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## ABLE, Inc.'s visionary State-of-the-Art care facility actively fundraising

New facility to revolutionize support for individuals with intellectual disabilities while strengthening community bonds in Hettinger.



A glimpse into tomorrow as ABLE, Inc.'s innovative intermediate care facility in Hettinger seeks to pave the way for a brighter future. Rendering courtesy of ABLE, Inc.



By **James B. Miller, Jr.**

September 20, 2023 at 2:20 PM

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HETTINGER, ND — ABLE, Inc., a beacon of hope and transformation for individuals with intellectual disabilities, is embarking on an ambitious mission to create a nurturing and empowering environment in Hettinger. Their latest endeavor, a state-of-the-art intermediate care facility, promises to revolutionize the lives of those they serve and the community as a whole.

Gone are the days when individuals with intellectual disabilities were confined to the State Institution in Grafton, ND, left to fend for themselves with little community support. However, a significant turning point occurred in 1984 when the Association of Retarded Citizens of North Dakota achieved a groundbreaking victory in a class action suit against the state, granting these individuals the long-awaited opportunity to reclaim their rightful place in their homes and communities.



Construction begins on ABLE, Inc.'s transformative intermediate care facility in Hettinger. Photo courtesy of ABLE, Inc.

ABLE, Inc. emerged shortly thereafter with a singular mission: to provide unwavering support for individuals with intellectual disabilities in their homes, workplaces, and communities. For nearly four decades, they have been a cornerstone of compassion, commitment, and community investment in southwest North Dakota.

Their latest undertaking, the development of a brand-new intermediate care facility in Hettinger, is a testament to their dedication. Working in collaboration with local architects and supported by multiple organizations, this cutting-edge living facility is designed with the unique needs of its residents at the forefront.

Mary Anderson, executive director of ABLE, Inc., emphasized the importance of creating environments that foster independence and wellbeing.

"Our work is to help people live better lives," she declared. "We believe that programs like ours benefit society because we understand that when you create the right environment, things automatically become better."

The new facility, strategically located adjacent to their existing leased building, boasts a thoughtful layout that ensures residents' comfort and convenience. It features six spacious bedrooms, shared or private bathrooms tailored to residents' needs, a laundry room, a fully equipped kitchen, recreational spaces, a double stall garage, and a flexible day program space that can easily be converted into an additional apartment as needed. The building will also house office space for on-site ABLE, Inc. direct support professional staff to provide the necessary support.

Anderson emphasized the uniqueness of the facility.



Mary Anderson, Able Inc. executive director, has helped the intellectually disabled of southwest North Dakota since she joined the organization in 1985. Dickinson Press file photo

"You won't be able to find a residential building like this anywhere," she proclaimed. "We designed the building with the specific needs of people we support in Hettinger in mind."

However, ABLE, Inc.'s commitment extends beyond bricks and mortar. They prioritize their role in the Hettinger community, focusing on a long-term investment that benefits all.

"It's about the long-term investment in the community. We are the community. We prioritize shopping locally for most services, such as health care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, and dentistry," Anderson said. "Whether we source lumber or collaborate with local contractors for the new Hettinger home, our primary focus is supporting the community."

Reflecting on their four decades of experience and the collaboration with generous partners, Anderson noted the successes and community assistance.

"People are happier," she said. "We couldn't have done it without the support of this amazing community and countless generous gifts."

ABLE, Inc. currently supports nearly 100 individuals with intellectual disabilities in the communities of Dickinson, Bowman and Hettinger, providing employment for approximately 200 staff members. The organization says it is deeply grateful for the support it receives from donors and the communities it serves.

Those interested in contributing to the new intermediate care facility in Hettinger, currently in the process of active fundraising, can mail donations to ABLE, Inc. at 1951 1st St. W, Dickinson, ND 58601, specifying it's for the Hettinger home project.

Mary Anderson encapsulated the organization's unwavering commitment.

"We believe that everyone deserves the chance to reach their full potential," she said. "We're committed to making that happen every single day."

As ABLE, Inc. continues to transform lives and nurture dreams, their new intermediate care facility in Hettinger stands as a symbol of hope and progress, both for individuals with intellectual disabilities and the community they call home.

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