Runners, walkers, and those using assistive mobility devices of all ages and abilities will make the day an experience to remember! This race is an opportunity for service, fun, awareness, and prizes. It is a sanctioned race by US Track and Field.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Fiscal Year 2019**

**As of September 30, 2019**

**Mission Statement**

To recognize, advocate, and respect each individual’s right and ability to realize their deserved quality of life.

This will be accomplished by identifying needs, providing resources, strengthening abilities, and advocating social and political change for individuals with disabilities.

**Vision Statement**

To integrate, build, & strengthen abilities for all individuals with disabilities.

**Celebrating 19 Years in Business!**

Ability 1st Utah is celebrating our 19th year in business as a non-residential, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is committed to the Independent Living Philosophy.

Our Center assists each individual to live independently. We provide programs and services to people of any age with any type of disability in Utah, Juab, Wasatch, and Sanpete Counties.

**Ability 1st Utah’s 5 Core Services:**

- Advocacy for Individual & Systems change
- Peer Support
- Information & Referrals
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Nursing Home Transition Services

All towards the goal of help individuals reach independence and self-sufficiency in their chosen environment.

In addition to our core services, we provide Assistive Technology evaluation services, program specific transportation, and maintain an equipment loan bank consisting of used adaptive equipment for loan at no cost. We also have community integration activities and a youth program. Ability 1st Utah’s programs truly empower people with disabilities to live productive, successful, and self-determined lives.
Saul was diagnosed with Interstitial Lung Disease, a progressive lung pulmonary disorder that causes fibrosis (scarring) of the lungs. The scarring causes stiffness in his lungs which impairs his breathing, forcing him to use an oxygen producing machine. He suffers from chronic dry cough, shortness of breath, discomfort in his chest, fatigue and weakness.

He came into my office and I assisted him in applying for Social Security Disability. A few short months later, he began receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and lives according to his doctor’s orders. Even though the road back to improving his health was long and unsure, he expressed gratitude for the time he would devote to work.

Determined to continue working, Saul and his case manager arranged a reasonable accommodation for him to work. He was referred to the Easter Seals Program for find part-time employment and now works at Ability 1st Utah as an assistant to one of our case managers. Despite his stress, Saul pointed out that work helped him feel stabilized. “I am able to not think too much about what I am going through” he said. “I’m someone who doesn’t quit” he continued. “But re-entering the workforce is difficult and you need someone there to help you do it. It’s good to know that there are supports through Ability 1st Utah that can rely on when the going gets tough…”

Saul is doing what he loves, being able to work and using his skills again. Ability 1st Utah is a non-profit organization that promotes independence for people with disabilities to assist them in their goal to remain independent in their homes and active in the community and Saul is very happy to be Ability 1st’s consumer and be part of this organization.

These are a few of our tremendous achievements in 2019. This success would not be possible without enormous effort and dedication of all the Ability 1st Utah staff and volunteers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we hope the annual report gives you a glimpse of the impact Ability 1st Utah has made on the many lives of people with disabilities in our communities.

By Sandra M. Curcio, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE