



**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, August 23, 2018

**Contact**

Todd Schimpf, [todd@abletrust.org](mailto:todd@abletrust.org), 850.224.4493x225

Kelsey Swithers, [kelsey@bascomllc.com](mailto:kelsey@bascomllc.com), 941.400.8183

**The Able Trust Awards \$60K Grant to the  
Center for the Visually Impaired of Central Florida**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Able Trust today awarded the Center for the Visually Impaired of Central Florida a \$60,000 grant to support its Hospitality Employ program. Hospitality Employ will give visually impaired and blind adults who are seeking employment the tools and strategies to achieve their own professional goals.

“The Center for the Visually Impaired of Central Florida has such a great program with Hospitality Employ, and The Able Trust is honored to support them,” said Dr. Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust. “Programs, like Hospitality Employ, are important to helping Floridians with disabilities find successful employment and those programs, in turn, have such a valuable and positive effect on the surrounding communities by providing quality employees for local businesses.”

The Able Trust’s mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. One avenue in which The Able Trust accomplishes this mission is through opportunities in its grant giving program. The goal of The Able Trust grant program is to provide funds to qualifying organizations that have established or want to develop employment placement programs that assist individuals with disabilities to achieve employment in their communities and in their career fields.

“With the help of The Able Trust and the Hotel and Lodging Association, the Center for the Visually Impaired has been able to implement a new program designed to help blind and visually impaired people to work in the biggest industry in our area, the hospitality industry,” said Ronee Silverman, president and CEO of the Center for the Visually Impaired of Central Florida. “It is our hope that this pilot program will grow each year and enable many people to achieve their goals.”

The Hospitality Employ program consists of two tracks: Track 1) Job Ready, which is designed for students who have the basic requirements necessary to ensure success in the 12-week training course; and Track 2) Transitional, an 8-week course designed for students who need additional technology training. Participants in Track 2 will be referred to Track 1 when the individual has met the technology assessment requirements.

The Center for the Visually Impaired is a non-profit agency dedicated to serving blind and visually impaired individuals. Their goal is to enhance the lives and opportunities of their clients through job training, and employment, independent living, technology training and children’s services, as well as a

(MORE)

multitude of community services to ensure blind and visually impaired individuals lead successful lives in their workplace, at home and in their community. To learn more about the Center for the Visually Impaired, please visit [cvicentralflorida.org](http://cvicentralflorida.org).

The Able Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. The Able Trust supports numerous diverse projects, including the High School High Tech program, youth leadership training, 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 in every county in 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).

###