



### **Greenville CAN's Celebration of Progress 2013 - 2017**

Greenville CAN is a coalition of self-advocates, service providers, families, caregivers, and professionals committed to making Greenville County a better place to live for individuals with disabilities. We believe that through partnerships, cooperation, and local advocacy, Greenville can be a more equitable and inclusive community to live.

Greenville CAN works to achieve its mission by serving as a champion for disability related issues and facilitating a collective, systems change approach to strengthen systems of support and promote cultural and institutional equity.

#### **Noteworthy Progress Our Community and Coalition Partners Have Made Since 2015:**

##### **Promoting Cultural and Institutional Equity**

- Access: Advocating for improvements in access to facilities and services as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act established in 1990 and other legislation protecting the civil rights of individuals with disabilities.
  - ADA Coordinators: Since 2015, ADA coordinators have been appointed for Greenville County and the cities of Greer, Mauldin, and Simpsonville. The city of Greenville had an ADA coordinator prior to 2015. The ADA requires government entities with 50 or more employees to have an ADA coordinator.
  - ADA Assessments:
    - The Cities of Greer and Mauldin have completed ADA assessments of all of their facilities and programs to identify how to improve access to individuals with disabilities and attain ADA compliance.
    - The City of Mauldin included ADA improvements as a line item in their budget.
    - The City of Greenville has completed a number of ADA assessments of parks and downtown infrastructure.
    - Greenville County completed a comprehensive ADA assessment of all of the parks, facilities, and programs managed by Greenville County Rec.
    - Bus Stop Assessments: Sandy Hanebrink, Executive Director for Touch the Future developed a tool used by the ADA coordinators of Greenville, Mauldin, and Greenville County to determine the accessibility of existing bus stops as part of the transportation study conducted by the Piedmont Health Foundation.

- Opportunity & Inclusion: Improving disability awareness and understanding by championing integration for individuals with disabilities in all aspects of our community including recreation, and civic engagement.
  - Greenville County Rec worked with Clemson University to conduct the first-ever recreation needs assessment specifically for individuals with disabilities. Coalition partners will use this information to increase recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
  - The City of Greenville Park and Recreation, Greenville County Rec, the YMCA, Communities In Schools, and the SC Inclusion Collaborative are working to develop strategies to improve inclusion for youth with disabilities in after-school and out of school time programs.
  - Mentor Upstate expanded its services to include finding mentors for students with disabilities.
  - Businesses that provide sports, arts, or entertainment such as the Bon Secours Wellness Arena and Carolina Dance Collaborative have proactively identified ways to serve individuals with disabilities.
  - Coalition Partners identified three candidates to successfully apply for and participate in the Greenville Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Greenville Program. Coalition partners the Barbara Stone Foundation and Thrive Upstate sponsored the cost of their participation.
  
- Independence: Reducing barriers to employment, advocating for accessible and affordable housing, and supporting accessible transportation.
  - Employment
    - Coalition partner Ten at the Top along with the Greenville Society for Human Resource Management and the Greenville Chamber of Commerce energized the local movement to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities by bringing former Walgreens VP, Randy Lewis, to keynote a forum on workforce development. Randy Lewis led Walgreens effort to become the global leader in disability employment with the establishment of their distribution center in Anderson, SC. At least one in three of the center's employees has a disability.
    - Greenville CAN organized two tours of the Walgreens Distribution Center for major employers in the upstate including Bon Secours, Michelin, and GHS.
    - The Greenville Society of Human Resource Management with support from the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and Greenville Tech's Center for Manufacturing Innovation created a quarterly lunch and learn series for HR professionals and business owners designed to help employers learn how to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities serving over 240 participants.
    - Bon Secours St. Francis along with partners including the Greenville County Schools District, Arc of the Midlands, SC Voc Rehab, DDSN, and Project Search

started a Project Search program at Bon Secours' downtown facility. Project Search is a nationally recognized, business-led transition program that provides employment internships for high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Additionally, Bon Secours hired an employment coordinator to identify employment opportunities in the Bon Secours system for individuals with disabilities.

- Michelin NA hosted an event with local colleges and universities to identify strategies to increase employers' access to and awareness of potential new employees with disabilities when they recruit on college campuses.
  - Michelin NA announced that they will require the contractor chosen to operate their new distribution center in Spartanburg to have a workforce where at least 25% are individuals with disabilities.
  - Coalition partner Thrive Upstate received a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council in partnership with Greenville CAN to provide an employment consultant to major employers to help them remove barriers to disability employment.
- Accessible and affordable housing
    - A representative from coalition partner ABLE SC served on the City of Greenville's Affordable Housing Committee to advocate for the needs of individuals with disabilities.
  - Transportation
    - Coalition partners participated in the Piedmont Health Foundation's transportation study to ensure the needs of individuals with disabilities were accounted for.
    - Coalition Partners Touch the Future and Bridges to Augusta were active participants in the Upstate Transit Coalition which serves as an additional voice for accessibility in the work being done around transportation.
    - Greenlink has adopted new design standards for bus stops and has replaced over 20 inaccessible stops with accessible stops.

### **Strengthening Systems of Support**

- For individuals with disabilities, families, and caregivers
  - Touch the Future created an online ADA / Know Your Rights guide.
  - ABLE SC created a housing resource guide for individuals with disabilities.
  - Coalition partners created an online Disability Employment Guide for individuals with disabilities, as well as, employers.
  - Coalition partners created a local recreation guide specifically for individuals with disabilities and send out a monthly eblast with recreation, sports, and arts opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

- Coalition partners created a “New Diagnosis, Now What” guide for parents who learn their child has a disability.
  - The Greenville Spartanburg Airport offered a Wings for All event to help individuals with disabilities become more comfortable with airports and airplanes. The also provided disability training to their first responders.
  - Representatives from the Greenville Housing Authority regularly attend Greenville CAN Lunch and Learn Sessions to learn more about services available to TGHA residents with disabilities.
- For organizations that serve or support individuals with disabilities and / or their families / caregivers.
    - ADA Training: Greenville CAN Coalition members Touch the Future and ABLE SC have provide significant ADA training and technical support to local governments, businesses, and non-profit groups.
    - Coalition partners created a communication system to help organizations that provide resource, information, and referral services work more effectively and collaboratively.

#### **Collective Impact to Create Long-Term, Sustainable, System Level Change**

- Coalition: Building, facilitating, and maintaining a broad and diverse coalition of organizations, self-advocates, professionals, families, and care-givers.
  - Greenville CAN’s coalition includes hundreds of self-advocates, caregivers, professionals, families, and representatives from over one hundred organizations.
- Collaboration: Working together across organizational lines putting positive outcomes for individuals with disabilities first.
  - Municipal and County ADA coordinators, as well as, representatives from Greenlink, GHS, and other organizations meet quarterly through Greenville CAN to discuss common issues and identify strategies to improve communication and coordination to improve accessibility and transportation.
  - Public and private recreation providers meet quarterly to discuss and implement strategies to increase recreation, sports, and arts opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
  - Cross sector service providers meet quarterly to identify strategies to help individuals with disabilities connect with the services they need.
  - Representatives from each disability employment service provider as well as local employers meet quarterly to develop and implement strategies to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

- School Transition: Representatives from Greenville County Schools, Businesses, Greenville Tech, DDSN, SC Voc Rehab, local non-profits, and more established the Greenville County Transition Cooperative focused on ensuring an effective and meaningful transition for students with disabilities to meaningful experiences after high school including college and employment.
  - Collective Knowledge: Increasing the collective knowledge of service providers, self-advocates, families, and care-givers about services and resources available in our community.
    - Coalition partner CDS (Center for Developmental Resources) hosts a monthly lunch and learn designed for service providers but open to all where two organizations present about the services they provide for people with disabilities. The goal of these sessions is to improve the collective knowledge of service providers about services available for people with disabilities. Videos of most of these presentations are available at [greenvillecan.org](http://greenvillecan.org). Today over 40 organizations have presented and over 394 people have participated.
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If you want to learn more about Greenville CAN, join our mailing list, or get involved, visit:

[www.greenvillecan.org](http://www.greenvillecan.org)

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