From the Chair

As we head into March, the Florida Legislature is already moving bills quickly through Committee’s and setting the agenda for their upcoming legislative assembly. Overall, the leaders in the House, Senate and Governor’s Office have very different priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session, so it will be interesting to see how it all plays out. At the Federal level, we are all in a “wait and see” mode as the new Trump Administration continues to lay out their national priorities.

In Tallahassee, one issue that appears to be on the fast track this year is the Transportation Network Company (TNC) bill. This bill potentially affects many of our local communities and the transportation network that is currently available. House Bill 221 (Senate Bill 340) has already moved through several committees in the House of Representatives. This bill sets statewide standards for Transportation Network Companies (sometimes referred to as “RideSharing” companies, like Uber and Lyft) and preempts the state the regulation of TNC’s. The bill sets minimum insurance requirements and requires background screening checks every three years. Although legislation has been proposed the last two years that ultimately did not pass, many feel this will be the year that statewide TNC language makes it through both chambers.

At the Federal level, President Trump has discussed supporting a major

(continued on page 2)
Hall of Fame 2016 Inductee Jay A. Goodwill, P.E., CCTM

2016 - Jay Goodwill has dedicated his professional life to improving public transit in Florida. Following three years as the Executive Director of the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, Jay was appointed as the Executive Director of the Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) system in 1983, a position he held for two decades. During Jay’s tenure, the SCAT bus system won the American Public Transportation Association’s award for the Outstanding Small Bus System of the Year in 1997. Jay guided SCAT to be the County’s Community Transportation Coordinator in addition to being its fixed route transit provider. During his time as SCAT Director he oversaw the building of a new Operations and Maintenance headquarters facility for the agency as well as three major passenger transfer facilities including the successful restoration of the Venice Train Depot. Jay served with distinction in all the officer positions in FPTA, including President in 1990, and chaired many different committees that promote and recognize excellence in transit operations, maintenance, and marketing.

In addition to his outstanding leadership as the Director of SCAT for 20 years, Jay also contributed to the betterment of transit through his work as a faculty member at the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research. He was the co-author of many Transit Development Plans for transit agencies around the state of Florida and served as a Co-Principal Investigator on 13 projects funded by the National Center for Transit Research at CUTR. He made numerous presentations at APTA, TRB, FPTA, and CTD conferences to share information with other transit agencies and personnel.

Jay not only led SCAT to new heights and developed new industry knowledge during his time at CUTR, but was also a major contributor to professional development through his contributions to the FPTA. While he was SCAT’s Director, he hosted two FPTA Annual Conferences and two mid-year workshops. His agency hosted the Florida RTAP Paratransit Roadeo in the mid-1990’s. While at CUTR, he assisted the FPTA Executive Director with the FPTA Annual Conference planning and logistics from 2003 to 2012. Jay was the Co-developer of the inaugural 2008 FPTA System of the Year Award program and served as the committee chair from 2008 through 2014. In addition, he assisted with the program development of the FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop (PDW) from 2002 to 2013 and starting in 2014, acted as the primary PDW Coordinator – including the development of the workshop agenda and handling the hotel logistics and registration process. In short, Jay was a force for good for the betterment of transit. FPTA is forever grateful for his unselfish and generous nature that for over 33 years touched the lives of hundreds of his own employees and the passengers they served, and was vital to improving the skills of thousands of other transit employees throughout the state.

From the Chair (cont. from page 1)

infrastructure initiative involving as much as $1 trillion in investment, but there have also been rumors that the incoming Administration might revive an earlier unsuccessful effort to eliminate the federal transit program as part of a future budget proposal.

Recent information provided by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) notes that a bipartisan majority of Americans and Members of Congress support investment in public transportation. APTA reports: “Even in our divided political climate, Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need investment on all levels in public transportation. Nearly 70 percent of voters polled in the presidential election support investment to repair and improve public transportation. And a large majority who voted for Donald Trump also support greater investment, polling at 65 percent. A Congressional victory on the issue can bridge our political divisions and show Americans that Congress is working for us, not against each other.”

We know that public transportation benefits all of us, regardless of whether someone uses the service or not. It makes our communities safer, better connected, and stronger economically. It’s timely that a group of us will be heading up to Washington DC to educate our representatives on the importance of transit in each of our communities. If you can’t make the trip up to DC, consider reaching out to your legislators to inform them of the value your service provides to your local area. Tell them that by investing in public transportation, our economy will grow, short and long-term American jobs are created, and we link people to jobs and businesses across the state every single day.

America’s future is bright when we come together to make smart investments that connect and grow our communities, and public transportation is a proven way to make this happen.

Brad Miller
Numerous workshops and training sessions were held, including topics related to: Property Value Impacts of Rail Projects, Bus on Shoulder Operations in Florida, Major Disaster and Terrorism Events: Experiences and Insight and Last Mile Connections through Transit Enhancements and Complete Streets. In addition, we had 94 table displays and a record number of sponsors!

Andrew Evans from National Geographic was our Keynote Speaker on Tuesday, and his inspiring speech, which discussed his amazing trip from Washington DC to Antarctica using public transportation, was a definite highpoint for nearly all of our attendees.

As always, the Awards Banquet was a highlight for many of our participants. We awarded numerous awards to deserving transit systems and individuals around our state. For a summary of all of the awards winners, please turn to page 8.

Thank you to all who attended! And, please mark your calendar for next year’s exciting event:

**October 22-24, 2017**
Hilton West Palm Beach
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Host Properties: PalmTran and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
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On Thursday, February 2, 2017, Palm Tran participated in Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. Palm Tran’s Marketing section hosted a fun and educational day for students. The students spent one-on-one time with their parent before touring the West Palm Beach facility, boarding a bus in the yard and visiting a local bus stop. They also played transit-related charades, created their own bus and shelter designs and participated in mock interviews for a Palm Tran position of their choice.

Although the national date for this event is in April, the Palm Beach County School District chose February 2, so as not to interfere with standardized testing administered in April. Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is a program dedicated to helping students explore their future opportunities at work, at home, and in their community. By participating in this program, girls and boys experience what is involved and required for the job they want.

The City of Pensacola, in an initiative organized by the Santa Rosa Island Authority and Escambia Area Transit, recently completed a two-month pilot of a downtown trolley service. The free trolley was equipped with advanced NextBus technology, allowing riders to benefit from real-time passenger information (RTPI) and plan rides accordingly. Offering a congestion-reducing alternative to driving, Pensacola’s Downtown Trolley provided “hop-on, hop-off” service that allowed passengers to join at any point along one of two convenient routes.

While Escambia County already provides trolley service at the beach, the pilot program brought much-needed public transit service to the downtown area. Trolleys operated on two schedules: a “Lunchtime” route that ran on weekdays from 10 am to 2 pm, and a “Nights and Weekends” route from 5 pm to 10 pm on weekend evenings, as well as 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Covering Pensacola’s attractive downtown core as well as its historic Belmont-Devilliers neighborhood, the Downtown Trolley brought noticeable benefits to residents and visitors alike as it connected passengers to a vibrant array of shops, restaurants, and attractions.

The trolley service debuted on November 3 and ran until New Year’s Eve, giving both Pensacola residents and visitors a valuable transportation option during the holiday shopping season. Passengers were encouraged to download the NextBus app through the Apple and Google Play app stores, as the free mobile resource provided real-time information on the trolley’s location. With the ability to accurately track the trolley’s movement along the route, passengers could easily join the ride and streamline transportation from morning shopping to a late lunch, or from dinner to a show at the Pensacola Bay Center.

Pensacola’s Downtown Trolley also represented a successful expansion of the NextBus application, as it was used in the Florida Panhandle for the first time. NextBus representatives celebrated the success of the pilot program, thanking the Downtown Improvement Board, Escambia Area Transit, and the Santa Rosa Island Authority “for their help and support in bringing the new trolley service to action.”
Manatee County Area Transit officially has a new home

For Ron Schulhofer, Manatee County’s new transit fleet facility has been more than 14 years in the making. While now the county’s public works director, Schulhofer recalls when he was the fleet manager and first went into the shop at 1022 26th Ave. E. “I was in awe of how people could work in such a bad spot,” he said, detailing how mechanics used to have to work.

However, late last year, Schulhofer, along with county officials and community members, was able to celebrate the new home for Manatee County Area Transit at the 45,000-square-foot facility at 2411 Tallevast Road.

“Keep it local provides us with an excellent opportunity to inject additional dollars into the local economy,” he said. “An opportunity that reaches far beyond the actual construction costs involved.”

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“I am so honored that this facility is right here in south county because we are rocking it down here,” Commissioner Robin DiSabatino said before the orange “Grand Opening” ribbon was cut.

The transit fleet facility, which was built by Willis Smith Construction, cost $17.4 million, with the majority of the funds coming from a $15.9 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

David Sessions, president/CEO of Willis Smith Construction, said they really committed to try to keep as much of the work as possible locally. With the transit facility, more than 75 percent of construction dollars stayed in either Manatee or Sarasota County, he added.

“Keeping it local provides us with an excellent opportunity to inject additional dollars into the local economy,” he said. “An opportunity that reaches far beyond the actual construction costs involved.”

Built over 13 months, the new facility includes four buildings — a fuel depot, a bus wash station, a logistics building and an office and maintenance building. There are 185 vehicle parking spaces as well as 75 bus parking spaces, which will allow MCAT to expand over time, according to a news release.

“The final buildout will be for 150 buses. That’s our vision,” William Steele, transit division manager, told guests who toured the facility.
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2016 Annual Conference Award Winners ...

2016 Innovation and Creativity Award
• Manatee County Area Transit

2016 Outstanding System of the Year
• Jacksonville Transportation Authority

2016 Operators of the Year
• 1st Place - Stacy Meeth, Manatee County Area Transit
• 2nd Place - Jeff Stapleton, Sarasota County Area Transit
• 3rd Place - Carlos Duran, HART

2016 Technicians of the Year
• 1st Place - Bobby Farris, PSTA
• 2nd Place - Ricardo Fernandez, HART
• 3rd Place - Edwens Deruisseau, Miami-Dade Transit

2016 Bus Safety Excellence
• Gold Safety Award (Tier 1)
  Pinellas Suncoast Area Transit (PSTA)

• Gold Safety Award (Tiers 2, 3 and 4)
  Space Coast Area Transit (SCAT)

2016 Best of the Best- Marketing
• Lynx Digital Media Fishing Frenzy

2016 Judge’s Favorite - Marketing
• Tri-Rail Special Event Rail Fun Day

2016 Member’s Choice - Marketing
• LYNX- Tribute to Orlando Pulse Night Club

Other Marketing Awards:
• Print Collateral
  A. Advertising Collateral (Class 1)
    Jacksonville Transportation Authority

• Print Collateral
  A. Advertising Collateral (Class 2)
    Star Metro

• Print Collateral
  B. Instructional Information (Class 1)
    Miami-Dade Transit

• Print Collateral
  B. Instructional Information (Class 2)
    Citrus Connection

• Internal/Employee Communications (Class 1)
  Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)

• Internal/Employee Communications (Class 2)
  RTS (Gainesville)

• Electronic Media/Audio-Visual Television and Radio (Class 1)
  Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)

• Electronic Media/Audio-Visual Television and Radio (Class 2)
  Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT)

• Interior/Exterior Signage (Class 1)
  Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (d/b/a LYNX)

• Interior/Exterior Signage (Class 2)
  Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT)

• Special Events & Campaigns
  A. Sustaining Campaigns (Class 1)
    South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Tri-Rail)

• Special Events & Campaigns
  A. Sustaining Campaigns (Class 2)
    RTS (Gainesville)

• Special Events & Campaigns
  B. Special Event (Class 1)
    Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)

• Special Events & Campaigns
  B. Special Event (Class 2)
    Citrus Connection

• Digital Media (Class 1)
  Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (d/b/a LYNX)

• Digital Media (Class 2)
  Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)

• Potpourri (Class 1)
  Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (d/b/a LYNX)

• Potpourri (Class 2)
  Space Coast Area Transit

Judges Favorite:
2016 Best of the Best Marketing
Tri-Rail Special Event Rail Fun Day
2016 Annual Conference Snapshots...

... Award Winners

Operator of the Year: Stacy Meeth, MCAT

Outstanding System: JTA

Technician of the Year: Bobby Farris, PSTA
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On January 10, 2017, a fellow transit system in Springdale, Arkansas experienced a devastating fire that destroyed the majority of its fixed-route bus fleet. With only four fixed-route vehicles available to serve the agency's 14 routes, the Ozark Regional Transit System's Executive Director sent a request for help through the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) list serve to any system that had available vehicles. Key West Transit was one of the system's that came to the rescue.

Noman Whitaker, Transportation Director of the City of Key West, stated “The request came in just at the right time, as Key West Transit had just retired three still service ready 2001 Gillig buses.”

By January 26th, the vehicles were on the 1,500-mile journey to Arkansas to assist in this emergency situation. One of the reason’s FPTA joins both the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is to partner with a national network of organizations and individuals who are committed to moving people. FPTA is proud that Key West Transit could assist a fellow transit system in a time of need.

Advertising Rates and Information

Our next newsletter will be out in May 2017. The newsletter is printed in full color, and past copies may be seen on our website at FloridaTransit.org.

To ensure inclusion we must have final copy no later than April 18th.

Rates are as follows:

- Business Card - $75
- ¼ Page - (4” x 5.5”) - $150
- ½ Page - (8” x 5.5”) - $275
- ½ Page (Back Fold) - $325
- Full Page - (8” x 10.25”) - $400

You will be invoiced upon publication. You may E-Mail your ad to lisabacot@floridatransit.org to reserve your spot. Copies of our Newsletters, Calendar of Events, etc. can be found on our website at FLORIDATRANSIT.ORG

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SCAT offers free Wi-Fi to passengers on all buses

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) has announced that free Wi-Fi will now be available on all SCAT buses and bus routes. Officials hope the new feature will enhance the experience of riding a SCAT bus by providing passengers with free access to social media, news outlets and emails on their electronic devices during their commute.

“This will help keep people connected as they travel to their destinations,” said SCAT Director Rocky Burke. “We previously offered Wi-Fi only on our express routes, but felt this was an important feature that all SCAT riders should be able to take advantage of.”

For additional information, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net/SCAT.

Pasco County Public Transportation introduces new route

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL ---- The Pasco County Public Transportation Department (PCPT) is pleased to offer a new bus route serving the Moon Lake area beginning Monday, January 23, 2017. PCPT purchased two new buses to assist with PCPT’s route expansion.

The new Route 16 offers bus service to several new areas of West Pasco County. Buses run every hour – serving S.R. 52 from Bayonet Point to Moon Lake Road and continuing along Ridge Road to Gulf View Square Mall. Passengers are also able to connect to several other PCPT routes, allowing riders in the Moon Lake area to travel throughout Pasco County for work, school, shopping and more!

“Having access to public transportation is important to the growth of our community,” said PCPT Interim Director Kurt Scheible. “Route 16 will provide service to areas that previously had no bus access, providing new and exciting connections to other routes.”

To kick off the new Route 16, PCPT offered free rides the first week of operation – from Monday, January 23, 2017 to Saturday, January 28, 2017.

To see the new Route 16 map and transfer times visit: http://bit.ly/2iEnvfB.

To learn more about Pasco County Public Transportation, including bus routes, transportation news and schedules visit the PCPT website at: http://www.ridepcpt.com.
Since 2010, ROUSH CleanTech has developed propane autogas fuel systems for 12 Ford commercial models, and two types of Blue Bird buses. Almost 11,000 vehicles and school buses equipped with the ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system have been deployed across the U.S. and Canada.

Of those, more than 700 vehicles operate in the transit industry, with the projected number to exceed 850 paratransit vehicles by the end of 2016.

In Florida, four transit agencies have adopted this eco-friendly, emissions-reducing technology for their paratransit fleets. Broward County Transit, LeeTran, Palm Tran and Votran agencies together have over 200 Ford E-450 paratransit vehicles in their fleets.

Propane Autogas Vehicles for the Transit Industry

The ROUSH CleanTech Ford E-450 cutaway chassis is the only shuttle vehicle that has completed the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) New Model Bus Testing Program (“Altoona Testing”), which allows a transit fleet operator to access federal funds that cover 85 percent of entire alternative fuel vehicle cost with a 15 percent local match.

The Blue Bird Vision Conventional bus equipped with ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system is purpose-built for the public transit market. This is the same base bus model used by Florida school districts, such as KIPP Jacksonville, Indian River School District and Broward County Schools. More than 300 Blue Bird Propane Vision school buses have been sold in the state.

As a Ford Tier 1 supplier and premier powertrain engineering company, ROUSH CleanTech complies with the high standards set forth by Ford’s Qualified Vehicle Modifier (QVM) guidelines. With the QVM designation, all ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas-powered vehicles maintain the same horsepower, torque and towing capacity of similar gasoline platforms. Ford’s factory warranty also remains intact with a ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system installation.

ROUSH CleanTech vehicles meet stringent Environmental Protection Agency and California Air Resources Board certification levels, as well as FMVSS, NHTSA and NFPA-58 requirements.

Economic Benefits

Fleets across the nation are significantly lowering their operating costs with propane autogas-fueled vehicles. Agencies can experience a short return on investment for the incremental cost of the propane autogas fuel system due to reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

On average, propane autogas costs 40 percent less than gasoline and 50 percent less than diesel. And, maintenance expenses are reduced due to the cleaner-burning properties of the fuel.

Propane autogas is readily available and the leading alternative fuel in the United States. More than 90 percent of the nation’s supply is produced domestically, with an additional 7 percent from Canada.

Emission Reductions

Compared to conventional diesel counterparts, propane autogas vehicles reduce smog-producing hydrocarbons, virtually eliminate particulate matter, and lessen noise levels by about 50 percent. When compared to gasoline, propane autogas reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 20 percent, and carbon monoxide emissions by 60 percent.

For additional information about propane autogas options for your transit agency’s fleet vehicles, contact Randy Veenhoven at randy.veenhoven@roush.com or 734-679-7638.

Are you a Business Class Member of FPTA and would like to submit an article regarding new or innovative products in the transit industry? If so, please send your article to: Lisa Bacot, Executive Director, at lisabacot@floridatransit.org.
World’s First Fully-Integrated Winch System Pulls Wheelchair and Passenger Into Vehicle

With boarding and alighting wheelchair falls on the rise, AMF-Bruns of America has developed Easypull - the world’s first fully-integrated winch system that pulls a wheelchair and passenger into a vehicle up a ramp. Attached to the front of the wheelchair, it effortlessly draws the wheelchair inside. Once in place, Easypull’s restraint system secures the wheelchair to the vehicle.

Features and benefits include:
- Eliminates the need for a person having to physically push and secure a wheelchair passenger into a vehicle.
- Meets ISO 10542 and Resna WC18 testing requirements.
- Wireless remote control.
- Compact design.
- 2 speed levels / 13.12 ft / 4.02 m.
- Fully-adjustable positioning of the wheelchair inside the vehicle.
- EMC tested (electro magnetic compatibility).

“Easypull is a technological breakthrough that eliminates the need for driver or caregiver from physically boarding a wheelchair inside a vehicle,” says Peter Haarhuis, AMF-Bruns of America CEO. “The product is easy to operate and meets all quality and testing requirements.”

AMF-Bruns provides wheelchair securement products, occupant restraint systems and associated equipment. In the 1970’s they developed the first wheelchair safety system and invented the world’s first 4-point retractor wheelchair anchoring system. Founded in Germany in 1958, the U.S. distribution facility opened in 2013.

For more information, contact Steve Barker, AMF Bruns of America sales manager, at 478-508-3933 or go to www.amfbrunsamerica.com.

PalmTran participates in MLK Parade

On January 14, 2017 Palm Tran proudly participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade through Riviera Beach. Over forty Palm Tran employees, together with their families and friends, walked alongside the brightly wrapped articulated bus (#1203) and passed out promotional items to the crowd. This year’s bus with the theme “Building Bridges for a Better Future” is serving Palm Tran routes throughout Black History Month until March 2017.
COMTO Informational Meeting Brings Big Names and Big Interest

On December 8, 2016, several Palm Tran employees hosted an informational meeting on the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) to gauge interest in starting a new, local chapter for Palm Beach County.

The meeting was held at the Celebrity Restaurant and Lounge, a West Palm Beach establishment owned by a minority businessman/entrepreneur. The meeting was open to all persons who work in the transportation industry. The response was overwhelming as over sixty people attended the event to learn more about COMTO, including several dignitaries and special guests.

“Palm Beach County is ripe for a transportation organization that not only advocates for the transportation industry, but also focuses on training and professional development that equips its members with the skill set – and networking environment – that allows each member to grow and meet their full potential in the industry.” Said Bruce Guyton, Transit Planner for Palm Tran and one of the organizers leading the effort to start the Palm Beach County chapter.

South Florida has strong COMTO representation with National Board members Clinton B. Forbes, Executive Director of Palm Tran located in West Palm Beach and Mark Gale, Director of the Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport located in Ft. Lauderdale (pictured below, left). Both executives were present at the event and spoke about how the organization has enhanced their careers.

Other dignitaries present at the event included:
• Palm Beach County Administrator Verdenia Baker;
• Palm Beach County Commissioner Mack Bernard;
• Port of Palm Beach Chairman Wayne Richards;
• Palm Beach County Port Commissioner Katherine Waldron;
• Florida State Senator Bobby Powell’s Legislative Aid Delano Allen;
• Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Christine Shaw;
• Deputy Director of the Palm Beach International Airport Laura Beebe;
• Interim City Manager of Riviera Beach Danny Jones;
• President of the Ft. Lauderdale COMTO Chapter Loraine Cargill;
• And many more private and public sector interested participants.

In preparation for submitting its application for a new chapter to the COMTO National Board of Directors, the local interest group is currently receiving membership applications and plans to host its first business meeting in January 2017. There are local chapters of COMTO established in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. When Palm Beach County completes its application process for establishing a local chapter, the South Florida tri-county region of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties will be well covered.

Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program

The Florida Unique Abilities Partner program was created in 2016 as a way to recognize businesses and organizations that employ individuals who have a disability as well as those that establish or contribute financially or in-kind to local or national disability organizations.

The website, www.FloridaUniqueAbilities.org describes the program, benefits, and items a business receives upon becoming a partner and includes an online application and nomination form. A business or organization can apply online or be nominated by individuals or other business entities.

Participating businesses and organizations send a strong message of social responsibility by demonstrating their dedication to strengthening their communities and the economy by helping these Floridians with untapped talents become more economically independent and by partnering with other businesses and organizations in this endeavor.

Some of the current Florida Unique Abilities Partners include Walgreens, SeaWorld, AT&T, and Northrup Grumman, among others. Businesses and organizations meeting the criteria are encouraged to join them in becoming a Florida Unique Abilities Partner!

By doing so, your business can make a difference in the lives of those with unique abilities by helping provide them with a better pathway to economic independence and ultimately, a better quality of life!
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