



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Abilities in Motion to Host 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

Reading, PA – Abilities in Motion (AIM) is hosting a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Giving Thanks Grand Gala on Wednesday, October 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Doubletree Reading. The event recognizes AIM's extensive history of serving and advocating for people with disabilities.

Abilities in Motion began its service to the community in 1989 when it incorporated as the Berks County Center for Independent Living (BCCIL). Centers for Independent Living (CILs) developed from the grassroots advocacy of individuals across the nation who championed the Independent Living Movement, which maintained that individuals with disabilities had the right to the same control and choices in their lives as non-disabled people have.

As the services provided by the Berks County Center for Independent Living grew in the early 1990s, the Berks County CIL changed its name to Abilities in Motion to reflect the organization's expanding offerings beyond our core services. AIM developed waiver-based programs including:

Service Coordination – a program that coordinates home and community-based services that allow people to be independent in their homes and communities;

Nursing Home Transition – to help individuals end their placement in a nursing home and assist in removing barriers which prevent them from living in their homes and communities;

Agency with Choice – allowing individuals with intellectual disabilities to choose their own support service workers;

Options Program – providing eligible consumers 60 years old and over with options regarding self-directed services and service professionals.

AIM's CIL expanded services to youth in 2005 when it created AIM's Youth Transition Services. Youth Transition Services, like STARS, Teens Taking Flight, and Pre-Employment Transition Services, were designed to provide socialization and skills training to youth between 14 and 25, who are beginning the transition out of school and into the adult world.

210 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Reading, PA 19601

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Throughout three decades, AIM has risen to be a prominent advocacy agency for individuals with disabilities in the region.

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Abilities in Motion is Berks County 's Center for Independent Living. We offer support services, education, and advocacy for over 3,700 individuals with disabilities in over 30 counties in the state. AIM's purpose is reflected in the Rehabilitation Act, which states that "disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers, and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society."