

Greater MetroWest ABLE
2020 Year-End Impact Report
January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

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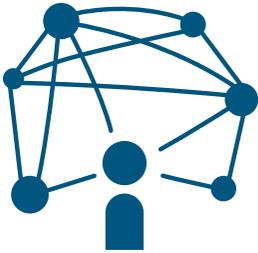
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WHAT ABLE DOES

Creating a Jewish community made whole by the meaningful inclusion of all of its members with disabilities and their families.



Support the development of **meaningful participation opportunities** in all aspects of Jewish communal life for individuals with **disabilities** and their families.



Promote the collaboration and coordination of Greater MetroWest **partner agencies** engaging with **individuals with disabilities** and their families.



Raise awareness of **resources and services** for individuals with disabilities and their families.

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ABLE'S HIGHLIGHTS

ABLE had planned to implement an Inclusive Employment Initiative this year, but given the COVID crisis, the initiative has been put on hold. While COVID stalled many programs from happening in-person, community partner agencies were able to find ways to provide services in a virtual manner. ABLE continued to work with community synagogues, educators and agencies to meet the needs of community members, continuing to promote the vision of a fully inclusive Jewish community.

Mental Health:

In response to ongoing feedback from clergy, educators and caregivers, **ABLE** continues to expand its services to **provide mental health awareness training** for professionals and teens.

- Community professionals have been **trained as Youth Mental Health First Aid trainers**.
- The **Mental Health Resource Guide** for the Jewish Community continues to be shared.

Teen Training:

- Teens **participated in Inclusion advocate training** to help promote inclusion of students and campers with disabilities in the Jewish community.
- The **Here.Now. GMW program for teens** is now in its 2nd year with a full cohort.

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Supporting Synagogues & Convening:

- ABLE **assisted synagogues in furthering their inclusion efforts** by sharing resources during JDAIM, offering individual consultation on virtual programming and working with synagogues educators.
- ABLE **brought together professionals and lay leadership** from our partner agencies, monthly, to share best practices and challenges with one another, helping to inform Federation about future planning needs. Prior to COVID-19, professionals and lay leaders convened quarterly.

Beyond Greater MetroWest:

- ABLE **served as a model for other Federation communities** as they expand their networks to include disability inclusion efforts, consulting with and presenting to other national Federation communities on the work we do locally.
- **Manager of Community Inclusion, Rebecca Wanatick, presented workshops for educators** at the New CAJE conference over the summer and **participates in Jewish Disability Taskforces** through JFNA, NJHSA and JFNJ, modeling our Federation program.

Tangible Results

- Various departments at Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest now include inclusive information on their registration materials to better reach and meet the needs of our diverse community and make large community events more inclusive by **providing captioning for events and consider inclusive images and language** when planning materials.
- Synagogues have **shifted their language to be more inclusive** and reach out to include individuals with disabilities in their Shabbat and holiday experiences.

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HOW ABLE RESPONDED TO COVID-19

GMW ABLE agencies have shared challenges regarding Division of Developmental **Disabilities** process and procedures and **how to overcome COVID issues, trouble shooting together.**

Fed/ABLE **helped to coordinate PPE** for agencies early in the process.

Rebecca Wanatick **stayed connected with families** by phone and Zoom throughout the crisis, sharing resources and offering support.

Fed/ABLE met regularly with the ABLE partners, sharing challenges and identifying ways to support the staff and clients.

What ABLE Learned During COVID-19:



Educational programs to families, in a virtual setting, are valuable beyond our COVID-19 crisis.



Teen advocate training will be offered again in person when we are able to extend beyond virtual programming (in-person training better meets the needs of all learners).



The collaboration amongst our ABLE partner agencies is valuable, sharing best practices, resources and working together to bridge identified challenges, better serving the overall community.

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HOW MUCH ABLE DOES

Raise Awareness of Resources and Services:



319

Requests for Referrals and Information from ABLE



198

Professionals: (clergy, educators, disability specialists)
- up from 139 last year.

121

Families
- up from 111 last year

Attended workshops sponsored by ABLE
7 in-person & 13 virtual workshops

496
Individuals



25

Programs and Publications



2

Conference Presentations (2 virtual)

3

Publications (newsletters & articles)

20

Community Education Programs

Promote Collaboration of Greater MetroWest ABLE and Partner Agencies



40



7

Programs/Collaborative Programs

16

Convening Opportunities for Partner Agencies to Share Challenges, Ideas and Best Practice

17

Interactions with Day Schools

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HOW WELL ABLE DOES



Our community members want to be trained.

16 community professionals are now trained as Youth Mental Health First Aid trainers and will train forward in the community.

24 teens (from 3 different synagogues) participated in Inclusion advocate training to help foster inclusion of students and campers with disabilities in the Jewish community.

13 ABLE Awarded* synagogues (1 new this year) and **10** ABLE Awarded partner agencies (2 new this year).



Our community members are advocating to make Greater MetroWest more inclusive.

9 members of our GMW community participated in Jewish Disability Advocacy Day.

23 congregations participated in Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM 2020).



Local educators received Professional Development on the topic of disability inclusion.

159 of local educators from our early childhood, congregations and day schools received Professional Development.

569 Followers of ABLE Facebook Page

461 Posts

2 New

Lay leaders partnering with ABLE

161 Followers of ABLE Twitter Page

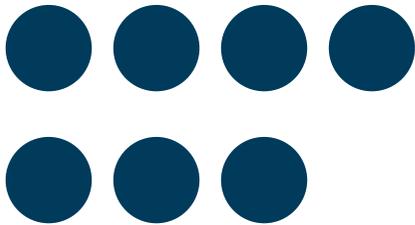
461 Tweets

* These synagogues and agencies achieved this recognition, acknowledging their continued commitment and inclusive mindset of providing an environment in which all members of the Jewish community feel like they have a place of belonging – a place in which they can meaningfully contribute and participate.

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WHY THE COMMUNITY IS BETTER OFF

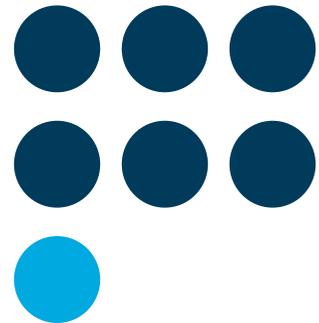


100% (7/7) of active ABLE partner agencies say that "Greater MetroWest ABLE helped to **build their network of professionals** working in the field of disability and inclusion."

"ABLE provides collaborations with a variety of agencies serving similar constituents has enabled us to learn new processes, access new opportunities, etc.."
- Agency Professional



86% of active partner agency professionals are **more confident and proud** of the opportunities provided for individuals with disabilities and their families as a result of the collaborative network of ABLE.



Changing Culture:



Language matters.

6 out of 7 active ABLE partner agencies have **inclusive language** statements on their website.



Resources are at our fingertips.

As a result of participating in ABLE, our agency professionals are sharing new opportunities with others.

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Partner Agency Professional

"ABLE offers a sounding board, sharing of info and best practices and problem solving."

86%

ABLE partner agencies who attribute new client or collaborations as a result of participation

86%

Federation partner agencies list ABLE on their websites

Partner Agency Professional

"Since agencies network and understand one another's services, we are able to find programs that are the best fit for individuals in our community!"

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What our partners are saying:

"Synagogue outreach conducted by Becca and the ABLE Committee have **opened doors to people with special needs** that had previously been unavailable. Many **more synagogue options are available** now for worship and supporting Jewish educational professionals as they welcome children into religious school settings with the training and resources they need to successfully include children with learning differences."-agency professional

"I learned that **Rebecca W has many resources** to assist synagogues in becoming more inclusive and that other local synagogues are working on the same inclusive goals as my synagogue."-synagogue lay leader

"The event was fantastic. I learned so much. I **shared** an overview of it at our temple's Board of Trustees meeting the following night and we already have a plan to implement a few of the ideas - and will form a group to do more."- synagogue lay leader

"ABLE's consistent presence throughout the community provides a message of inclusion that elicits greater recognition and understanding of inclusion over time. **If ABLE weren't here,** the community would not be receiving this consistent message that is so important for change to occur."-committee member

"I can't thank you enough for all of the help you gave him and us over the years. You really made his experience wonderful and **gave us so much peace of mind.** Thank you for everything!!"- parent

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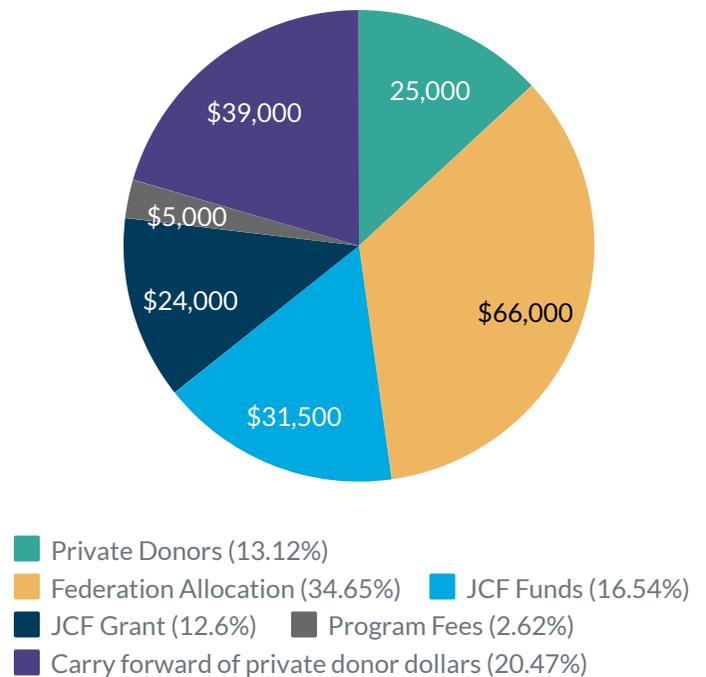
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HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

\$190,500 (for 2020-2021)

- 1 Manager of Community Inclusion
- Program Expenses
- Conference Fees
- Trainer Fees

Largest funding sources



LOOKING AHEAD

ABLE Priorities for the 2021 Fiscal Year

- ★ **Raise mental health awareness** as it is a key need in our community.
- ★ Assist in **creating employment opportunities for adults with disabilities** to assist in creating inclusive employment opportunities.
- ★ **Promote Jewish community inclusion** within our synagogues, schools, partner agencies and the Greater MetroWest Community.

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WHO ARE THE PLAYERS

Greater MetroWest ABLE Partner Agencies

Friendship Circle

JCC of Central NJ

JCC MetroWest

JESPY

Jewish Family Service of Central NJ

Jewish Family Service MetroWest

Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled (JSDD)

Jewish Vocational Service

Round Lake Camp