



## JAFCO's Ability @ Work Program Empowers Young Adults, Teaching Essential Life Skills

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**JAFCO's Ability @ Work program empowers young adults** with developmental disabilities in the South Florida community by equipping them with essential life and job skills. This comprehensive vocational training initiative aims to prepare participants for meaningful employment and greater independence. Through hands-on experiences and mentorships, participants gain confidence and learn how to navigate workplace environments.

One of the program's most notable projects is the "WILD Flower" initiative, where participants learn to create and sell unique flower arrangements made from recycled materials like water bottles and used paper. The name

"WILD Flower" stands for **Working Independently, Learning job skills & respecting Differences**, a core mission of the program. This project allows participants to develop various skills, including customer service, budgeting, money handling, sales and inventory management.



They've showcased their beautiful flower arrangements at various art festivals and local events, gaining valuable skills in budgeting, customer interaction, and entrepreneurship. This project is not only a creative outlet but also a meaningful way for participants to contribute to the community. Their work is also sold at "Heal the Planet," a local store that features organic and natural products.

"Seeing the excitement, passion and growth in our participants is incredible," said **Lilach Karo, Outreach Coordinator at the JAFCO Children's Ability Center**. "They are gaining confidence, developing valuable skills, and contributing in a beautiful and meaningful way to their community," Karo shared. "The best part is when they go to these art festivals. Seeing their pride and excitement when talking to customers and showing the artwork they created is heartwarming."



Since its launch a year and a half ago, Ability @ Work has continued to grow in scope and impact, becoming another vital part of JAFCO's commitment to supporting young adults with developmental disabilities as they transition to adulthood.

To support the JAFCO Children's Ability Center's Ability @ Work program and purchase flower arrangements, contact **Lilach Karo** at [lilach@jafco.org](mailto:lilach@jafco.org).

#### **About JAFCO:**

JAFCO's mission is to provide care, safety and support to children and their families within the Jewish community and beyond who are impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities...giving every child a place to belong. Visit [www.jafco.org](http://www.jafco.org).