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For Immediate Release

## **Abilis Youth Board and the Greenwich Junior United Way Host 5th Annual Together We Shine Red Carpet event for Abilis**

*Formal Clothing Donations Accepted in Advance of the Dance – An evening of inclusion and celebration!*

**GREENWICH**, Conn., January 29, 2024 – On **Saturday, February 24, 2024**, the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the fifth annual **Together We Shine** event put on by the **Abilis Youth Board** and the **Greenwich Junior United Way** as a special red-carpet event for the **Abilis community**. Together We Shine features dinner, dancing, music, and its signature red carpet entrance. Abilis community members and area teens (ages 14 to 18) attend in formal attire and dance the night away! In preparation for the event, Abilis is seeking formal clothing donations to be dropped off at the Abilis headquarters in Greenwich by February 17th. Donations of formal dresses in sizes small through 3XL and men’s suits in any size are accepted at Abilis at 50 Glenville Street, Greenwich, Connecticut, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For additional information or questions on the formal attire donations, please contact Lisa Bria at [bria@abilis.us](mailto:bria@abilis.us).

Together We Shine is an inclusive formal dance and party that is put on each year by the Abilis Youth Board and the Greenwich Junior United Way. The event brings together area high school students and Abilis community members for a fun night celebrating the differences, abilities, needs, and dreams in everyone.

“Together We Shine is one of our Abilis community’s favorite events of the year,” noted Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis. “Individuals of all abilities get dressed up, walk the red carpet, and spend time with their friends from Abilis and the local high school students who help make the evening so special. Support from the local high school students provides an opportunity for our youth to understand the importance of giving back to the community, celebrating diversity, and improving the quality of life for people of all abilities.”

“Teens from Greenwich Jr. United Way and the Abilis Youth Board come together and showcase an event that celebrates our diversity while teaching the importance of giving back to your community,” noted David Rabin, CEO of Greenwich United Way. “We are proud of these teens and their adult program managers and volunteers who have stepped up to make Together We Shine a premier annual event.”

Local high school students interested in volunteering can sign-up by visiting [abilis.us/support-us/special-events.html](http://abilis.us/support-us/special-events.html).

**Abilis** is a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports more than 800 individuals with disabilities and their families from birth throughout their lives. Founded in 1951, Abilis is a leader in providing meaningful support to the community in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in towns including Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Ridgefield, Stamford, Westport and Wilton. The organization has a long-standing reputation for individualized, high-quality care. For more information, visit [www.abilis.us](http://www.abilis.us), or follow on [Facebook @Abilis, Inc.](#), [Instagram @abilis\\_us](#) or [Twitter @Abilis](#).

**The Greenwich United Way (GUW)** shares a name with approximately 1,200 other similar organizations across the nation, although the Greenwich, Connecticut, division is a privately incorporated, locally governed, nonprofit agency. As a volunteer-driven organization, the Greenwich United Way exists to help identify and address the health, educational and self-sufficiency needs specific to its local community and to create and affect meaningful, lasting solutions. Through various fundraising efforts and on-going research, the organization is able to directly grant the funds necessary to accomplish this goal. The Greenwich United Way also invests in and conducts collaborative efforts to address broad-based community needs with partnering nonprofit agencies. For more information, visit [greenwichunitedway.org](http://greenwichunitedway.org), or follow on Instagram and Facebook [@greenwichunitedway](#).

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