

Independent Voice Newsletter

January 2026

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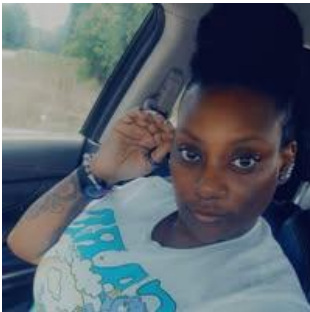


Staff Recognition

Tangela McKvain (pictured) is the January Employee of the Month for our day program. She serves at our Loris location. She consistently demonstrates dedication, a strong work ethic, and a genuine willingness to support both her co-workers and

the program consumers our organization serves. Her positive attitude and commitment to excellence do not go unnoticed.

We are proud to have Tangela as part of our team and appreciate the effort she brings daily. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved recognition!



Heather Grissett (pictured), who has been with our organization for 17 years, is our December Employee of the Month for our residential program. She serves at our Porter's Bay and April Houses and is a

valued asset. She is a strong advocate for the consumers she supports and makes sure their needs are met. Dependability and accountability are valued characteristics of hers. She often steps up during the holidays and takes consumers, who are unable to see their families, to her home instead to spend time with her family. She also trains new staff members and shadows medication passes.

The male consumers at Porter's Bay speak very highly of Heather. She treats all with professionalism and appreciates her Direct Support Professional position. Congratulations Heather!

In fact, Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) are the backbone of our organization as the frontline consumer caretakers throughout our locations. DSP's are recognized annually by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), usually in the week following Labor Day, and their commitment to providing vital support to those with disabilities is celebrated.



We Are Hiring

Speaking of Direct Support Professionals, Ability Beyond Barriers is looking for caring, compassionate individuals who are interested in contributing their talents in these roles. These positions at our organization are available in various locations. If interested, please visit our website at <https://abbsc.org>, click careers and then click current openings. If you want to make a difference in your community and the lives of our consumers, consider working at our organization.



Unfortunate Passing

Recently one of our Conway Day Center program consumers, Tre Dewitt (pictured), passed away. His funeral was held on January 17th, 2026.

Tre's grandmother shared that he truly loved coming to our day program and enjoyed interacting with other consumers and staff. Tre will certainly be missed by everyone at Ability Beyond Barriers.

Photos of the Month



Our day program consumers had a great time mini-bowling at Sun Outdoors Myrtle Beach recently. In addition, the consumers gave back to our community by collecting and organizing items for the homeless that were distributed in Myrtle Beach.



International Day of Acceptance

On January 20th, join others in celebrating the International Day of Acceptance! Inclusion, understanding and equal opportunities for disabled people will be promoted, along with celebrating these individuals' abilities! Per the website, <https://specialneedsresourceblog.com/>, the late Annie Hopkins created this celebration to encourage acceptance of all disabilities and for disabled people to embrace who they are.

Further, according to the website, <https://www.nationaldaycalender.com>, 15 percent of the population world-wide has some form of disability and close to 190 million individuals experience a significant disability. Unfortunately, in many locations globally, disabled people are ostracized, may live in poverty and lack an education.

