



Ability Benevolence Liberty Empowered
Aptitudes Bienveillance Liberté Engagé

MEDIA ADVISORY

September 28, 2022

Joel Harden to announce an \$82,400 OTF Grant to ABLE2 to Rebuild Volunteer Program and Modernize Technology

Ottawa, ON – On Wednesday, Joel Harden attended a volunteer appreciation event hosted by ABLE2 to announce their reception of a \$82,400 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). This grant will help ABLE2 rebuild and modernize in the aftermath of COVID-19.

“ABLE2 is a leader in our city that helps neighbours with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their families get the love, support and respect they deserve,” said Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa-Centre. “Shame and guilt must end around FASD, for this won't get us change. Change happens when we prioritize acceptance, inclusion, and non-judgemental awareness campaigns on FASD. Congratulations to ABLE2 on your latest Trillium Grant! Keep up the great work.”

ABLE2 has 180 people with disabilities who are waiting to be matched with a volunteer from their community in an intentional friendship. These friendships have a profound impact. People with disabilities who are matched feel less isolated, have improved mental and physical health and are overall more optimistic about their lives. In turn, volunteers feel their matches have enriched their lives and have made them feel of value to their community. Volunteer recruitment has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, and this funding from OTF will allow the agency to run a television and radio volunteer recruitment campaigns to raise awareness of the matching program and increase the number of volunteers.

A second component of the funding will allow ABLE2 to accelerate modernization of outdated technology to improve staff wellbeing and program efficiency. This will include technology to run effective and inclusive meetings for virtual attendees as many people with disabilities are too vulnerable to attend in-person meetings.

“With this funding ABLE2 can better deliver vital programming to the most vulnerable in our community,” said Heather Lacey, Executive Director. “We are grateful for this funding as it will enable us maximize volunteer outreach, leading to more matches for people with disabilities on our waiting list. It will also help us to modernize our technology so we can better deliver inclusive programs and meet the needs of the community and volunteers.”

ABLE2 is a small but powerful charity with a big purpose. We are the only organization in Ottawa that supports people of all ages across the disability spectrum and their families to build lives of meaning and joy as valued members of our city.

Further information on ABLE2's programs can be found at www.able2.org.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Since 2020, OTF has supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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