

# Ability MARKETPLACE®

Where Disability Meets Opportunity

[www.AbilityMarketplace.com](http://www.AbilityMarketplace.com)

The **Ability Marketplace** is the backbone of a revolution to create jobs for people with disabilities. The website is an e-commerce marketplace and the destination to find **opportunities**.

Go to [www.AbilityMarketplace.com](http://www.AbilityMarketplace.com) to discover:

- \* Ideas for owning a business selling products and services.
- \* Supporters to help you launch a business or land a job.
- \* Employers who want to hire people with unique challenges and the stories about programs that are making it happen.
- \* Advisors who can explain how to maintain government benefits while working and how to plan for the future.
- \* Information about the ABLE Act and trusts.
- \* Unique products and services to purchase and stories about the creators.
- \* Examples of people with disabilities running restaurants, communications firms and other brick-and-mortar businesses.
- \* Ways you can help to lower the unemployment rate among people with disabilities. The alarming rate stands at more than 70 percent nationwide. Even a majority of those with college degrees are unemployed.

**Advocacy  
Support  
Opportunity  
Hope**



**Daniel Olsen**  
CEO, Advocate & Professional Speaker

Daniel developed the concept of the **Ability Marketplace** in Sangamon CEO, a program for high school seniors who learn from business leaders, write business plans, start and operate their own businesses. Daniel was the first person with a developmental disability in the program, and despite stiff competition, won second place in the annual CEO Shark Tank. Daniel attends Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois. He is a long-distance runner and has been a global messenger for Special Olympics since 2010. Daniel shares his inspirational message of how he moved from severe stutterer to public speaker and from developmental disability to unlimited possibility.

Ability Marketplace  
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# **Discovering Where Disability Meets Opportunity**

Daniel Olsen

Theresa Grimaldi Olsen

Illinois Statewide Transition Conference

Oct. 23, 2017

The Journey - A long and winding road through the wilderness  
Destination: The Ability Marketplace

## ***UNDERSTAND THE DISABILITIES***

Diagnosis

Research

## ***CELEBRATE THE ABILITIES***

Pre-School/Elementary School

Inclusion

Middle School

Celebrate Daniel -- Encouraging Success

High School

Inclusion Requirements:

- \* Individualized Solutions for Complex Problems
- \* Think Out Of The Box
- \* Flexibility - Willingness To Pivot
- \* Communication

The Home School Option

The Least Restrictive Environment

Dual Enrollment

## ***DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES***

Uncovering the Strengths

Special Olympics

Microboards ---Building The Team --- Daniel's Crew

PATH - Setting Goals and Planning

Sangamon CEO

Leadership and Success - An inclusive environment

The Ability Marketplace Website Phase 1 and Plan

Opportunities

**The Only Disability In Life is a Bad Attitude  
NEVER GIVE UP!!!**

# Ability Marketplace

Where Disability Meets Opportunity

*To create jobs for people with disabilities, and to give encouragement and support so they can maintain employment, prosper and lead productive lives.*

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Go to [www.AbilityMarketplace.com](http://www.AbilityMarketplace.com) to discover:

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- Advisors who can explain how to maintain government benefits while working and plan for the future.
- Information about the ABLE Act and trusts.
- Examples of people with disabilities running restaurants, communications firms and other brick-and-mortar businesses.
- Ways you can help to lower the unemployment rate among people with disabilities - more than 70 percent nationwide.



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**Daniel's Motto: Never Give Up**

**ADVOCACY**

**SUPPORT**

**OPPORTUNITY**

**HOPE**

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## ***How You Can Participate in the Ability Marketplace | Join the Movement!***

### **If you have a disability or have a family member with a disability:**

- Tell your story about your business and sell on the web from the Ability Marketplace. E-commerce from the Ability Marketplace will be available in the second phase of the website. The goal is to have e-commerce at a lower cost than available on other venues.
- Tell your story about your bricks-and-mortar business.
- There are no fees for entrepreneurs in the first phase of the website.
- Obtain ideas for a business, encouragement from fellow entrepreneurs and business mentors.
- Join the discussion. Submit an application to write a blog post.

### **If you are a not-for-profit agency:**

- Be a part of “Daniel’s Crew” by purchasing advertising space.\*
- Tell your agency story of e-commerce or bricks and mortar businesses.\*
- Sell on the Ability Marketplace (available in the second phase.)\*
- Join the discussion. Submit an application to write a blog post.

### **If you are a not-for-profit organization that provides resources:**

- Submit a summary of the resources you provide in one paragraph. Listings of non-for-profit resources and contact information are free.
- Tell the story of your organization and the people you help through pictures and links. \*
- Invite Daniel to speak at your event.\*
- Purchase Legacies of Hope products.\*
- Join the discussion. Submit an application to write a blog post.

### **If you are a corporation or small business:**

- Be a part of Daniel’s Crew by purchasing advertising space.\*
- Tell your story of how you have employed people with disabilities.\*
- Invite Daniel to speak at your organization.\*
- Purchase Legacies of Hope products.\*
- Join the discussion. Submit an application to write a blog post.

### **If you are a member of general public:**

- Tell your story of how you have worked with people with disabilities.
- Be a part of Daniel’s Crew by purchasing advertising space.\*
- Invite Daniel to speak at your event.\*
- Purchase Legacies of Hope products.\*
- Join the discussion. Submit an application to write a blog post.

*\*Designates fee for service.*

The Ability Marketplace will sell advertising space. Why? We are creating a supportive environment in a business that encourages people with disabilities to be creative and try something different, maybe even revolutionary. Your advertisement allows a person with a disability to start a business with very low overhead.

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