



# LEAF A LEGACY

## SUMMER 2010



**ABILITIES FIRST**  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

# LEAF A LEGACY

Plans are being unveiled for a countywide public art project. The Leaf Project is a fundraising endeavor for Abilities First, Inc, a not-for-profit organization that provides educational, vocational, clinical, and residential services for approximately 2,300 people with developmental disabilities in the Mid Hudson Valley region. All proceeds will benefit the organization's endowment fund.

The project is modeled after similar campaigns that organizations across the country have executed as successful fundraising endeavors utilizing custom fiberglass sculptures in the form of animals, mascots or other locally symbolic figures. Community leaders, artists and businesses have praised these public art projects for their many benefits. Fun and whimsical, these figures have proven to be an excellent way to inspire civic pride, celebrate the community, and highlight the talent and diversity of local artists.

Abilities First has chosen the figure of a maple leaf to represent the Hudson Valley's widely loved fall foliage and the sugar maple tree, the official state tree of New York. The four-foot maple leaves will be painted and decorated by local artists who will be chosen through a juried process. Sponsorship of leaves is available. Sponsors will be able to choose their artist and may place the finished work on display at a location of their choosing. An extensive media campaign will be carried out to publicize the the project and the support of its sponsors. The leaves will later be sold at auction.

Abilities First, Inc. has issued a call to artists to submit designs for painting a fiberglass maple leaf, approximately 4' X 4.' Artist will receive a stipend and a portion of their sculptures proceeds upon its sale. Please call 845-485-9803 ext.384 for information about submitting a design or sponsorship of a leaf.



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