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For Immediate Release

18th Annual Walk/Run for Abilis Raises \$250,000

Funds Raised will Support New Initiatives at Abilis for Those with Disabilities in Fairfield County

GREENWICH, Conn., October 17, 2023 — The **18th annual Walk/Run for Abilis** was a huge success! The event raised more than \$250,000 for Abilis, which will be directed toward new initiatives at Abilis that support more than 800 individuals with disabilities and their families in lower Fairfield County. The 5k run and 1-mile walk were held at Greenwich Point Park on Sunday, October 15, on a picture-perfect fall day and hundreds showed up to show their support for Abilis — and to dance, run, walk and have fun with family and friends.

“We are so grateful for the wonderful support of the community, families, friends and our community members,” noted Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis. “What a beautiful morning to be outside together enjoying fun activities for every age. We are especially thankful for our generous sponsors, donors and everyone who came out and showed their support. We truly are honored and couldn’t do what we do without the community’s involvement. Thank you.”

Walk/Run for Abilis kicked-off with a fun warm-up by celebrity fitness guru and choreographer **Billy Blanks Jr.**, who also served as the event’s master of ceremonies. Honored speakers included this year’s Walk/Run for Abilis ambassador **Kristen Schumacher**, age 23 of Stamford, Connecticut. Kristen lives in an Abilis residence and is part of the Abilis competitive employment program. Kristen has been with Abilis since she was a baby, starting with the Abilis Birth to Three program. Today Kristen works at Greenwich Country Club and at the Abilis Café, located at the Abilis headquarters, where she is responsible for setting up the Café every day. Kristen also recently started working with the new competitive employer Masthead Pink in Westchester County, which offers supportive products for women following mastectomy surgery. She is also a graduate of the Abilis Project SEARCH program at the Darien YMCA. **First Selectman of Greenwich Fred Camillo** also attended and spoke. The National Anthem was performed by Abilis community members **Melanie Luchetta** and **Theo Brown**. **The Dance Pointe** entertained the walkers and runners with their amazing dance moves. **Carnival for a Cause**, hosted by the **Abilis Youth Board**, and also the amazing face painters and balloon artist, entertained the kids. **Abilis Gardens & Gifts** was also at the event providing a preview of some of its wonderful holiday items available in the shop this fall and selling some of its gorgeous flower arrangements and hand-made bath and body products.

Walk/Run is Abilis is the nonprofit organization’s signature “friend-raising” event of the year. Many who take part in Walk/Run for Abilis do so because they are inspired by a friend or family member with a developmental disability.

“Raising more than \$250,000 at the Walk/Run is amazing and one of our best years ever,” noted Amy Montimurro. She also noted that the funds raised at Walk/Run for Abilis will be restricted to new initiatives at Abilis to support 800 individuals with disabilities in lower Fairfield County.

Abilis thanks its generous sponsors including its Platinum Premiere sponsors Holland & Knight and DARCARS Automotive Group; as well as its Gold, Silver, Bronze and partner sponsors

William Blair, The Custar Family, J.Dwyer Builders, The First Bank of Greenwich, New England Total Landscaping and Moffly Media. Special thanks to Abilis' Board of Directors, the Walk/Run committee including Abilis Board members Vinnie Annunziata, Dina Urso, Jenny Patchen, Mike Custar and Dick Franck, the Abilis Youth Board and community volunteers and Abilis staff who make the event run beautifully and have it be so fun for the whole community.

To learn more about Abilis, visit abilis.us.

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, or follow on [Facebook @Abilis, Inc.](#), [Instagram @abilis_us](#) or [Twitter @Abilis](#).

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