

Abilities Foundation

2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610

Richard B. Winning, Chairman

Good Morning:

It is without hesitation that I endorse and commend Bill and Marsha Uhler – owners of Mr. Bill's Fine Foods.

I represent the Abilities Foundation, a Clearwater-based 501c3 nonprofit that has helped thousands of Floridians and military veterans with disabilities obtain jobs and affordable housing. Neither a United Way nor federally-funded agency, the Foundation is dependent upon the beneficence of corporate and civic-minded leaders to accomplish its mission. The Uhlers are shining exemplars of such individuals.

My relationship with Bill and Marsha dates back to the 2011 and the establishment of the Abilities Guild Veterans Mall – a storeroom of small appliances, kitchen utensils, and household essentials given for free to disabled military veterans referred by the Bay Pines VA Hospital who are transitioning from homelessness to apartment life.

The Uhlers were instrumental in getting the 'Mall' concept up and running by: donating and delivering huge quantities of valuable items... routinely providing a paid employee to construct shelving and clothes racks and assist at the Mall... volunteering their time to organize and display items... planning a marketing and public media strategy... making financial contributions... and providing catering courtesy of Mr. Bill's Fine Foods for the October 2012 Mall Grand Opening.

Yet Bill, a U.S. Navy veteran, and Marsha did not stop there. They continued to distinguish themselves as preeminent Foundation benefactors, including, but not limited to:

Donating substantial sums of money for bulk purchases of small appliances

Being honored guests of the December 2011 'The Annual Abilities Guild Holiday Gala' at Carlouel Yacht Club

Sponsoring the Veterans Mall's participation in the November 2012 Memorial Day 'Veteran's Boat Show' at Safety Harbor Marina

Donating catering by Mr. Bill's Fine Foods for the February 2013 Home Depot Foundation National 'Celebration of Service' project, in which 100 store associates volunteered for three days to renovate the Mall

Underwriting the cost of the Mall directional sign and March 2013 patriotic mural painting by artist Lauren Smith of the Mall's free-standing storage-shed exterior

Donating catering by Mr. Bill's Fine Foods for the April 2013 'Abilities Guild Veterans Mall Open House'

Appearing in live cooking demonstrations in May 2013 during primetime broadcasts of Studio 10-TV and Fox13-TV *Good Day Tampa Bay* to promote the 24th annual Abilities Wine Tasting

Donating catering by Mr. Bill's Fine Foods and serving as a restaurant and Veterans Mall sponsor of the May 2013 'Abilities Wine Tasting' at the Armed Forces History Museum

Assuring that Mr. Bill's cuisine is top-notch and plentiful and served by staff who could not be more gracious or hospitable

Always being there in time of need for Veterans Mall founder Virginia Meyer, the Guild, and Abilities Foundation

To date the Mall has served 376 veterans, helping to provide a stable, healthy home environment that reduces dependence on government, increases the likelihood of staying on medications and therapies, and helps maintain physical and mental health.

We *are* improving lives and homes – one combat wounded veteran at a time – and we have Bill and Marsha Uhler, in considerable measure, to thank for that.

The Uhlers are what's *right* with the Tampa Bay area community, and a primary reason why I find raising money for Floridians and veterans with disabilities so rewarding.

Sincerely yours,

Frank De Lucia
President and CEO

Please remember the Abilities Foundation in your will and estate plans

Abilities Foundation, 2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760-1610, 727-600-8900, www.abilitiesfoundation.com