



CONNECTIONS

Able to Serve · P.O. Box 334 Garner, NC 27529 · (919) 779-5545

A YEAR OF GROWING

In the last few years, we have seen remarkable growth in the Able to Serve family in many ways. We now have nearly **40 registered participants**, over **25 volunteers**, **14 board members**, and **six staff members**. We have seen record-breaking attendance at our annual events. Expansion of our upstairs space is nearing completion – soon we'll have more space for program activities, staff development, and family enrichment. Just in the last year, we have taken over **100 trips** into the community and hosted over **50 guest speakers, visitors, and presenters**. We have packed nearly **4,500 bags** for children in need of food, completed over **50 blankets** for elderly residents in the local nursing homes, assembled over **4,000 bulletins** for the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, and packed over **1,000 boxes of food** for families at a local food pantry. The numbers show – Able to Serve is growing.

Our growth, however, is not simply measurable in numbers. We have also continued to grow in the quality of the program. As our mission statement



says, we take a holistic approach to learning. With everything that we do, we aim to see our participants grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our staff team strategically plans our curriculum, outings, events, and guest speakers to meet these goals, and we continually reevaluate all of our activities for effectiveness.

Our commitment to our participants and their families is long-term. When participants come into the program, we expect them to be part of the Able to Serve family for many years to come. Therefore, part of our planning process is to meet with families to determine a participant's goals and to place him or her in one of our three learning groups that will

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Able to Serve is a faith-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2003. Our mission is to get involved in the lives of individuals who have intellectual and physical disabilities and help them get involved in our community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ATS PARTICIPANTS

"I liked going to Clemmons State Forest and learning about trees from the Forest Ranger." – Avery

"I enjoyed touring the Angus Barn. The trip gave us the chance to explore the community and get to see things that we would not normally get to see." – Becky

"Getting to go to the NC Science Museum. We were able to explore the museum and learn about the earth. Then we got to eat lunch in front of the butterfly museum." – Faith

"My favorite thing was getting to visit the Carter Finley Stadium at NC State University and getting to meet the head coach." – Kayla

LEARN

GROW

LEAD

SERVE

enable growth. Whether we are working with an individual who has been in our program for many years or with someone who has been in our program for a just a few months, we make every effort to help each participant grow and become the person he or she wants to be.

While we are beyond blessed to be experiencing this growth of our program and participants, we are also celebrating the growth of our community influence. Every week, we spend time out in the community learning about local businesses and organizations or helping with community-based projects. We want our participants to know that they are a vital part of the world around them and they have something to give back. We are grateful that for the third year in a row, we have received an award from the Garner Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, we received the Summit Award and in 2017 and 2018, we received the People’s Choice Award for Best Community Partner. These awards remind us of the community’s support and continual commitment to Able to Serve. It is through this support and these local partnerships that we are able to complete the second part of our mission to involve our participants in the community.

As this year ends, we thank God for the many ways in which we have experienced growth in the program, in our participants, and in our partnerships in the community. All of these things help us learn, grow, lead, and serve together.

WELCOME MICHELE

Able to Serve is excited to welcome Michele Fultz to our staff team. Michele attended Carteret Community College in Morehead City to study Recreational Therapy. She homeschooled three of her four children until her oldest graduated. In 2012, she began teaching at a day program for special needs young adults in Texas that is similar to Able To Serve. After working there for three years, she moved to North Carolina to be closer to family. Since her move to NC, she has helped take care of her visually impaired sister and has served as a one-one-one caregiver for two different autistic adults. Michele says, “Finding Able to Serve was an answer to many prayers. I am very excited and thankful for the opportunity and privilege to work with such a great group of people.”



WAYS YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

For more information on how to get involved, visit our website.

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Help participants experience the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS

Make your own hours. Computer skills required.

CHURCH OR ORGANIZATIONAL GROUPS

Spend a day with participants.

VAN DRIVERS

Bring participants on monthly outings to experience the community.



ONLINE: AbleToServe.org

MAIL-IN: P.O. Box 334
Garner, NC 27529

Because of you, they are **Able To Serve.**