

Featured Story

Gardening Adventures this Year

The change in season from summer to fall also marks the end of our garden project for 2022. Our participants were busy working in the garden through the summer harvest. Some of the highlights this year were:

- Starting our warm season flower annuals and caring for them from seed to seedling to full bloom.
- Making pressed flower art from the Celosia, basil, gomphrena, and sunflowers.
- Planting and caring for squash, beans, peppers, and tomato seedlings.
- Harvesting numerous vegetables from our very own garden patch.
- Hatching and releasing painted lady butterflies.
- Making homemade hummingbird nectar and hanging hummingbird feeders around the property.
- Experimenting with hydroponic planting techniques and germinating bean seeds using only water and sunlight.

We “closed down” our summer garden this month by prepping for the next cycle in the early spring. We are planting cover crops in the outdoor beds and planting cool-season veggies and flowers in our greenhouse.

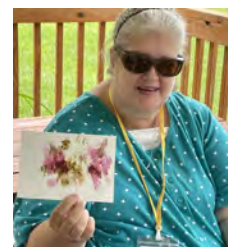
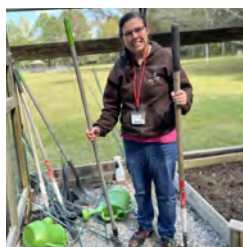
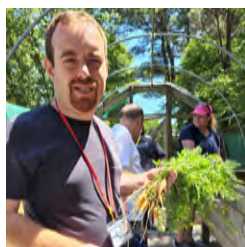
This year has been incredibly successful, and we look forward to getting our hands back in the dirt soon!



“It is SO cool to watch the plants grow from start to finish and flourish inside our garden.” – *Avery, Participant*

“Working as a volunteer in our ATS garden with the participants is one of the highlights of my week! I have a very captive audience, and it warms my heart that the participants are learning about nature, the ecosystem, and caring for living things. This experience has inspired many to start flowers and veggies in their growing space at home!”

*Sheri Hovey,
Volunteer, Parent, & leader of the Gardening LifeSkill*



In May 2003, the vision for Able to Serve began, and over the years, we have followed God’s plan for this ministry. Looking back, we think of all the people who have supported us by giving generously, volunteering, participating in the programs, and praying for and encouraging us along the way. We are so thankful for YOU, and we can’t tell you enough how much of a blessing it has been to us that you have been a part of our mission over the past 20 years. You’ve helped make Able to Serve the ministry that it is today.

Let’s Celebrate! As 2023 approaches, we are planning for a year of celebration. Be on the lookout for some special ways that we will celebrate 20 years of giving abilities a chance while looking forward to what the Lord has in store for our future.



How to Donate?



Online: abletoserve.org
By Mail:
PO Box 334
Garner, NC 27529



Fall Dance 2022

"Yeah, we fancy like Applebee's on a date night. Got that Bourbon Street steak with the Oreo shake." These are lyrics from Walker Hayes' hit song, "Fancy Like," which was a memorable hit for one of our participants, Karlin. She & her friends rocked the dance to this song, which has gone viral on social media.

Not only did Karlin have an incredible evening, but more of our participants also wanted to share their favorite parts of the evening:

- "Moving my feet and keeping the beat." - **Steve**
- "Enjoyed dancing with my friend Steve & Peggy." - **Avery**
- "Dancing to the Tim McGraw songs & the yummy snacks." - **Patrick**
- "Seeing all my friends and enjoying the night out." - **Stephanie**

This was an incredible night of fun with our friends while we connected with families & church members at our annual fall dance hosted by First Baptist Church in Clayton. We're grateful to have this church volunteer their time and space so our families could have a special night out. We appreciate Mrs. Lynn Matthews and the WMU group at FBC Clayton for making this a memorable evening.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and we are joining with others across the country to celebrate the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workplace and their contributions as employees throughout America.

This month is about celebrating the individuals with disabilities who make our workplaces, communities, and nations stronger every day. We believe our community and workplaces are better when people of all abilities come together and serve others to make a difference.

Here at Able to Serve, we provide a place where individuals with disabilities can learn, grow, lead, and serve. Many develop these skills and use them outside the walls of Able to Serve, where they work at local businesses.

Check out a few of our incredible participants!



Maria began working at McDonald's Restaurant in December 2021, where she is a Hospitality Ambassador. Her favorite part is making friends, talking with customers, and helping the community. She even gets to meet Able to Serve supporters and talk with them about her job.



David E has worked at Food Lion since 2014. He loves having the responsibility of helping people through bagging groceries, collecting carts, and serving customers.



James has been working at McDonald's Restaurant for over 20 years where he ensures the restaurant is clean and welcoming for customers.



Jeremy works at J Taylors Car Wash Express. He started this car wash in 2019, where he details the inside, washes the outside, and waxes. His favorite part is seeing the transformation of his work and how happy the customers are with the finished product.



Ryan works at Esteamed Coffee. Ryan loves people, and making people smile is his favorite thing. Whether it's making someone their favorite morning beverage or afternoon treat, clearing tables, taking out trash, or cleaning the bathrooms, Ryan finds joy in it all.

Give abilities a chance.



Did you know? You can support adults with disabilities on your birthday or special occasion by hosting a Facebook fundraiser for Able to Serve! Head to our Facebook page & click "fundraisers" to learn more!