



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**October 23, 2018**

*For more information, contact:*  
 Melissa McCoy, Chief Advancement Officer  
 Abilities First, Inc.  
 845-485-9803 x 223  
[melissamccoy@abilitiesfirstny.org](mailto:melissamccoy@abilitiesfirstny.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ABILITIES FIRST ANNOUNCES CREATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

**(Poughkeepsie, NY, October 23, 2018)** – The Foundation for Abilities First NY (FAFNY) announces the appointment of its founding Board of Directors. The mission of the Foundation for Abilities First NY is to serve as the philanthropic arm of Abilities First, Inc., perpetuating the goals of the organization’s mission in providing people with disabilities and their families support to attain independence, integration, and acceptance by others through education, exploration, and experience. The creation of the Foundation for Abilities First NY was officially announced at the annual Community Breakfast Event this past July.

The founding members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Abilities First NY:

President	Joshua Mackey, Mackey, Butts & Wise LLP
Vice President	Ted Prenting, Retired
Secretary	Craig Irwin, Merrill Lynch
Treasurer	DeForest Howland, William A Smith & Son Insurance/ Ralph V. Ellis Insurance Agency
	Eric Baxter, RL Baxter Building Corp.
	Pat Rose, A&R Security
	John Scileppi, Retired
	Pete Setaro, Morris Associates Engineering
	Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., Abilities First

The Foundation for Abilities First NY will establish a stable commitment of philanthropic support for Abilities First, to assure the programs, services, and quality of life opportunities remain strong and available, as well as ensure the organization’s fiscal resiliency during unexpected changes.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside my fellow Foundation for Abilities First NY board members,” said Joshua Mackey, President for the Foundation for Abilities First NY. “I look forward to working with them and the Abilities First family to build a lasting legacy for the organization.”

The FAFNY Board of Directors will raise funds in order to provide continued financial resources for the benefit and enhancement of the quality of life for individuals receiving services from Abilities First, Inc., many of which are not covered under Medicaid services including

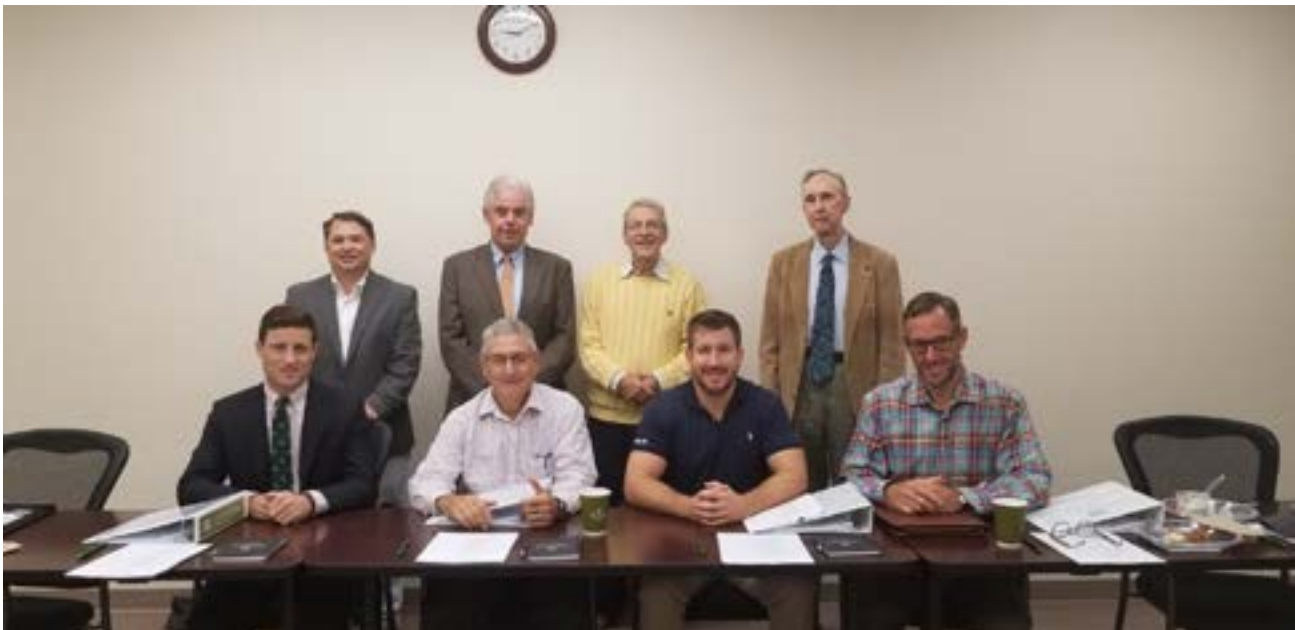
recreational and social activities that help build life skills and promote inclusion within the community.

Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer for Abilities First said, "We are so pleased to have this foundation off the ground. This initial board of directors is an excellent group of community leaders who will lead off this important initiative. The future of Abilities First is in good hands, and we look forward to great success in building our resources in the short term and long term."

To learn more or to support the mission of the Foundation for Abilities First NY, please visit [www.abilitiesfirstny.org](http://www.abilitiesfirstny.org).

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**PHOTO:**



Top Row, L to R: Jeffery Fox, Ph.D., DeForest Howland, John Scilepp, Ted Prenting  
 Bottom Row, L to R: Craig Irwin, Pete Setaro, Eric Baxter, Joshua Mackey  
 Not pictured: Pat Rose

**About Abilities First**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of the community, as well as those with developmental disabilities, from pre-school through adulthood. Abilities First has had a long-term commitment of providing a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for people with a variety of disabilities through educational, vocational, residential, and habilitation services. It presently serves over 1,500 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State. AF is accredited for the person-centered care by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL).

For more information, visit [www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org](http://www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org) or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](http://www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc) and [@AbilitiesF](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesF) on Twitter.