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For Immediate Release

Abilis and Greenwich Library Celebrate 3rd Anniversary of The Café at Greenwich Library with the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Event Held Also Recognizes October at National Disability Employment Awareness Month

GREENWICH, Conn., October 24, 2023 — Abilis, the nonprofit organization providing services and support to more than 800 individuals with special needs and their families throughout Fairfield County, along with [Greenwich Library](#) and the [Greenwich Chamber of Commerce](#), commemorated the third anniversary of [The Café at Greenwich Library](#) on October 23 and also celebrated October being **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)** with a special event at The Café.

Invited guests enjoyed light bites, cocktails and a presentation by **Marcia O’Kane**, CEO and president of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, **Joe Williams**, director of Greenwich Library, Greenwich First Selectman **Fred Camillo** read a proclamation that was presented to Abilis CEO and president **Amy Montimurro**, who also spoke about Abilis’ sought-after competitive employment program for young adults with disabilities. The presentation showcased Abilis’ competitive employment programs and highlighted the unique partnership between Abilis and Greenwich Library to run The Café, which has been a shining example of inclusive employment in the community and has provided meaningful employment opportunities to more than 35 Abilis program participants with disabilities who have worked at The Café during the past several years. The program has been so successful that Abilis now runs five Cafés in partnership with other community partners in lower Fairfield County, which all emulate the success of The Café at Greenwich Library.

“Three years ago, when The Café at Greenwich Library opened its doors in the middle of the pandemic, the concept was to pioneer a partnership between two like-minded community organizations,” noted Joe Williams, director of Greenwich Library. “We started with online ordering and curbside pickup, and have grown The Café into a flourishing community hub, offering an open, light and bright seating area, free wifi, and a diverse menu available from breakfast through dinner for our library patrons and staff. The Café’s success has benefited the library and the town and has been a model of inclusive employment that others now want to follow.”

Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis noted, “The Café at Greenwich Library’s concept and inclusive employment has been very beneficial to our Abilis community members who work there. They are proud to be associated with The Library and love seeing and interacting with the customers, many who have become regulars.” Amy also noted that The Café’s success has encouraged other organizations in the area to have discussions with the nonprofit and is opening doors to even more inclusive employment opportunities.

Abilis has been at the forefront of offering employment services, training, and placements for its program participants. Currently, more than 135 individuals with disabilities are employed with 125 various businesses throughout Fairfield County, including restaurants, hospitals, retail stores, big box chain stores like Home Depot, clubs and many more. Abilis runs employee training programs like its Project SEARCH, a nine-month internship program at Greenwich

Hospital, Stamford Hospital and the Darien YMCA, as well as operating several of its own businesses like Abilis Gardens & Gifts that serves as a retail training site before employees move on to other businesses like the cafés that Abilis runs with the Island Beach Concession Stand, The Café at Darien Library, The Café at Darien YMCA, The Café at Greenwich Library and The Café at the Darien Depot.

In light of October being National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), this celebration also serves to highlight the critical role organizations like Abilis play in promoting disability employment. The 2023 NDEAM theme, “Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now, and Next,” underscores the ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive workforce. While spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the essence of NDEAM thrives in grassroots events like this across the nation.

During the event, Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo issued a proclamation in honor of Abilis’ seven-decade commitment to providing employment and training for individuals with disabilities. The proclamation acknowledged Abilis’ efforts in placing hundreds of individuals in community jobs across Greenwich and Fairfield County. It also lauded the special partnership between Greenwich Library and Abilis, which has fostered job skills, self-confidence and inclusion.

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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