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*Happy  
holidays  
from  
everyone  
at ABLE*

## 20 years of Lucky Days

### Fundraiser marks milestone with sellout

One of ABLE's most popular fundraisers, the Lucky Day Calendar sales, turned 20 this year with another sellout, meaning another successful year of raising funds to help people supported by ABLE.

A potluck party was held Nov. 9 in Caledonia to celebrate the milestone and to draw winners for the 2018 calendar year. Winners



*Sara Semande pulls a winning number under the watchful eye of Sue Haggerty.*

were selected for each day of 2018, with cash prizes of \$15 to \$250 awarded. Winners are announced on ABLE's website at [www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org).

"Hats off and a big thanks to Lyn McCabe, a former

program director at ABLE, who brought the idea of the Lucky Day Calendar to a support team meeting more than 20 years ago,"

*See LUCKY, page 3*

**ABLE News** newsletter is published twice a year – in the summer and winter. You can find the newsletter online at [www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org).

**ABLE, Inc., 1700 Lancer Blvd., La Crescent, MN 55947 and 1004 Loeffler Avenue, Caledonia MN 55921**

## Mission

To enhance the lives of people we support by promoting their uniqueness and building their self esteem and independence in a safe and comfortable environment

## Vision

Happy, smiling people we support who are leading meaningful and enjoyable lives

## Core Values

- Integrity: Treating all stakeholders with respect, honesty, and fairness to gain their trust
- Safety: Balancing safety while promoting independence
- Individuality: Being responsive to an individual's needs and wants and valuing those differences
- Dreams: Developing people we support to their full potential by helping them build relationships, gain independence, and integrate into their communities
- Teamwork and Collaboration: Working together with people we support, coworkers, parents and guardians
- Change: Responding positively to change and the future by supporting and educating all stakeholders
- Stewardship: Being fiscally responsible with all resources

## What We Do

ABLE, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation established in 1979 as residential care provider for people with developmental disabilities and related brain injuries in Houston County, Minnesota.



## From the desk of Gail Meyer

**I**t is hard to believe we are nearing the end of another year.

The past six months have been busy here at ABLE. People supported have been on the move, enjoying summer days at Minnesota Twins games, fishing on the river, attending the annual Eagle Bluff Rendezvous and just generally enjoying everything that summer and fall have to offer. Please take a few minutes to read about their adventures in the following pages.

Fall also meant moving day for several people supported, who moved from other homes in Caledonia to a newly opened home on Grove Street. The new home, which currently has three people supported with room for one more, was acquired from the late Alice Miller, a longtime supporter of ABLE, and has been remodeled to better serve the people supported who live there. It was a great opportunity for ABLE to provide updated housing that better serves their needs.

Providing the right kind of accessible housing for an aging population served by ABLE is always a challenge. Houses built in the past and even those built for today's modern families don't always include the wide door frames, one-level living and no-step entries sometimes needed by people supported by ABLE. That's why housing opportunities remain a constant topic of conversation for the ABLE and ABLE Foundation boards of directors as we look to the future.



The opening of the new home, and other changes to several of our existing homes, are one way we can better serve people supported while also helping us maximize one of our greatest resources: our staff.

You likely have seen plenty of "Help Wanted" signs in your community, whether it be at restaurants, retail stores or other employers. The fact is, quality employees are in short supply, and ABLE has not been immune to that staffing shortage. Over the past year, the Caledonia programs, especially, have been in a crisis mode.

We continue to seek new hires to join our team of dedicated employees, but recruiting enough staff to cover open shifts remains a challenge.

If you, or someone you know, would like to help make a real difference in another person's life, consider joining our team at ABLE. We are always looking for good employees and would welcome the chance to talk to you ... just contact our Human Resources department or apply online at [www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org).

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and the goals and opportunities of the year ahead. Here at ABLE, we are no different. We have had our share of victories and challenges in 2017, and we believe 2018 holds the promise of even more exciting times.

Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Meyer".

Gail Meyer, Executive Director

## Lucky Day Calendars a sellout once again this year

*Continued from page 1*

said Program Director Sue Haggerty, who now spearheads the project. “At that time, the team was brainstorming ideas on how to find an additional money source to help the people it supports with both their needs and wants, in cases where they needed a little financial help. Lyn was sold on the idea, and she convinced the rest of the team on giving it a go. We did, and we have been selling successfully ever since!”

Money from the fundraiser goes to help cover those unplanned, immediate expenses

not covered by the regular budget, such as outings, supplies needed by a person supported or even tickets to a ballgame.

Members of this year’s Lucky Day committee are Haggerty, Joan Mitchell, Ashley Stark and Tonya Tewes. Special thanks to Kim Meiners and Nancy Pohlman for their help with the project.

“We at ABLE want to thank all of the 2018 Lucky Day Calendar buyers and sellers,” Haggerty added.

“This year was a landmark year in that the calendars sold like hot cakes. We again are all sold out!”



*John Murphy enjoys food and bingo during the annual Lucky Day Calendar potluck party, held Nov. 9 at the TRC in Caledonia.*

## Halloween proves to be howling good time



*Halloween was a lot of fun for staff and people supported again this year. Parties were held in both Caledonia and La Crescent.*

### **Relay for Life team raises record \$1,699**

*Congratulations to the ABLE and Ready Team that raised \$1,699 for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, held Aug. 4 in Hokah, Minn. The team was 10th among all teams with its fundraising total and received a Rising Star Badge for raising the team-record amount of money. Congratulations and job well done to the ABLE and Ready Team, which is made up of members from ABLE’s Public Relations Committee.*

# A summer full of fishing, the fair and fun

## Fair results

People supported by ABLE took home a number of ribbons at the annual Houston County Fair, held Aug. 16-20 at the fairgrounds in Caledonia.

According to Tanya Tewes, designated coordinator in Caledonia who helped organize entries for the fair, it was a great experience for all who participated. "Nothing gives me more joy than to see people supported out in the community having fun and their faces when they talk about the ribbons they won," she said.

Taking home ribbons were:

### Crafts

**Joe Kamperschroer:** 1 white ribbon; **Laura Bresser:** 2 white ribbons; **Wayne Bresser:** 1 blue ribbon; **Melissa Yolten:** 1 red ribbon; **Laura Flatin:** 1 red ribbon.

### Fine arts

**Jody Engrav:** 1 red ribbon; **Dale Stone:** 1 white ribbon; **Jenny Traff:** 1 blue ribbon, 1 Reserve Champion Ribbon; **Christina Ives:** 1 white ribbon; **Kathy Roberts:** 1 white ribbon.

### Needlework

**Laura Bresser:** 1 blue ribbon; **Lucy Wilkes:** 1 red ribbon.

### Photography

**Bob Serva:** 2 red ribbons, 1 white ribbon; **Jeff Landsom:** 2 red ribbons, 1 white ribbon.

### Gardening

**Joe Schulte:** 1 blue ribbon.

### Potted Plants

**Joe Schulte:** 1 blue ribbon

### DisAbility Day

Main Dish: 1. **Dale Stone;** 2. **Jenny Traff**

Desserts: 1. **Jenny Traff;** 2. **Jody Engrav.**

### Yardzee

First place: **Bob Serva;** Second place: **Michelle Finlayson.**



## Time for the Twins

People supported and staff from La Crescent made a road trip to the Twin Cities to attend a Minnesota Twins baseball game in July.

## Fun day on the fishing float

*The Best Dam Fishing Float near Dresbach provided a great day of fishing again this summer. Here, Eric Loken enjoys looking over one of the fish caught during the day.*



## Pontoon adventure

Bob Serva, left, and Larry Goetzinger were among those taking part in an outing on the river in September aboard a pontoon boat provided by NASA (North American Squirrel Association), a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor fun for seniors and people with disabilities.

# Summer fun includes Eagle Bluff Rendezvous



*Ryan Wieser gets a boost up as he tackles the climbing wall at the Eagle Bluff Rendezvous, held Aug. 3.*



*Diane Schulze checks out a snake that was part of the day's activities.*



*Jeff Husman prepares for his turn on the climbing wall.*

The annual Eagle Bluff Rendezvous was held Aug. 3 at Eagle Bluff Nature Center near Lanesboro, Minn. The event was co-hosted by ABLE and Home and Community Options.

The day was full of fun for people supported and staff alike. It featured a climbing wall, dancing, archery, arts and crafts and other indoor and outdoor activities.

A big thank you to Lisa Belverud and Desi Smith Moss for coordinating the event for ABLE, and to the staff members who attended or helped out in any way.



*It was a day of fun for all including Lisa Meiners, left, and Janice Nelson.*

# All-Agency meeting: Education and recognition



*Recognized for five years of employment at ABLE were, from left, Desiree Smith Moss, Matt Pieper, Corey Connor, Janette Brennan and Boyd Pennewell.*

ABLE's fall All-Agency meeting was held Oct. 4 at La Crescent United Methodist Church.

The all-agency meeting, held each fall and spring, is an opportunity for employees of ABLE to come together for agency updates, educational programming and, in the fall, staff recognition.

This fall's agenda included a presentation on Maltreatment of Children and Adults and Reporting by Alison Feigh of the Jacob Wetterling Resource



*On the agenda: flu shots.*

Center of Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center in Minneapolis.

There also were sessions titled Slip,

Trip and Fall by Dana Mickelson of SFM Insurance; Healthy Diet and Food Safety; HIPAA; TB and Infection Control; and Hygiene and Grooming. In addition, ABLE Executive Director Gail Meyer presented agency updates, and employees were able to receive their annual flu shots.

Staff members also were recognized for their years of service to ABLE. There also was the presentation of attendance and Super Sub awards. Door prizes and a delicious lunch rounded out the day.

## Recognition

- Five years:** Janette Brennan, Corey Connor, Boyd Pennewell, Matt Pieper, Desiree Smith Moss, Dustin Uhlendorf and Ethan Wilkemeyer
- 10 years:** Jenna Kolve, Janice Moen, Sara Schroeder and Lisa Schwidde
- 15 years:** Alan Campbell, Rene Irwin, Kristin King-Aasum, Jan Welscher and Linda Welscher
- 20 years:** Amy Hanson
- 25 years:** Grace Sullivan
- 35 years:** Jeanne Dawes



*20 years:  
Amy Hanson*



*15 years:  
Linda Welscher*



*10 years:  
Janice Moen*

Photos of all those recognized were not available



*What's an all-agency meeting without some delicious food? Here, Desiree Smith Moss leads the way as employees dig into a meal of roast turkey with all the trimmings.*

## Foundation news

### 25th annual golf tournament crowns champions

#### HOLE PRIZE WINNERS

**Women:** Nikki Augedahl, Kim Rommes, Ann Kurk, Emily Moen, Deb Hoscheit, Jacquelyn Snodgrass, Dawn Rezin, Rachel Stackhouse and Tracy Schmitz.

**Men:** Justin Burg, Blaine Schuldt, Brian Cordes, Ron Ehlers, Bush (Steve) Halversen, Devoine Johnson, Jan Welscher and Rob Schmitz.

The ABLE Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Tournament and Steak Dinner was held July 22 at Ma Cal Grove in Caledonia.

The event was a huge success, with golfers enjoying 18 holes of golf, a pulled pork-sandwich lunch and a steak dinner. The evening also included a charity auction, which raised more than \$6,000 through bidding on items such as a package of Minnesota Twins tickets donated by Long Haul Trucking, two bows donated by Mathews, Inc., autographed basketballs by Draymond Green and Kevin Durant donated by Miken/Worth Sports, a Minnesota Vikings tailgating tent package donated by Rawlings, an Anthony Rizzo Chicago Cubs autographed baseball donated by Fanatics, and a pizza and beer party donated by Good Times in Caledonia.

Top finishers were:

Championship Flight: 1. Ma Cal Grove team of Pree Amin, Kevin Ranzenberger, Chad Harms and Tyler Engen; 2. Merchants Bank team of Julie Augedahl, Justin Burg and Jac-

quelyn and Cole Snodgrass; 3. Eitzen State Bank 2 team of Eric Wurm, Kelsey Lampert and Pete and Leslie Kittleson.

First flight: 1. Jeremy Fraiser, Rick Thomsen, Darin Amann and Jeff Stankek; 2. Caledonia Lumber team of Steve Bauer, David Bauer, Mike Buttell and Ross Meyer; 3. Steak Grillers team of Gerry Dix, Steve Reiman, Tank Schroeder and Bob Meiners.

Second flight: 1. Mutual of America team of Dave Eisberner, Rick Goetzinger, Joe Gorman and Chris Daly; 2. Schmitz Refrigeration and Heating team of Matt and Jody Schmitz and Rob and Ann Schmitz; 3. Klug Insurance Agency team of Darla Eppen, Sarah Klug, Lori Twite and Diana Rask.

The evening would not be possible without the golfers and the dinner volunteers, and without the support of businesses who donated hole and door prizes.

Also, thanks to Acentek and Miken Sports; the steak grillers; Kim and Mike Rommes; Jim and Greg Hoscheit; and auctioneer Lee Babler.

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

##### Hole Sponsors

AcenTek, Associated Financial Group, Augedahl Construction, Auto Value, Bank of the West, Becker & Stemper Electric, Bremer Insurance, Caledonia Lumber, Caledonia Oil, Caledonia Wheel Alignment, Carquest Auto Parts, Danielson Insurance, ESB Bank & Insurance, Ellingson Motors, The Floor Guys of Eitzen, Good Times Restaurant, Klauke Financial, Klug Insurance, Kraus Oil/Country Store, MAAD Bowling Alley, Ma Cal Grove Golf Club, McAllister Financial Services, Merchants Bank, Meyer's Lawn Service, Midwest Family Broadcasting, Miken Sports (Rawlings) Mutual of America, New Albin Savings Bank, Pete's Electrical Services, Precision Stainless, Inc., Schmitz Refrigeration, Smooth Toe/Lifestyle Fitness, Spring Grove

Communications, Staggemeyer Stave, Steve & Debra Wolfe, Tri-State Business Machines, Vantage Architects, and Winona Controls.

##### Other Donations

Corky's Pizza, Elsie's, Fanatics, The Farmhouse Eatery, Good Times, Kwik Trip, La Crosse Loggers, Long Haul Trucking, Mathews, Inc., Mayo Clinic-Franciscan Healthcare, Merchants Bank, Miken Sports, Mutual of America, Pine Cone Place, Rawlings, Schmitty's Time Out, Sports Hub, Sue Haggerty, Tamiko's, and Worth Sports.

##### Steak Dinner

Marilyn Burg, Julie Merzenich, Caledonia Bakery, Good Times, Ma Cal Grove Golf Club, Martin Brothers, Potato King, Sno-Pac, and Quillin's.

## Food Drive

ABLE held a food drive for the I Feed event in November. Nonperishable food items were collected in both La Crescent and Caledonia.

The food donations went to help stock local food pantries, with some possibly also assisting people in those areas hit by hurricanes this year.

Thanks to all who donated.

### Foundation Board of Directors

#### President:

Judy Storlie

#### Vice president:

Heather Gray

**Secretary/treasurer:** Sue Webb

#### Directors:

Ralph Burg, Lynn Reynolds, Annette Van Gundy, Nancy Arenz, Denise Lorenz, Mike Rommes, Paul Gray and Desiree Smith Moss

### ABLE Board of Directors

#### President:

Myron Falken

#### Vice president:

Jerry Berns

#### Secretary:

Kim Schwab

#### Treasurer:

Angel Klankowski

#### Directors:

Marlene Schultz, Steve Ingvalson and Sarah Goff.

The board meets the fourth Monday of each month.

Special thanks to **Myron Falken, Jerry Berns and Kim Schwab**, who are completing their terms this year.



A Brighter Living Experience

**Caledonia Central Office**

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**La Crescent Central Office**

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[www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Jan. 1: First Lucky Day winners of 2018 announced:** Don't forget to check [www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org) to see if you are a January winner in the 2018 Lucky Day calendar raffle. Winners are announced the first day of every month in 2018. Thank you and good luck to everyone who supports the ABLE Lucky Day calendar drawings.

**March 2018: ABLE Foundation Fun Night.** The casino-style fun night begins at 6:30 p.m. at the La Crescent Snowmobile Club outside La Crescent; a \$25 ticket will admit two people and includes food, beverages and an entry into a raffle with the chance to win the grand prize! An exact date will be announced soon, then tickets will be available at the La Crescent Central Office or Caledonia Central Office.

**March 24: ABLE Idol.** Don't miss this talent show featuring people supported by ABLE. It will be held at the Caledonia High School auditorium; more details will be announced soon.

**Summer 2018: ABLE Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser and Steak Dinner,** held at Ma Cal Grove Country Club in Caledonia. The annual fundraiser features a golf tournament with several divisions, and a steak dinner; separate dinner tickets will be available for those who wish to attend the steak dinner only. Watch for the date and more details, coming in the spring.

**For all the latest, check the ABLE website at [www.able-inc.org](http://www.able-inc.org)**