

Independent Voice Newsletter

May 2025

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 Ability Beyond Barriers  @ability_beyond_barriers

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom:

The 14th Annual Ability Beyond Barriers Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser was held on May 3rd. Leading up to the ride, our Executive Director, Allan Cornell, appeared on local television and radio programs previewing this event. Check out our Facebook page to view these videos.

A big thank you goes out to our staff who helped, the dance team and mascot at Coastal Carolina University, the leather clothing store Jamin' Leather, who organized a live auction, the Horry County Police, who provided the escort, and finally, the businesses and individuals who sponsored the ride. A good time was had by all! Check out the photos and smiles from that day:



Thank you, riders, for our successful event and your support for Ability Beyond Barriers!

Consumer In The Spotlight:



Jennifer (pictured) has been a participant at Ability Beyond Barriers for years, starting with our day services. Now, she is in our employment program, where she receives assistance from Patti, our Job Coach.

Jennifer has worked at an area Wendy's now for over a decade and has been successful due to her work ethic and communication skills. She has been helped by Ability Beyond Barriers, but more importantly, the community and herself have benefited due to the self-sufficiency and independence she has gained from employment.

Our Staff Is Awesome:



Meet Avalee Baxter, April's Employee of the Month. Avalee is a Direct Support Professional on our residential staff. Her professionalism and flexibility with work location assignments, as well as her willingness to pick up other shifts is appreciated. She is great at communicating and working collaboratively with consumers and staff.

What's Upcoming:

- Join Ability Beyond Barriers at the Conway Riverfest on Saturday, June 28! Our nonprofit will have a booth on-site so not only can you enjoy the sights and sounds of the all-day event, but you can meet wonderful people too! For more information, visit <https://www.conwayriverfest.com>.
- On July 2nd Beachfront Kitchen & Bar will host Spaghetti Wednesday for Ability Beyond Barriers from 11am until 9pm. Each meal is \$12.99 and includes salad, spaghetti with meat sauce and bread. From each meal, the restaurant will support our nonprofit with \$10. Orders are available for dine in, carry out or pick up. Their location is oceanfront, inside Sand Dunes Hotel on 74th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach with parking allowed on the hotel's property. So, please plan to come out to Beachfront Kitchen & Bar. You won't be disappointed.

In Memoriam:



Did you know the late Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21st at the age of 88, was a strong supporter of the Special Olympics? Indeed, Dr. Timothy Shriver, the Special Olympics Board Chair noted, "Pope Francis was a fierce advocate for the Special Olympics movement. He believed that sport offers a universal language that unites people from all walks of life, regardless of religious affiliation or beliefs." Shriver also added he is "forever grateful to Pope Francis for championing inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities." *Courtesy of <https://www.specialolympics.org/>*