

# **Connection Newsletter**

PO Box 334 Garner, NC 27529 • Spring 2022

# **Featured Story**

# **Back Out in the Community**

Since Covid changed the world in March 2020, it has been challenging for us and our partcipants to be out in the community. We had to make adjustments and move towards more on-site activities and hosting guests on Zoom.

Although changes have occurred over the past two years, our belief that our community is a better place when people of all abilities come together and serve others remains the same.

As people all around our community are coming back together, we are doing the same!

Bowling at Buffaloe Lanes, checking books out at the Wake County Public Library, volunteering at the Poole Family YMCA, therapy & service dogs attending and participating in important service projects. These are just a few of the many activities that have returned over the past few months.







We have been bowling at Buffaloe Lanes in Garner regularly since 2016, and it is one of the highlights of the month.

One of our participants, Beryl, said, "I love going to bowl, and sometimes my score is over 100!". One of her favorite things about bowling each month is watching her friends and cheering them on while they bowl.

The trip to the Wake County Public Library is a monthly educational outing. It allows our participants to have a regularly scheduled time to choose books that interest them. Karlin loves going to the library because she can "check out new books and explore different fictional worlds." Abianne finds this a "great social opportunity" to explore new book series & find common interests with her peers.

We believe our community is a classroom, and we are excited to return to these activities and explore new ones. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will work in and through all of our lives this spring!

### **Our Model:**









### **Did you Know?**

We will celebrate our 19th Anniversary on May 22nd, 2022!



## **Volunteer Highlight**

"Before joining Able to Serve, I was a Special Agent for the NC State Bureau of Investigation assigned to the Crime Laboratory in Raleigh. After 31 years of service I became an Investigator for the NC Board of Pharmacy for 7 years. I began serving as a volunteer for Able to Serve in 2014.

My role at ATS is to assist the teachers and the participants with classroom activities, computer skills, crafts, games, and my favorite activity Back Pack Buddies. I also enjoy playing the piano for the ATS benefits, Christmas parties, and birthdays!

The biggest personal benefit I receive is **Unconditional Love**. It fills you up the moment you walk in the door. The smiles, the laughter, hugs, and high fives from participants are just a few examples of this. We are a family that celebrates the good days, mourns with those experiencing tough or bad days, and prays for one another on a daily basis. I have witnessed many miracles coming out of our devotion and prayer. I know that my life has been changed for the better because of my family at Able to Serve." - *Tom Currin* 



#### **Donate**



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## **Mother's Day Brunch**

We have held a Mother's Day brunch since 2016, hosted by the ladies at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. As a gift of love, they organize and provide the food at this special event for the mothers of partcipants, grandmothers, sisters, and/or caregivers.

This informal brunch offers a chance for moms to spend quality time together and catch up with one another. They especially enjoy re-connecting because there are just some things that only moms/caregivers understand about caring for a special needs adult.

Helen, a member of the church, said, "Each year, I say I want to wear sunglasses because I cry." She loves hearing mothers share their stories and encourage each other.

Our 2022 Mother's Day Brunch is coming up on Tuesday May 3rd at 9 am. We are excited to show how much we love and value each of our moms, gradmothers, sisters, and cargivers!

### **Highland's Special Needs Ministry**

On March 20th, we were honored to be a part of the Special Needs Ministry Celebration Sunday at Highland Baptist Church in Garner, NC. For almost 40 years, they have been faithfully ministering to adults with disabilities and have been a part of Able to Serve since 2003. We look forward each month to Pastor Frank for leading devotions with our participants.

Their Special Needs Ministry seeks to support and uplift individuals with special needs. In their Joy class, there are several ATS participants who are members. They also are involved in activities such as the Happiness Retreat at Camp Caraway, pool parties, hayrides, and more.

We appreciate their faithful commitment to provide a place where the gospel is shared and members are growing in their faith each week.

Give abilities a chance.