



Connection Newsletter

PO Box 334 Garner, NC 27529 • Winter 2023

www.abletoserve.org/celebrate20

A Generation of Generosity

I am excited to be here in 2023 with you! This year is a milestone for our ministry - our 20th year. I have seen amazing transformation in the lives of the people here, including myself, while we continue to learn, grow, lead and serve.

As I have shared with you before, my sister Gerrie and I grew up together understanding that all people are created in the image of God - uniquely and wonderfully made. I also grew up with my friend Dale Smith, his brother Mark and their family Mr. Jim and Marian Smith, owners of Smith's Addressing Machine Services (SAMS) in Garner. Both of our families knew the importance of giving abilities a chance because each of our families were blessed with a person who had developmental disabilities - my sister Gerrie and Dale and Mark's sister Glenna.

The Smith family believed in the mission of Able to Serve from the beginning, and Dale now continues the vision that his parents Jim and Marian Smith shared with this organization. During our anniversary launch week, I sat down with my friend Dale and reminisced about how we have seen growth and success at Able to Serve.

The Smith family invested in our first ministry - a van to connect adults with disabilities and their churches. Beginning with one vision and one van, Mr. Jim then opened doors for us to move into a leased space at their SAMS headquarters building in 2004. That space became our first program space, serving participants and their families from 2005 - 2015.



Both Dale and I along with our families have watched dreams achieved throughout Able to Serve's growth. Adults with disabilities are connected, serving and thriving in all that they can do. Our staff and volunteers are learning as well, serving alongside our participants and their families. We are seeing the vision realized, as Mr. Jim and Mrs. Marian's vision for Able to Serve has passed onto Dale and Mark, now continuing to the next generation with Dale's son Travis.

As Dale so perfectly said, "This place was important to my mom and dad, and we want to continue helping and growing with Able to Serve. Your organization will always have a special place with us."

We will be celebrating milestones like these and more with you throughout this 20th year. I invite you to celebrate with us as we share memories on our website and social media pages, like more of my conversation with Dale and a look back at our first location. We are excited watching all that God has done at Able to Serve with our history of supporters like you and the Smith family, making Able to Serve the ministry that it is today!

Carlton McDaniel Jr.,
Founder and Executive Director

Our Beginning

Able to Serve
Founded

Activity Program
Begins

2004

2010

2003

2007

1st

Able to Serve Location

Service Learning
Program Begins



TECHNOLOGY DRIVE LOCATION
2004-2015



Learn more about our History at www.abletoserve.org/celebrate20



Launch Week Recap

From the start of our organization, we have focused on celebrating all that adults with disabilities can do. The best way to head into our biggest year was with a big launch together!

In January, we took a week to “launch” our 20th celebration with a confetti party, bottle rocket experiments and service. Every day that week gave us a chance to highlight our goals to learn, grow, lead and serve each other as we enjoyed kicking off this big year.

To create our launch moments, Hope, Faith, Grace and Joy Groups collected the materials for their rocket, created one to personalize the experience and watched the Program Instructors oversee the launches outdoors.

Every rocket launch was unique, offering an opportunity to learn how the ingredients mixed within each bottle and how the experiment worked. In fact, when the Hope Group’s rocket did not take off, Program Instructor Chris took the lead, giving their rocket air time with a literal “kickoff”. Joy Group’s “USS JOY” had the most successful launch, led by their Instructor Sophia in full celebration gear.

Showing off our anniversary shirts, each group gathered for a party at Able to Serve to lunch and laugh with group photos. The confetti stuck around for days, showing up on our sidewalks, in our cars and throughout our hallways.

We highlighted service by organizing our Backpack Buddies supplies for local students, an opportunity where we have been giving back to our community for over 6 years. Every group rotated around the tables helping others with support and smiles - the hallmark of Able to Serve.

Through every smile, we know that this year is going to be our best as we celebrate all that we can do! Thank you for supporting our work - and fun - at Able to Serve!



**Celebrating 20 Years
of Giving Abilities a Chance**

How to Donate?



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