



# The Angel Messenger



ABGworks1@gmail.com (631)807-2974

# Seminar for Young Adults with Autism

Providing ideas & a path forward for young adults integrating into the community.



by [Christina Chiarillo](#)

The Seminar for Young Adults with Autism discussed various important topics. So much helpful information was presented that I will cover it more in-depth later. But first, here is the condensed version:

Lori Smith, ESQ, talked about teens' online mistakes and how parents can prevent them. Dr. Linas discussed transgenderism, autism diagnosis, and intervention. Christine Kelly-Williams shared employment and vocational rehabilitation statistics. Jason Klazon talked about strategies and safety tips for engaging in meaningful relationships. Sergeant Cory Jackson discussed crisis response and planning and how it is vital to inform law enforcement about disabilities when calling 911.

Now, for a more in-depth version for those who want more details and explanation:

By Covert Wordsmith LLC on October 01, 2023

## 1. Lori Smith, ESQ: The Parents Playbook - Help Your Teen Avoid Costly On-Line Mistakes

The seminar discussed how mobile devices provide 24/7 access to audio and video content. A study by the PEW Research Center identified YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram as the top three most viewed social media channels. The study also revealed that 49% of online content is gaming, tutorials, pranks, and challenges. Furthermore, 25% of teens watch 6-10 hours of content daily, and 47% watch 21 to 50 videos daily.

The most common online mistakes teens make are taking part in challenges or pranks, making threats of any kind, cyberbullying/cyberstalking, talking to strangers, sexting, and sending nude images. In Florida, making threats is a crime under statute 836.10, and cyberbullying/cyberstalking is punishable under statutes FS 1006.17 and FS 784.038. The consequences for making these mistakes range from suspension or expulsion to a first-degree misdemeanor. Additionally, sexting can result in the offender being registered as a sex offender for 40 years, and there is an age of consent statute in Florida.

Parents can prevent their teens from making these mistakes by starting and continuing conversations about social media, being active on social media themselves to monitor their teens' activity, establishing family rules, learning about and using parental controls, creating a family password list, delaying the use of mobile devices and apps until 8th grade, and supporting and coaching their teens.

## 2. Dr. Llinas: Transgenderism and Autism

Dr. Llinas discussed how transgenderism is a relatively new focus in the mental health area of practice, and there is growing concern about the effects of medical marijuana. He also mentioned the need for step-down transition housing after stays at Circles of Care and Palm Point. Furthermore, he informed the audience that autism can be reliably diagnosed by age 2, and the average age of intervention for autism is 4.7 years. Additionally, 86% of students receive special education/early involvement.

## 3. Christine Kelly-Williams: Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities.

Christine Kelly-Williams shared that 21% of people with disabilities are employed, and 70% are eligible for and receive vocational rehabilitation (VR). Furthermore, 60% of autistics are employed and receive VR, with 50% receiving VR services in high school. Additionally, 73.6% receive a diploma, 19.3% are yet to be determined, and 8.1% drop out.

According to FAIR HEALTH (2021), the costs for adaptive behavior services are yet to be determined.



Antidotes for families and caregivers include education and awareness, professional support, self-care strategies related to health, resilience building, support networks, balancing responsibilities, effective communication, and cultural diversity.

#### 4. Jason Klazon - MA Autism Disorder Specialist II [UCF - CARD]: Strategies and Safety Tips for Engaging in Meaningful Relationships

Jason Klazon discussed the strategies and safety tips for engaging in meaningful relationships and how to differentiate between different types of friendships. He also talked about attraction and interest in others, expressing attraction, rules of conversations when attracted, knowing when someone is not interested in you, and the attributes of the other person most important to you. For romantic relationships, he discussed what works, what is healthy/unhealthy, dating, and safety.

#### 5. Sergeant Cory Jackson (BCSO): Crisis Response

Sergeant Cory Jackson talked about recognizing circumstances before a crisis and trying to de-escalate the situation. He also mentioned that law enforcement officers (LEOs) receive only five hours of training for persons with disabilities. Therefore, it is essential to plan for a crisis when everything is calm and to follow up after an emergency. Additionally, LEOs will never say "someone is going to jail" when they respond. If you call 911, inform the operator if you or another person has a disability. Finally, Citizens Has a Noticeable Crisis Episode (CHANCE), and the Baker Act is described in FS 394.463 for involuntary examination.

We hope those who attended this important event got a lot of help and insight. If you missed the event, would like more information, or would like to see the event media folder created by Jacqueline, please click [HERE](#).



# Brevard Uncorked: An Event You Do Not Want to Miss!

## Directly Supporting Community Non-Profit Organizations



- Brevard Autism Coalition (BAC)
- ⇒ Camp2Can Summer Camp
  - ⇒ Spring Break Prevocational Camp
  - ⇒ Family Fest
  - ⇒ Social Groups
  - ⇒ Sensory Sensitive Events



### Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Serving individuals across the lifespan by helping them to become valued members of their communities.



Provides emotional supports, engaging activities, programs/events, create employment opportunities, and serve as an advocate for our disabilities community.



Supporting Our ASD Kids  
Providing resources and direct support to enable families to connect and assist each other through social support programs; furthers the education of families, professionals, and members of the community to embrace our neurodiverse population. Relies on volunteer professionals, parents, and ongoing community support.

# Brevard Uncorked

10th Annual Event

November 10, 2023  
6:00pm—9:00pm

Brevard Zoo's  
Nyami Nyami  
River Lodge

Professional Casual  
Light Hors D'oeuvres  
Entertainment  
Wine/Beer



## Sponsorship Options

### Tickets

Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/Brevard-Uncorked>



\$50 Party Platypus

\$90 Swan Duo (2 people)

\$160 Flamingo Flock (4 people)

### Raffle Baskets

50/50 Raffle

Silent Auction

Raffle Tickets Available at the Door

Card Payments Accepted at the Event

Entertainment



### \$2,000 Wild Encounters

- \* 16 Tickets
- \* 2 Reserved Tables
- \* Private Animal Encounter
- \* Promotional Advertisement Package

### \$1,000 Wild Adventures

- \* 8 Tickets
- \* 1 Reserved Table
- \* Scheduled Animal Encounter
- \* Promotional Advertisement Package

### \$500 Wild Explorations

- \* 4 Tickets
- \* Reserved Seating
- \* Scheduled Animal Encounter
- \* Promotional Advertisement Package

# A Passion for Food & Cooking: Member Highlight

by **Christina Chiarillo**

We are excited to introduce you to Michael "C.," one of our members with remarkable talents and skills. Michael falls on the higher end of the autism spectrum and faces certain social and communication challenges. However, he possesses strengths that make him an exceptional individual. One of his interests is cooking, and he loves experimenting with various recipes. This month, Michael has generously agreed to share some of his favorite recipes with us.



One of his favorite recipes is the Cheesesteak Baked in Bell Pepper dish, which you can easily make at home. You will need thin-sliced beef, shredded cheese, whole bell peppers, chopped onion, and your preferred cooking oil or butter to prepare this dish.

Begin by sauteing chopped onions and bell peppers until they become tender. Then, add the beef and continue cooking until it's thoroughly cooked. Season it to your preference and add Saizon seasonings if desired.

Next, preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut off the tops of the bell peppers and remove their insides. You can use the tops to add to the onion and chopped bell peppers you sauteed earlier. Place the cleaned-out bell peppers in a

muffin pan to keep them upright, and pre-cook them empty for 25-35 minutes.

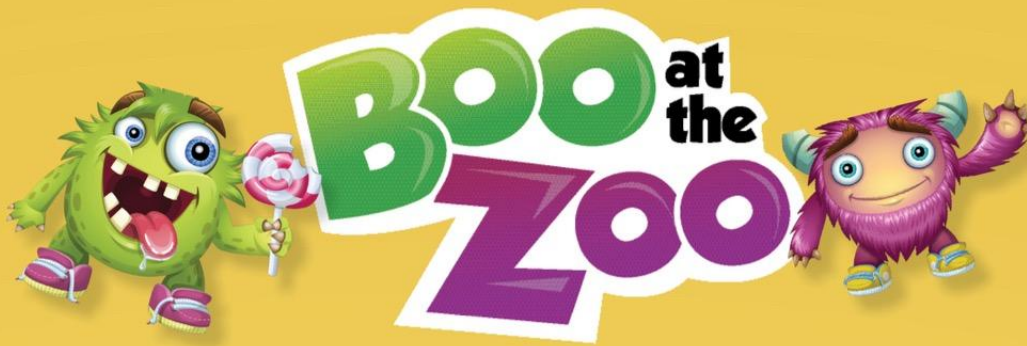
When the bell peppers are slightly soft, remove them from the oven and begin layering the cooked beef and cheese until each bell pepper is full. Place them back in the oven and broil them for 1-5 minutes, observing closely until you see a slightly charred top.

Allow them to cool before serving; you can serve one or two per person. If you have leftover rice, add it to the peppers and the cooked beef and cheese. Enjoy!

Aside from cooking, Michael is also interested in gaming, anime, reading, and video editing. You may find him at various ABGWorks Inc. events, but he will most likely attend the Field of Dreams on Wednesday afternoon gathering.

**If you know someone who deserves recognition in our newsletter, please email Christina at [covertwordsmith@kridina.com](mailto:covertwordsmith@kridina.com). We will feature stories on a first-come, first-serve basis.**





## Brevard Zoo's Exceptional Boo at the Zoo

**Saturday, Oct. 14  
from 5 - 7 p.m.**



Families of children with exceptionalities are invited to enjoy a magical evening of trick-or-treating, games, sensory exploration and more as you stroll through Brevard Zoo's Paws On area.

As a come and go event, timed-entry tickets are available for \$5 a piece. Guests can choose to enter the Zoo at 5, 5:30 or 6 p.m.

Please register online at [brevardzoo.org/education/kids-programs/](https://brevardzoo.org/education/kids-programs/).

Costumes are encouraged!





# ABGworks Inc.

## Enrichment Day Program & Disabilities Village

*"A Village Filled with Love, Hope, Faith, and Joy ~ Each One Teach One"*



## Supporting Our Community: ABGWorks Inc.

by [Christina Chiarillo](#) on September 04

I understand that the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words," has been around a long time, but its classic wisdom is why I'd like to share a collection of images showcasing ABGWorks Inc.'s mission. These pictures will demonstrate how the organization helps adults with disabilities, their families, and their communities.

# Program Overview



- ◆ Our unique enrichment day program has been designed specifically for adults with disabilities age 18 and up, who are no longer enrolled with the local school district or maybe in a home-school program.
- ◆ Purpose of program is to create a safe place full of Hope, Faith, Love & Joy where adults with disabilities can come together to enjoy the company of friends both in-person and virtually, while learning various job skills and take advantage related job opportunities, along with building upon their life and social skills in a natural team environment that embraces self empowerment and self advocacy.
- ◆ This unique program also offers on-going caregiver resources and training that are targeted to help ensure the long term success of each participant.



**What Should A Full Life Look Like Once the Yellow Bus Stops Coming ...**

**Engaging Activities, Friendships, Employment Opportunities, Volunteering Opportunities, Vacations, Housing, and most importantly a community that cares and a place where you feel welcomed...**

❖ I call everything between the age of 22-65 “the black hole” because programs and services are hard to find for adults with disabilities within this age group. How are they suppose to feel valued if society can’t find a place for them...



❖ One of the biggest challenges that caregivers have is the inability to care for loved ones while balancing careers. And this only gets more challenging as the special needs individual gets older.



❖ Because of this lack of adult supported job opportunities and/or day programs people with disabilities are usually found sitting at home with their caregivers who in turn can not work themselves because of the need to provide full time care for that special needs individual. Therefore this leaves our communities with adults who can't drive or work independently along with caregivers who also can't work, all of which creates a system of poverty and isolation within our disabilities communities.



BRIGHT FEATS  
**VIP works**  
Angels Bridging Gaps



## ABGworks Disabilities Village & Angels Bridging Gaps nonprofit Organization:

Mission to work together with adult individuals with disabilities, caregivers and community organizations to help our local disabilities community establishing programs, services, and funding to meet the gaps in service experienced by individuals, families, & caregivers.

### ABG Committees:

- ▶ Teen/Adult Day Enrichment Programs/ Activities
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Community Relations/1st Responders/Legislation
- ▶ Fundraising/ Grants
- ▶ Angel Buddy/ Community Partners of Tomorrow Program/Respite

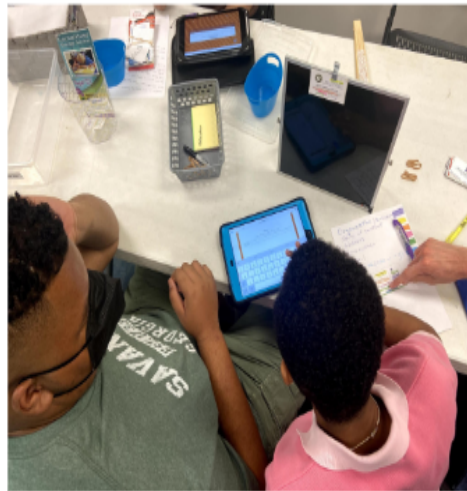
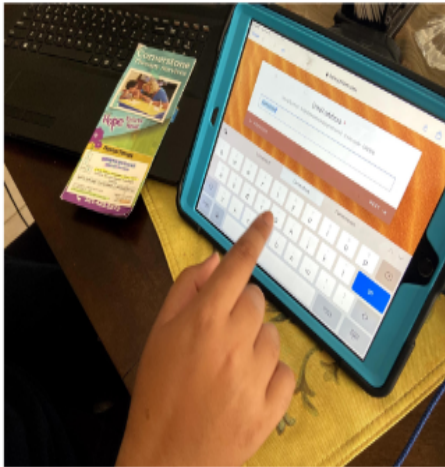
If you would like to serve on one of our committees please contact Jackie Yearby: [abgworks1@gmail.com](mailto:abgworks1@gmail.com) or call 631-807-2974



This statistic presents the poverty rate among people with and without disabilities in the U.S. from 2008 to 2018. According to the data, in 2018, 26.9% of people with disabilities were living in poverty, while just 12.2% of people without disabilities were living in poverty. (Published by John Elflein, Feb 20, 2020)



- ◆ As a means to fill this gap in services and opportunities our goal is to be able to designed our program to offer employment opportunities for adults with disabilities along providing our disabilities caregivers with an income stream and job opportunities for themselves through the development of our Caregiver~Helper Teams, in addition to helping our participants with setting up entrepreneurial/ micro business of which we will help support to promote thought our ABG vendor fairs and disability business website



## ABGworks Inc. Program Enrichment Activities:

The Adult Enrichment Day Program will operate 3 days per week –  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays Time: 10am to 2pm

### Employment Training Activities/Opportunities

- **ABGworks Disabilities Village/ Angels Bridging Gaps Nonprofit –**
  - Organizational Projects, Website Development, Writing Article, Interview Clients
- **Bright Feats Disabilities Resource Guide - <https://brightfeats.com/>**
  - Resource Research, Ad Sales, Batching, Data Entry, Proofreading, Distribution
- **MyHana – <https://www.myhana.org/>**
  - Wisdom Caregiver Consultant is a paid independent contractor position, Connect caregivers to community resources by share information about MyHana Navigation Tool, Collect potential client contact information

### Service Learning and Community Outreach Projects/Programs

- **Rescued Horses-Saved Kids Ministry of the First Baptist Church of Malabar (October 2020 - July 2021)**
- **Angels Bridging Gaps – Donation Boutique (On-going)**
- **Community Outreach Engagement & Resource Distribution (On-going)**
- **ABG Vendor Fairs/ Entrepreneurship/ Micro Business Opportunities**
- **Santa's North Pole Outlet - 2nd Saturday Dec ( 12/9/23)**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zWmcVwHmYeJywCoE6>

- **Helping Hands Family Festival - 4th Saturday April (4/29/2023)**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ECqMj4KARzCf7pNJ6>

## ABGworks Inc. Enrichment Program Activities:

### Life, Social, Self Empowerment Skills & Natural Supports Development:

- ▶ **Community Engagement & Discovering Our World - (Jackie Yearby/ Kathy Laurendi) - Annual Zoo Membership -Amusement Parks - Museums - Community Partner Tours Locations (caregivers are encouraged to participate - group activities/adventures)**
- ▶ **Movement:**
- **Basketball, Bowling & Swimming - (Bryant Yearby)**
- **Line Dancing/ Yoga - ( Wanda Brown Dance instructor)**
- ▶ **ABG Music Jam Sessions - The MIC Music Therapy**
- ▶ **Life Lessons - Gardening, Crafts & Music (Katherine Klemm)**
- ▶ **Self Care/Self Development/ Self Advocacy- Jackie Yearby/various community members**
- ▶ **Money Management & Community Practice/Budgeting/ Entrepreneur Skills- Guided By You (Denise Smalls)/ Jackie Yearby**
- ▶ **Virtual Connection - Jackie Yearby**
- ▶ **Art Program- Arts for All Studio ( Barbara, Sarah & Kathy Laurendi)**
- ▶ **Cooking - Senior Chef (Chef Jillian)**

### Pending Activities:

- ▶ **Elite Fitness gym membership for our group**
- ▶ **Assisted Technology/Communication - Maria Uriondo/ Jackie Yearby**
- ▶ **Fishing - Joe Massella & Leroy**
- ▶ **Jewelry making - With Jane & Alyssa**
- ▶ **Karate class - tbd**
- ▶ **Adopt a Grandparent - Games & Activities with Seniors - Jackie Yearby/ Mrs Daphane**



## **ABGworks Adult Enrichment Program Photo Journal Link:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1fevMJ8ALABoDrkv7>

## **ABGworks Adult Assisted Technology/Communication Photo Journal Club Link:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3cLpSS2uzYQfY5dH8>

## **Angel Buddy/ Community Partners of Tomorrow Program**

Our Angel Buddy Program is a unique opportunity that allows students to work one-on-one with an individual with a disability to offer natural support through companionship and peer mentorship while allowing them to earn Bright Futures community service hours. We also offer respite job opportunities working as a parent-helper or companion-helper, along with job shadowing opportunities for students interested in working in the field of disabilities.

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/14Aeth8pmtDeKVd5iAnKkxrcOEtbLNOVc/edit?usp=doclist\\_api&filetype=mspresentation](https://docs.google.com/file/d/14Aeth8pmtDeKVd5iAnKkxrcOEtbLNOVc/edit?usp=doclist_api&filetype=mspresentation)

# Calendar of Events

## October 2023 - ABGworks Enrichment Activities:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>3</b> -ABGworks Community Engagement Scheduled: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Location: Arts for All Studio 784 N Apollo Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32935 Cost \$25 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>4</b> - ABGworks Enrichment- Self Empowerment &amp; Job Skills - Jackie, Phil, Tony &amp; Bill Myers , Diane Dickson (Data Entry, Customer Service, Sales, Computers) Scheduled:10:30AM to 1:00 PM Location: Promise Cafe &amp; Bakery 3095 Fell Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$25 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>5</b> - ABGworks Enrichment Activities: Crafts; Thrift &amp; Consignment Boutique Closet Organization - Job Skills; Games &amp; Sports/Basketball with Friends Scheduled: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Location: Malabar Baptist Church 1665 Malabar Rd, Malabar, FL 32950. Cost \$20 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>6</b> -</p>	<p><b>7</b> -</p>
<p><b>10</b> -ABG Community Engagement Tour (11am-12:30): Location: City of Palm Bay 120 Malabar Rd SE, Palm Bay, FL 32907 *Bring Lunch or Money</p> <p>• ABGworks Music Jam Session- Florida Music Therapy (1-2pm) . First Church of Melbourne 110 E New Haven Ave Melbourne FL 32901 Cost \$25 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>11</b> -ABGworks Enrichment- Cooking Skills with Chef Jillian; Games &amp; Sports with Friends Scheduled: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Location: Malabar Baptist Church 1665 Malabar Rd, Malabar, FL 32950 Cost \$25 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>12</b> -ABGworks - Bowling with Friends. Scheduled: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, Location: Shore Lanes Palm Bay 4851 Dairy Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$20 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>13</b> -Friday Friends Scheduled: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Location: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church 300 Malabar Rd, Palm Bay, FL 32907  (Free community partner event)</p>	<p><b>14</b> - <b>Exceptional Boo at the Zoo</b> <b>5:00PM to 7:00PM</b> Location: Brevard Zoo 8225 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940 (RSVP to volunteer at our ABG booth to play games &amp; hand out candy)</p>
<p><b>17</b> - ABGworks Community Engagement: ABGworks Mobile Thrift &amp; Consignment Entrepreneurial Skills Scheduled: 10AM to 12:30PM. Location:TBD.</p> <p>• Game Over Retro Arcade with Friends Scheduled:1:00PM to 2:30PM 2565 W New Haven Ave, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$25 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>18</b> - ABGworks Enrichment - Katherine's Crafts, Music, Gardening &amp; Life lessons/ Yoga &amp; Line Dancing with Mrs Wanda Scheduled: 10:30AM to 1:30PM, Location: Promise Cafe &amp; Bakery 3095 Fell Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$25 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>19</b>-ABGworks Enrichment- Pottery Clay Crafts with Mrs Sharon; Games &amp; Basketball with Friends Scheduled: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Location: Malabar Baptist Church 1665 Malabar Rd, Malabar, FL 32950 *Bring Lunch Cost \$20</p>	<p><b>20</b> -</p>	<p><b>21</b> -</p>
<p><b>24</b> - ABG Community Engagement (11am-12:30pm) Location: Palm Bay Police Department 130 Malabar Rd SE, Palm Bay, FL 32907</p> <p>• ABGworks Music Jam Session- Florida Music Therapy (1-2pm) . First Church of Melbourne 110 E New Haven Ave Melbourne FL 32901 Cost \$25 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>25</b> - ABGworks Enrichment- Money Management/ Entrepreneurial Skills &amp; Independence Skills with Mrs Denise Scheduled:10:30 AM to 1:30 PM Location: Promise Cafe &amp; Bakery 3095 Fell Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$25 (Lunch included)*</p>	<p><b>26</b> - ABGworks - Bowling with Friends. Scheduled: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, Location: Shore Lanes Palm Bay 4851 Dairy Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$20 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>27</b> -</p>	<p><b>28</b> -</p>
<p><b>31</b> -ABGworks Community Engagement: LaPorte Farms (Halloween Party Outing. - Come Dressed 🎃) Scheduled: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM Location: 7700 129th St Sebastian FL 32958 Cost \$20 (Bring Lunch or Money).</p>	<p><b>1</b> - ABGworks Enrichment- Self Empowerment &amp; Job Skills - Jackie, Phil, Tony &amp; Bill Myers , Diane Dickson (Data Entry, Customer Service, Sales, Computers) Scheduled:10:30AM to 1:30PM Location: Promise Cafe &amp; Bakery 3095 Fell Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904 Cost \$25 (Lunch included)</p>	<p><b>2</b> - ABGworks Enrichment Activities: Crafts; Thrift &amp; Consignment Boutique Closet Organization - Job Skills ; Games &amp; Sports/Basketball with Friends Malabar Baptist Church 1665 Malabar Rd, Malabar, FL 32950. Cost \$25 (Bring Lunch or Money)</p>	<p><b>3</b> -</p>	<p><b>4</b> -</p>



## VENDORS WANTED

DISABILITY FRIENDLY VENDORS ENCOURAGED

## “SANTAS NORTH POLE OUTLET FOR KIDS”

SATURDAY DEC 16, 2023 10AM TIL 2PM

Space Coast “Field of Dreams”, Minton Rd (across from Calvary Chapel)

**ALL KIDS ITEMS MUST BE \$5 OR LESS**

This event is sponsored by Angels Bridging Gaps Inc.

The ABG Inc. program is designed for young adults with disabilities age 18 and up. We provide supervision and a fun creative learning environment. The program includes, engaging activities all of which are centered around the development of life skills, social skills and making lasting friendships.

**Kids Only area under the pavilion \$15 (bring your table)**

**Adults Area under the pavilion \$15 (bring your table)**

**For an application send email to: [ABGworks.pjd@gmail.com](mailto:ABGworks.pjd@gmail.com)**



To find out more about our adult disabilities day program or to get assistance finding resource information related to disabilities, please reach out to us at [ABGworks1@gmail.com](mailto:ABGworks1@gmail.com)

**FOLLOW THESE LINKS to LEARN MORE: [WEBSITE](#), [FACEBOOK](#), [TWITTER](#), [INSTAGRAM](#)**



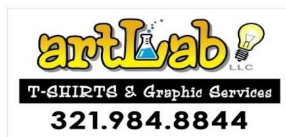


**1901 Avacado Ave.  
Melbourne FL 32935  
321.622.6682**

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going mobile into the community**



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