

Valued, Included, Empowered.

2021 Impact Report

OUR MISSION:

**CREATING COMMUNITIES
WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL
ABILITIES ARE VALUED,
INCLUDED & EMPOWERED.**

OUR VISION:

**TO BUILD ON OUR BASE OF
BELONGING AND CONNECTION
TO MOVE TOWARD
INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM
AND PURPOSE.**



CONNECTION



INDEPENDENCE



FREEDOM



PURPOSE

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I've been reflecting on our journey over the first 20 years. ConnectAbility was imagined out of a need in our community to connect. From a few college students and one family, connections have been ongoing now for 20 years and have grown to impact thousands of lives. We've seen many changes – children growing into adults, families moving into and out of the community and we've said goodbye to friends who have become part of our memories. Our mission and methods have been sharpened and refined. And now we look toward the future with a big vision to build on our base of belonging and connection to move toward the purpose, freedom and independence that comes from transportation, jobs and housing.

We've learned that what is important is connecting with people, inviting others to be part of the community and adapting activities to make sure that everyone is able to have a positive, successful experience. While our methods for making this happen have looked different over the past two years, our motivation is the same as it was back in 2001 at our first activity – to gather and enjoy the unique gifts we all possess.

None of the connections ConnectAbility has made over the past 20 years would be possible without the support of generous donors & sponsors, countless volunteer hours, dedicated community partners and the engagement of hundreds of families that trust us.

We invite you to join us on the journey to a truly inclusive community where all members are valued for our inherent gifts and unique perspectives, included in all aspects of community life and empowered to cultivate our dreams and desires to live the life we each want to live.

With hopeful anticipation,

Jacqueline Daniel

Jacqueline Daniel
Founder & Executive Director



LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

I have asked our team of amazing Office Assistants, "What would it mean for you to have a job?" A variety of brilliant responses came my way, but the one that stopped me in my tracks was "It would mean I am a part of my community." Starting as Director of Community Connections in January of this year I knew I would spend the year learning. What do we desire in our communities? What does this community look to us for? What brings joy to those we serve? How do we each bring our unique gifts to bear in our communities? How do we focus on what really matters?

Though it has been incredibly difficult to connect in the ways we have all grown accustomed to, I have found that this time of small group community with our Office Assistant team has reaffirmed things for me that I already knew that are core to who we are. They are these: Our differences matter far less than those things that bring us together AND we all have gifts to use for the common good.

These basic tenets have been a part of ConnectAbility's DNA for the past 20 years, and will continue to be a guide for us as we seek to build programs for the community, create a more diverse workforce, seek equity, and continue & pursue partnerships that benefit our overall community.

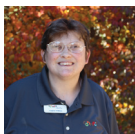
We are better together,



Kim Bell
Director of Community Connections



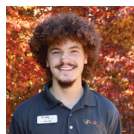
OUR TEAM



Angela



Mikey



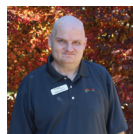
Jake



Chad



Garrett



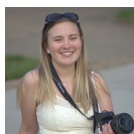
Shannon



Paul



Katz



Lee Anne



Luke



Gemma

NOT PICTURED

AMANDA
CHRISSEY
SHARI

OUR MONTHLY DONORS

Becky Chatham · Beth Murray · Brandi Ledford · Carol Ann Gelderman · Creekstone Church · Dianne & John Reynolds · Jack Wynn · Jacque & James Daniel · Jesse & Allison Turk · Jessica Bird Brown · JoAnne Taylor · Jon & Chauna Utterback · Kate & Don McElliott · Kim & Chuck Bell · Kim & Richard Scott · Laura Witt · M&S Properties · Matt & Lauren Stephenson · Melinda Maxwell · Pam & Randy Gross · Richard & Sandi Carpani · Robin & Dan Parr · Savannah Parham · Thomas & Mallory Odom · Tiffany Yeoman · William Whitfield

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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OUR BOARD

Jon Utterback

Chairman, Class of 2021

Dan Herrick

Treasurer, Class of 2022

Jimmy Charlton

Class of 2023

Katie Sessions

Class of 2023

David Kinser

Class of 2023

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Jessica "Bird" Brown

Class of 2024

Dr. Amy Williams

Class of 2024

Lauren Stephenson

Secretary, Class of 2021

Dr. Allison Turk

Class of 2022

Pam Gross

Class of 2023

Mikey Charlton

Class of 2023

Amy Thraikill

Class of 2023

Katz Bagley

Class of 2024

Cody Chembars

Class of 2024

TOURING 2021



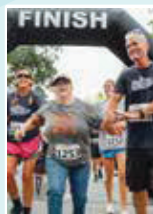
RACE FOR A REASON

2000 miles; the season total mileage run on our weekly Monday runs.



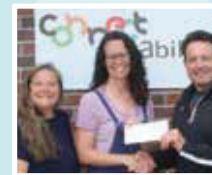
BACK IN PERSON

Practicing safe distancing and COVID guidelines, we were able to hold **50 in-person events**. 22 being outside of our Monday runs.



11TH ANNUAL 5K RACE

This year's race brought a total of **206 runners and over 103 volunteers**. The support of the community was seen around Dahlonega at water stations, around the square and at the finish line.



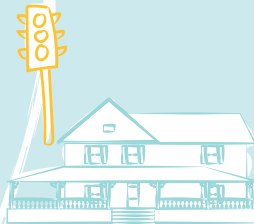
OUR SPONSORS

Our mission couldn't be met without the help of our **100+ Sponsors**, who help us offer our programs at no charge to participants.



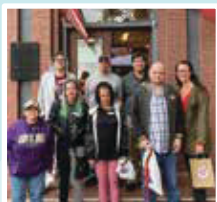
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ConnectAbility had the opportunity to connect with **over 20 organizations** to share our mission.



THOUSAND WORDS ROAD TRIP

This was our 1st time going international for our project! Our photographers ventured to **6 countries and 15 states** to take pictures for this year's project.



OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Our Office Assistants volunteered over **200 hours**. From newsletters to job skills, we are moving towards a more inclusive tomorrow.



BAM!

The Book & Movie Club shared over **21 stories in 2021**, including 5 outdoor community movie showings.



POOL PARTY

Returning to the Cumming Aquatic Center, we had over **282 guests from over 17 cities!**



GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament brought out **60 golfers and 19 volunteers**. Over 287 mulligans were used that day!



THOUSAND WORDS DISPLAY

Our traveling art show visited **25 locations around the community** and demonstrated the power of pictures.



ADVOCACY

We embarked on more than 8 new advocacy journeys, including **articles in the AJC and Dahlonega Nugget**, partnership with GCDD and letters to local government.

"The smiles on the faces, the high fives, the hugs and the new formed friendships were all truly amazing. I left that morning a different person than when I arrived."

- Christina Callender
(first time volunteer at 2021 5K)



"It means I'm a part of the community."

- Garrett Hanks
(on what it means to have a job)

**CREATING COMMUNITIES
WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL
ABILITIES ARE VALUED,
INCLUDED & EMPOWERED.**

f CONNECTABILITY | **ig** CONNECTABILITY

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