 (FS 413.615), the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public/private partnership, and The Able Trust is a dba of the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. Vocational rehabilitation is the focus of The Able Trust's programs and grants. Making funds available to persons with disabilities helps not only them, but also local and state economies.

The Able Trust supports a diversity of projects, including a statewide youth program called High School High Tech, work experience training and technical assistance, transportation assistance, career development training, employment and career path direction, and assistance to businesses as they seek the employment of people with disabilities. Since its beginnings, The Able Trust has worked with community organizations throughout the State of Florida to put thousands of people with disabilities to work.

To learn more about The Able Trust, please visit [AbleTrust.org](http://AbleTrust.org) and follow [@AbleTrust](https://www.instagram.com/AbleTrust).

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