



STARability[®]

F O U N D A T I O N

Shining light on ability, not disability.



OUR MISSION

To transform the lives of individuals with disabilities through social, vocational and educational connections to the community, while strengthening awareness and respect for individual abilities.

OUR CORE VALUES

At STARability, we **S**upport people with disabilities by providing life-transforming opportunities that emphasize **T**eamwork and connection to the community to build **A**wareness and **R**espect for individual abilities.



S = SUPPORT
T = TEAMWORK
A = AWARENESS
R = RESPECT

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Kahn-Allen, President
Carrie Cooney, 1st Vice President
Kelly Moynihan, Ph.D., 2nd Vice President
Steve Evangelista, 3rd Vice President
Ken Gilman, Treasurer
Myles McHale, Secretary
Lou Georgelos
Domenic Lucarelli
Jerry Schoenfeld, Ph.D.

ADVISORY BOARD

John Cooney
Anne Fleming
John Pollock
Josh Rudnick
Ed Smith

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Stacy Bolesky
Cole Caruso
Arnold Karp

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen Govern

STARability Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, State of Florida #CH-172.





"We are thrilled for Griffin that he has STARability. It is so much more than having a place for him to go. He looks forward to it every day, and it is enriching in every way—socially, vocationally and importantly in allowing him to connect with his community."

- Bart and Julie Stanley, STARability parents

SHINING LIGHT ON OUR GROWTH

It's been another incredible year of growth: a new office, new programs, new partnerships and the opening of the STAR Store. STARability now has over 300 participants enrolled in our programs and participating in our life-transforming opportunities.

Our pioneering Trailblazer Academy is in its fourth year and has provided 59 people with vocational training and community-based enrichment and education experiences. We have increased our outreach to employers and have helped seven participants find paid employment. We doubled enrollment in the Junior Trailblazers program, an after-school program for high school students that introduces them to the Trailblazers curriculum.

We have started other new programs, including computer classes, enhanced cooking and art classes, Tai Chi, more book clubs and also ongoing support for families through our Family Forum series. As you explore the following pages, you'll read stories of just a few of the many lives transformed through STARability.

Thank you for your support of STARability and for helping us shine light on ability, not disability. Together, we can look to the future with excitement, promise and great aspirations in continuing our work to empower people with disabilities to live their best lives.

Lisa Kahn-Allen
President, Board of Directors

Karen Govern
Executive Director

SHOP WITH A PURPOSE

On Aug. 1, 2019, we celebrated the opening of the STAR Store, which features upscale resale and stellar art. Created from the vision of Store Director Carrie Jo Terry and STARability supporters Carrie and John Cooney, the STAR Store expands our community presence. In addition to benefiting STARability through the resale of upscale furniture, décor and other home goods, the store intentionally provides a nurturing and inclusive environment where participants can receive vocational training as well as create handmade soy candles and other beautiful products in our STAR*Made Studio.



Visit the STAR Store at 106 10th St. N. in Naples. To donate or for more information, call 239.263.1894 or email STARstore@STARability.org.



Joe, right, with his friend Nicholas

STARABILITY STAR JOE

To know Joe Shirley now compared to three years ago—before the Trailblazer Academy transformed his life—reveals the power of shining light on ability, not disability. Becoming a Trailblazer brought daily purpose, new friends, vocational training, nutrition and fitness, and interaction with more than 20 community businesses and organizations into Joe's life. He's a new man now. He is holding down two part-time jobs; is more outgoing than his family ever imagined he could be; and is more fit and active. He seems younger, smiles more and radiates a true sense of belonging within an inclusive community.

READING, SHARING & MAKING FRIENDS

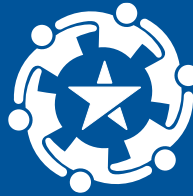
STARability participants Stephanie Maffeo and Stevi Fye meet for book club every week at a local coffee shop with Sue Guben, volunteer facilitator. Stephanie and Stevi knew how to read but struggled with comprehension. With Sue's help of discussing the story as it happens, explaining vocabulary and making connections in the story, the young ladies now have lively and interactive discussions about the books and a new love of reading. Their book clubs are not just about the books; they are about friendships and sharing. "I love being with my friends, reading books and talking about so many things," says Stevi.



Stevi (left), Sue (seated) and Stephanie

OUR PROGRAMS

STARability Foundation opens up a whole calendar of enriching activities for our participants. These innovative and creative programs focus on continuing education, teamwork and community involvement.

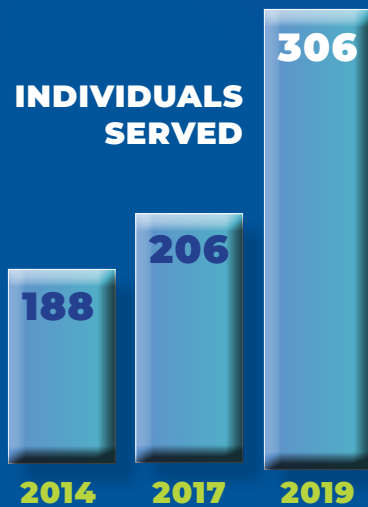


STARability
FOUNDATION

Shining light on ability, not disability.

- Art class
- Baseball league
- Basketball league
- Bowling league
- Computer skills class
- Cooking class
- Improv with The Naples Players
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Photography workshop
- Trailblazer Academy
- Junior Trailblazer Academy
- Social events

INDIVIDUALS SERVED



STARability
FOUNDATION

&

TRAILBLAZER
ACADEMY

JR. TRAILBLAZER
ACADEMY

BY THE NUMBERS

43,584

Experiences provided to STARability participants last year

15,000

Community volunteer hours provided by Trailblazers last year

100

Volunteers making STARability programs possible

30

Business and community partners providing training and enrichment experiences

7

Trailblazers employed

"The program is designed to help participants become more independent and give them a sense of purpose and pride, while building confidence and a connection to the community." - Karen Govern

2019 *Star Gala* 
Dazzling Diamond Soirée

3k 2018 **FUN**



RUN, WALK & ROLL NAPLES ALL ABILITIES EVENT

Support STARability Foundation and help us shine light on ability, not disability.

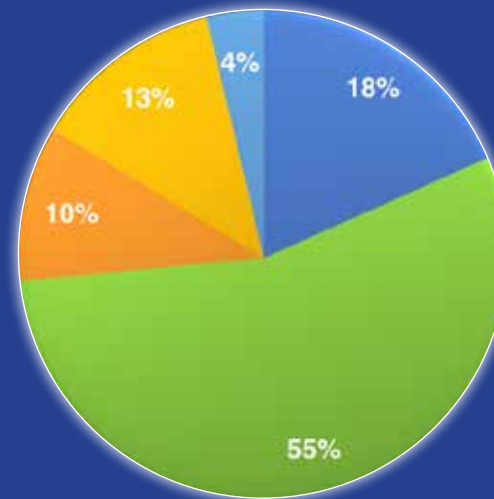


STARability
 FOUNDATION

STAR *Store* ★

Upscale Resale & Stellar Art

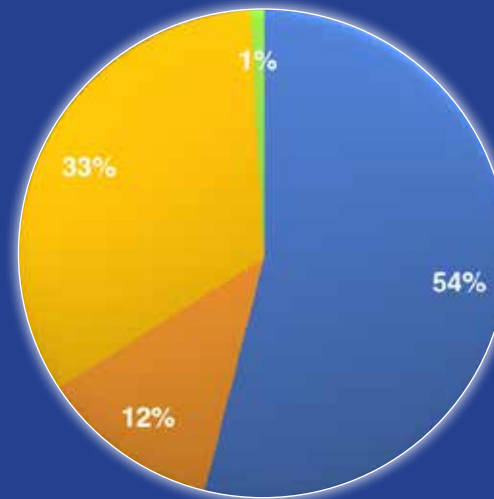
SUPPORT & REVENUE



FY 2018-2019 Total
\$1,365,282

- Contributions
- Special Events
- Program Income
- Grant Income
- Membership Fees

EXPENSES



FY 2018-2019 Total
\$1,136,266

- Direct Program Expenses
- Supporting Services
- Special Events
- STAR Store



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to report another year of strong support from our amazing donors, who allowed us to serve more individuals than ever before. As we look forward toward deeper involvement in our community and further growth, we remain dedicated to being fiscally responsible to ensure sustainability and high-quality programming for individuals with disabilities throughout their lives.

DONOR PROFILE: Carrie & John Cooney

The STARability Foundation means many things to Carrie and John Cooney. STARability is a place where their 25-year-old son Brett participates in a quality day program called the Trailblazer Academy. Trailblazers offers Brett opportunities to learn vocational skills, become ready for employment, continue his education, connect to the community and engage in many enriching experiences alongside his peers.

STARability also is a place of hope for Brett and the more than 300 participants it serves because they gain a sense of purpose and the confidence to accomplish what they might otherwise think impossible. And STARability is a place where Brett and other participants can shine a light on their abilities, not their disabilities.

“We support STARability because it is our son’s future and he is our passion,” Carrie Cooney says. The Cooneys’ dream for Brett is for the community to help support building a permanent home for STARability, a center where Brett and other participants can continue to learn, grow and flourish; a place to call their own.

“All money raised stays locally and directly supports the programs,” says Carrie Cooney. “It is a win-win, and we couldn’t be more excited to see the future of STARability.”

John and Carrie Cooney

Carrie Cooney is 1st Vice President of the STARability Foundation’s Board of Directors. She and her husband, John, have chaired the STAR Gala, and Carrie Cooney is co-chair of the 2020 STAR Gala. John’s company, Stofft Cooney Architects, is a community leader in inclusive employment.

THANK YOU

To these local businesses for their commitment to inclusive employment:

- Air Bar Blowouts & Extensions
- BCB Homes
- Cosmos Ristorante & Pizzeria
- Naples Art
- Publix Super Markets
- Royal Scoop Homemade Ice Cream
- Stofft Cooney Architects

Brett Cooney
working at BCB Homes



www.STARability.org

5125 Castello Drive, Naples, FL 34103, 239.594.9007



STARability Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, State of Florida #CH-172.

