

Community-based programs promoting integrated employment and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities

New Name, Same Mission

We are excited to reintroduce ourselves as **EmployAbility**. This change is part of our exciting transformation from Coastal Center for Developmental Services to a new organizational identity, one that more effectively shares the work we do with our community and affirms our continued commitment to preparing individuals with developmental disabilities for employment and community integration.

Although we have a new name, our mission remains the same.

Our new name is a better reflection of our mission and our vision for a community where individuals with developmental disabilities employ their abilities to the fullest. EmployAbility also illustrates the work we do in connecting businesses with individuals whose abilities bring unique values to the workplace.

This new name represents an important part of our strategy to reach out and more actively engage with community leaders, business partners, and critical stakeholders whose support helps the individuals we serve reach their employment and training goals.



▲ Chris has been employed as an Assembly Worker at DIRT Environmental Solutions in Savannah, Georgia since 2013. Maynor's boss says he comes to work on time and is always willing to learn.

Thanks to continued community support and dedication, EmployAbility will remain focused on empowering adults with developmental disabilities to live their best lives. **With the help of community partners just like you, hundreds of individuals have found meaningful employment and increased community integration across Coastal Georgia.**

EmployAbility believes a successful community is one where people with disabilities are more broadly valued, building careers, receiving support, and participating in ordinary activities. This new name will make it possible for us create and sustain opportunities that will lead to that community of inclusion. **The future is full of opportunities for change and we are excited to build that future in collaboration with our individuals, community partners, donors, and volunteers.**



employabilityga.org



[@BeEmployAbility](https://www.facebook.com/BeEmployAbility)



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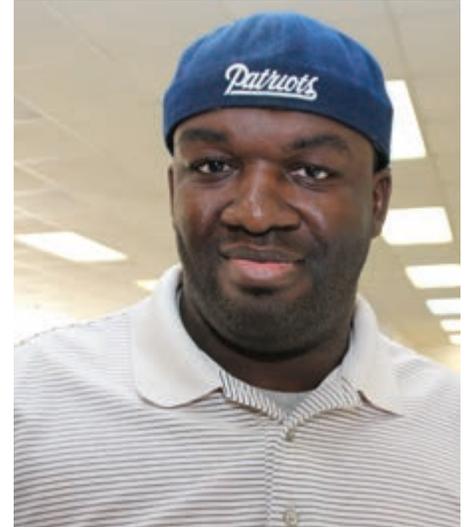
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What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental disability is an umbrella term used to describe a diverse group of mental or physical impairments that begin early in life, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.

Certain developmental disabilities cause only physical impairments, while other developmental disabilities, including Down Syndrome, have both physical and cognitive impairments. **Intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD)** are characterized by certain limitations in cognitive functioning, communication, social and self-care skills – the most commonly known is Autism Spectrum Disorder, although there are others.

Some developmental disabilities can be largely “invisible,” meaning that the individual's limitations may not be immediately apparent to an outside observer. However, all people with disabilities can face judgment about their ability to make positive contributions to the community.



▲ PreVocational Trainee Chris works on his hard and soft skills each day through PreVocational programs

People with disabilities represent an untapped pool of abilities that can enhance our community.

Preparing for Success

BUILDING SKILLS THAT TURN EMPLOYMENT GOALS INTO REALITY

When looking for a job, preparation is key. You need the right tools to sell yourself in the interview in order to get the opportunity to show your skills once hired. For someone with a developmental disability, this preparation can be especially important.

To prepare for a career, individuals receiving services through EmployAbility have access to the Job Seekers program – a fun, interactive training experience that can give applicants a real hand up in preparation for employment.



Lessons are presented through interactive activities, reinforced through video, and key points displayed on a dry erase board. “We try to present the message in the different ways that people learn best,” Community Employment Specialist Heather Wolff explained.

Participants learn to fill out applications and create pocket resumes that they can share while meeting an employer. Peer-to-peer dialogues and mock interviews with volunteers build confidence and give good practice prior to their real job interviews.

Instruction on soft skills is an essential part of each meeting. Individuals learn to make eye contact, give a proper handshake, maintain good hygiene, possess a positive attitude, and demonstrate appropriate body language. Since soft skills characterize how people interact in their relationships with others, they are reminded that they share nearly equal importance as hard skills (technical knowledge).

The Job Seekers program is made possible through community support. Your donations give people with developmental disabilities wanting to work the opportunity to become better prepared and more successful in the workforce. EmployAbility is grateful to our generous donors for continuing to be a part of our clients' success stories through your contributions!

◀ The Job Seekers class prepares people to enter the workforce by honing soft skills, practicing filling out job applications, and conducting mock interviews.

Making It Work in the Kitchen

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED FELITA TURN HER ABILITIES INTO A CAREER

When Felita joined the Community Employment Services program in 1989, her goal was simple – she wanted to find a job. With help from one of our employment specialists, she found a full-time job that fit her skills and her interests. Her hard work and ability turned that job into a career.

While the average employee stays in her role just over 4 years, Felita has been a Dietary Assistant at St. Joseph's Hospital for 29 years. Over her almost three decades as part of the St. Joseph's Dietary Department team, she's become an integral part of the department. But the value she brings to the team is more than just the sum of her skills – it's also her personality.

"She doesn't speak up much," said Felita's supervisor, Anne Hopkins, "but when she does, she will amaze you with her insight."

Felita takes pride in being focused and efficient. In her first few years, she developed a system to clean the hundreds of plates, bowls, glasses and silverware her team is responsible for – a system that she is often asked to teach new staff when they join the team.

"I love working here," Felita says with a smile. "It's like a family."



▲ Felita is a valued member of her work team because of her focus, her personality, and her skills.

With the support she received at EmployAbility, Felita has built a career, made friends, and been an active member of the community – opportunities for success that many of us take for granted. **Thanks to the generous donors, community partners, and volunteers who invest in EmployAbility, the support that helped Felita is still available to adults with developmental disabilities who are ready to make their employment goals a reality.** Thank you for supporting a future of independence and inclusion!

SUPPORT ENJOY TRANSFORM

Social Enterprise Turns Abilities into Opportunities

EmployAbility
Custom Printing

Our full-service custom screen printing shop specializes in high-quality customized t-shirts, bags, napkins, buttons, and other promotional items.

EmployAbility
Catering

Our full-service catering prepares custom orders for corporate events, lunches, and meetings, as well as upscale private event catering.



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PEOPLE WORKING
IN THE COMMUNITY

Your purchase supports programs that prepare adults with developmental disabilities for employment and community integration, with skills based training and job placement.



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TRAINEES
BUILDING SKILLS

For more information, contact Valerie Dixon at (912) 644-7535 or vdixon@employabilityga.org



DR. KEN BOYD
Executive Director

A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITY WITH YOUR HELP, LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED

The first newsletter of 2018 and you've already gotten a glimpse of the big changes happening here at EmployAbility! We have a new name and a new logo to start a year we hope will be filled with growth and opportunity for the individuals we serve, the employers we partner with, and for the organization as a whole.

A new name is a big step for an organization. We spent almost a year talking to our individuals, their family members, community business partners, volunteers, the Board of Directors, and our staff to understand their vision for the future of our organization. We wanted to ensure that our name represents our mission and shares our vision of a community where people with disabilities are more broadly valued, hired by employers, receiving support, and participating in ordinary activities.

The name EmployAbility was chosen because every individual has unique abilities that they can employ to contribute to their community. We want to highlight an individual's abilities because whether their goal is to build a meaningful career, live independently, or engage in community experiences, it is their abilities that make achieving that goal possible.

The spirit of EmployAbility is one of possibility. With your support, the individuals we serve can turn possibility into reality, achieving their dreams and putting their abilities to work. Thank you for helping to support a community where adults with developmental disabilities are empowered to live full and meaningful lives.

"We all have possibilities we don't know about. We can do things we don't even dream we can do."

Dale Carnegie

EmployAbility
Empowering People, Facilitating Futures



SAVE *the* DATE

EMPLOYABILITY ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Landings Club | Deer Creek Course
Deer Creek Drive | Savannah, GA 31401

Saturday, May 12

12:00 PM Registration | 1:15 PM Shotgun Start

Learn more at www.playforapurpose.com

Play
for a
Purpose!

Tournament proceeds benefit programs that empower adults with developmental disabilities to live full, meaningful lives through community employment and inclusion

SPREAD *the* WORD!



@BeEmployAbility