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For Immediate Release

Abilis and Darien Depot Partner on the New and Improved Depot Diner, Featuring an Expanded Menu and Extended Service

Starting in October, the diner-style cafe at the Depot will be managed by Abilis

DARIEN, Conn., November 1, 2023 -- **Abilis**, the nonprofit organization providing services and support to more than 800 individuals with special needs and their families throughout Fairfield County, and **The Depot, Darien's Youth Center**, are excited to announce an extension of a collaborative partnership — to run The Depot Diner at the Darien teen center

Currently, Abilis uses The Depot as a home-base for the Abilis LEAP Transition Program, for young adults with special needs that is a community-based program to help young adults become more independent, obtain meaningful jobs, and participate in community activities. In this new partnership expansion, which starts this month, Abilis will manage all operations for **The Depot Diner**, the diner-style café located at The Depot. The Depot Diner will offer delicious hot food options Friday afternoons and evenings, and healthier a la carte options Monday through Thursday. Starting in January, The Depot Diner will offer hot food daily (Monday through Friday), extending this strong partnership and offering a new resource for the youth community of Darien. This is the fifth café concept in Fairfield County that Abilis manages, with other Abilis-run businesses The Café at Greenwich Library, The Café at Darien Library, The Café at Darien YMCA, and Greenwich's Island Beach Concession Stand.

"We are really excited to partner with The Depot to run their The Depot Diner and provide great food options for the hundreds of teens and tweens who attend their critical programs," noted Amy Montimurro, CEO and president of Abilis. "This partnership with The Depot Diner provides meaningful employment and an opportunity for individuals to learn marketable skills, great customer service, and develop self-confidence to join the workforce. It's a wonderful program and we are proud to expand our partnership with critical non-profit organizations like The Depot in such a special way."

The Depot provides middle and high schoolers in Darien with a welcoming, fun and social environment through various programs, events and activities throughout the school year in a judgment-free and safe setting. The Depot Diner provides a critical sense of community and offers both "grab and go" snacks throughout the week plus beloved diner-style hot offerings on

Friday afternoons and evenings. The new menu features exciting offerings like mac bites and grilled cheese sandwiches that are kid friendly and reasonably priced. Additionally, The Depot Diner will now offer more healthy and fresh options like fruit salad, wraps and yogurt. The Depot is excited to offer this newly expanded menu every day of the week starting in January.

“We are thrilled to be able to extend our existing relationship with Abilis to take the food and beverage offerings at The Depot to the next level,” said Amy Daniels, executive director of The Depot. “We believe that the Abilis community will help improve the overall experience at The Depot, and we are excited to offer additional opportunities to provide employment opportunities to Abilis community members. We are all excited to have this vision come to fruition.”

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 supports 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.

The Depot has provided middle and high schoolers in Darien with a welcoming, fun and social environment away from outside pressures for more than 30 years. The Depot fulfills its mission through various programs, events and activities throughout the school year for 6th-12th grade youth in a judgment-free and safe setting. All public, private, or homeschooled teens residing in Darien are invited to attend, and scholarships are available for all programs, events and activities. This critical nonprofit organization provides meaningful and transformative programming promoting competency-building skills, social and life skills, academic improvement, resilience and community involvement. To learn more please visit dariendepot.com.

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