

# Better Together

Are you ready to show our village, our state, and our nation what it looks like when people of all abilities live and work in an integrated way?



two&  
company

two foundation 

## **Our Vision**

Life without labels.

## **Our Mission**

To create opportunities for people of every ability to connect, work, grow and thrive.

# A Campaign for The New Two & Company Flagship Location

**Goal: \$4 million**

**Opening Fall 2024**

## **WE ENVISION A WORLD WITHOUT LABELS.**

Two & Company is eliminating the segregation of people with cognitive and physical exceptionalities. We do this by filling the largest white space in the world of exceptional education, that fails to transition individuals into community employment and ultimately into society.



**Shari Hunter**  
Founder/CEO



**Make your gift today!**  
[twoandcompany.org/donate](https://twoandcompany.org/donate)

I have a confession. I cringe when people who are new to Two & Company say things like, “Oh! You hire people with disabilities?” I feel like saying, “No, we hire people.” Those well-intentioned comments, miss the point. **We strive for a world without labels**, where people of all abilities are seen for their unique personality and strengths and their value as a human being.

For years, I fought to keep my son Derek out of “special” programs and give him an integrated, fulfilling life. And while I had support from friends and family, I never found an organized group doing what I knew was best for everyone—full integration. So in 2015 my family and I started Two & Company.

Fast-forward nine years and we’ve outgrown our rented space. Our programs have waiting lists. Our staff doesn’t have offices. Every week I have to decline requests from groups around the country asking for help to start something like the Two in their community.

The opportunities are tremendous. And we’re ready—I mean, we are toes-on-the-line, every-muscle-tensed, waiting-for-the-starting-gun kind of ready. We have the experience. We have a highly qualified staff. And now we have our perfect flagship location.

Your support, your belief, your donations, your patronage of our cafe and boutique over the last nine years—it’s all brought us here to this moment. We will look back at 2024 as the year a nationwide movement began right here in Chagrin Falls.

I can’t wait till we can open our doors and welcome you to the new space. But that ribbon cutting won’t be the end of our story. We’re just getting started.

**The Two is not a place. It’s a movement. And we need you!**

After you read this booklet, will you do two things?

1. Make a donation to our capital campaign. We are grateful for any amount you can give.
2. Pass this booklet along to someone you know who might like to learn more about a world without labels. ●





# “We’re Facing a National Crisis”

**1** in 36 children born today are diagnosed on the autism spectrum. We have 50,000 students graduating every year in the U.S. who are on the spectrum. And that’s just autism! When you consider dozens of other labels and diagnoses, you realize that interactions with people of differing abilities are not something unusual, but rather just part of our everyday lives.

## **But that’s not the crisis part.**

The crisis is that our society is horribly unprepared to welcome and integrate individuals whose particular exceptionality has been called out and labeled. Even today with all the talk about equity and inclusion, people with a diagnosis like autism are offered limited options. They’re supported through school systems until the age of 18-22, for the most part in segregated settings. (A tremendous loss for everyone!) Then they graduate and their families are left without a clear,

supported pathway forward into the workplace and ultimately adulthood.

**Two & Company models a different way.** A way that treats people of all abilities with the dignity and respect they deserve. A way that benefits individuals, families, employers, schools, and the entire community.

Change is coming, ready or not. Our society is definitely not ready. But we are. Two & Company is a microcosm of life without labels. Our graduates are some of the best employees a manager could hope for. We’ve built the systems, demonstrated the culture, and proven that *everyone* benefits when people of every ability are integrated in the workplace.

**Now we need you to help us deliver this model to the world. •**

**Make your gift today!**  
[twoandcompany.org/donate](https://twoandcompany.org/donate)



*“Two Cafe is definitely one of the best things that ever happened to me. I’m now able to work and stay on task for long periods of time, and the job at Home Depot is a great fit for me. I feel like I fit in well there.”*

— Ben Peerless  
Two & Company  
graduate, 2016  
Employed by Home  
Depot 2016-2024



# “A Higher Calling”

After high school, Ben attended a two-year program in Connecticut that included job training and independent living skills. When he came home, we thought he'd be able to find a job he enjoyed and a place to live partially on his own. But that didn't work out. It was much more difficult than we expected it to be. It was disappointing and worrisome.

When we connected with Two & Company I could tell something was different. Not that other job programs Ben has been part of were bad. But the Two seemed to have a higher calling, a whole philosophy and mission behind it.

For years Ben said he wanted to do customer service. He's so gung-ho about it. During Covid a lot of people lost their jobs, but

Home Depot stayed open and Ben was considered an essential worker. He was so proud of that. He has such loyalty to his job and never wants to take a day off. He is proud of what he does.

**You really can't go by labels. People are people.** My son Ben has the same basic wants and needs any human has—to be accepted and valued, to do work that is meaningful. Two & Company is living out this value in real life. ●

— Sharon Peerless (Ben's mom)

**Make your gift today!**

[twoandcompany.org/donate](https://twoandcompany.org/donate)





# Welcome to the Two!

In January 2023 we purchased a building at 177 & 183 East Washington Street, which has been various automotive related businesses since 1915. Now we are renovating it to be the new location for Two and Company, which encompasses the cafe, boutique, summer camps, job training and placement services, follow-along support, transportation, school programs, the charitable foundation—and the **flagship location from which we intend to launch a movement.**

We look forward to hosting you in our new space in the fall of 2024. **And we need your help to make it happen!**

## Room to grow

The new location more than doubles our current space. We will have the capacity to double or triple the number of individuals we assist with job training and placement.

## A hub of knowledge and collaboration

Our new flagship location will serve as a regional and national center for educational summits, events, and conferences. Through these gatherings, experts, educators and advocates will exchange ideas, share best practices and collectively advance the cause of inclusive education on a larger scale.

## Great visibility and foot traffic

The volume of business at the Two and Company cafe and shops is projected to increase by six times! This creates more opportunities for our trainees to learn important job skills and more chances for people in our community to experience first-hand what an integrated workplace looks and feels like.

**Make your gift today!**

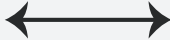
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# WHAT MAKES two& company UNIQUE?

The state average for successful job placements for individuals with exceptionalities is\*



OURS  
IS

96%

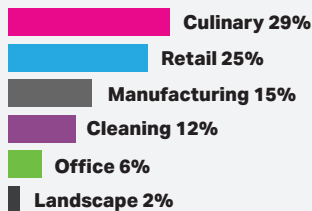


## NO OTHER AGENCY THAT WE'RE AWARE OF DOES ANYWHERE NEAR THE LEVEL OF FOLLOW-UP THAT TWO & COMPANY DOES.

When we match one of our graduates with a business, we follow up for as long as it takes to ensure success for everyone involved. Currently we are providing follow-along supports for 68 graduates in the workforce.

## FULLY INTEGRATED

Our café and shops not only give our community the chance to experience an integrated workplace, but they also serve as a training facility where our people learn a wide range of job skills.



## TRUSTWORTHY

In 2024 Two Foundation was named Non-Profit of the Year by the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce.



**EXCELLENCE** is one of our four core values. For so long, people with a diagnosed exceptionality have gotten the worst. Here they get the best. And when they graduate, they're ready to deliver the best to their employers, coworkers and customers.

Our education team of 8 is **DEEPLY COMMITTED AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED.**



Our transportation department includes 11 staff who average **540 TRIPS A MONTH TRANSPORTING GRADUATES TO AND FROM WORK.**

\* Source: ood.ohio.gov. The OOD uses the term 'disabilities' in their provider scorecards. We prefer the more positive, inclusive term 'exceptionalities.'

# “She Makes Us All Better”

**Y**ou can't underestimate what you do when you give meaningful employment to someone with differing abilities than you.

You give hope and support to the family. You give self-worth and community to that employee. You're making all his or her coworkers better individuals.

Olivia Dolfi, who we all call “Livi,” went through training at Two & Company and joined our staff in

2021. She has been a tremendous asset to our team in so many ways. ●

— Michael Koehler, MD  
*Gastroenterologist,  
University Hospitals  
Endoscopy Center  
Board Member,  
The Two Foundation*



*“Livi has grown exponentially since joining our team. She is super hard working, super dedicated. She takes a lot of pride in what she does and the team we have. She makes us all better. I have a pretty stressful job. When I see Livi smile and give me a head nod, I know it’s going to be okay.”*

— Nicole Romanini, BSN, RN  
*Administrator/Director of Nursing  
University Hospitals  
Endoscopy Center*



*“Two & Company places their graduates in a work environment where they can make an impact not only for themselves but for the people around them.”*

— Michael Koehler, MD

*“Nel has become a valuable part of our team. She’s one of our most reliable employees and she does excellent work. It’s also great to have someone around that truly wants to work. She never fails to put a smile on everyone’s face and she’s just a joy to be around!”*

—Torrey Evans,  
Head Baker  
at *The Farmer’s Rail*



## “Open Arms”

Nel has always impressed us with what she’s able to achieve. She gained great work experience in high school, yet we were not sure if paid employment would be an option. Then we met Two & Company, and they welcomed her with open arms.

At the Two they make you feel like you and your child are the most important people in the world. They are incredibly busy doing important work, but we never felt rushed. And they had no doubt that Nel would be a good fit for their program. They embraced her, and all of us, as if it is the most typical thing in the world to find a job for a 22-year-old girl with Down’s Syndrome, on the autism spectrum, who is non-verbal. And for them, it is the most typical thing in the world.

What Keith and I have always wanted for Nel is for her to have self-satisfaction, daily sense of purpose and to be valued member of a team, and the Two made this a reality. Now here she is in paid employment, doing a job she loves, five minutes from her house—how amazing! ●

Jill Soltau  
Mother of Nelia Cullen  
Fortune 200 Corporate Board Director  
Former Fortune 500 CEO



# Can a cafe in Chagrin Falls spark a movement?

**W**e say yes! For nine years we have modeled how individuals and businesses can thrive in a fully integrated staff.

More than 90 businesses have hired Two & Company graduates over the last nine years. Everyone involved—our graduates, their families, their

employers and coworkers, and the customers they serve—are now experiencing the reality of how we are all better together.

**The movement has begun. Now, we just need to throw open our doors to show the world how it's done. ●**

*When you contribute to the Two Foundation, you are truly changing people's lives and providing an opportunity for individuals to have self-worth and be a valued member of a team. You are not only helping individuals and families; you are helping our entire community. Your gift is an investment in helping businesses, individuals and communities thrive.*

— Jill Soltau

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“ Please join me in **SUPPORTING THE TWO** and **HELPING THEM GROW.** ”



Give online at [twoandcompany.org/donate](https://twoandcompany.org/donate)  
or scan the QR code

# You are creating a world without labels.

**THANK YOU** for your generosity and support for the mission of **Two & Company**.

## **\$500,000+**

Connor Foundation  
Edda and Terry Owen

## **\$250,000 - \$500,000**

Frances & David Dickenson II  
The HC Companies

## **\$100,000 - \$250,000**

Anonymous (2)  
The William Bingham  
Foundation  
Cleveland Foundation  
PRADCO  
Rowley Family Foundation  
Smiley Family Charitable  
Foundation

## **\$50,000 - \$100,000**

Anonymous  
Bill Conway  
Rothenbuhler Family

## **\$25,000 - \$50,000**

Anonymous  
Classic Buick GMC  
The Glubiak Family  
Gaëlle and Matthew Knight

Dr. Michael and  
Michelle Koehler  
Norman Noble  
Ringen Fund  
Mr. and Mrs. James Schoff  
The Kelvin and Eleanor  
Smith Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Sullivan  
William M. Weiss Foundation

## **\$10,000 - \$25,000**

Anonymous (2)  
The B. Charles and  
Jay G. Ames Foundation  
The Andrews Foundation  
Antonucci Family Foundation  
Ms. Claudia Bacon  
Berlin Family Education  
Foundation  
Bicknell Fund  
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Heather & Tim Ryan  
Mr. and Mrs. Victor J. Scaravilli  
Ms. Jill Soltau & Mr. Keith Cullin  
Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Stutzman

Mrs. Kitty Thomas

S. Lee and Kimberly Trem  
Gifting Fund

Wilhelm Family Foundation

Mrs. Elyn Wilkoff

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Zupon

**\$5,000 - \$10,000**

Anonymous

Constance and Paul Abbey

Action Management  
Services LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adams

Ann and Brent Ballard

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Brown

Carol and Chad Brenner

Calfee, Halter, & Griswold

Chagrin Valley Jaycees  
Charitable Foundation

Chagrin Valley Chamber of  
Commerce

The Children's Guild

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Mrs. Christine Clugh

Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford

Caren and Rye Dalton

Mrs. Amy Dickenson and  
Mr. Pep Llinas

Garden Club of Cleveland

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Mrs. Thomas L. Slater

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Foundation

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Mr. Robert Sferra

Mr. Dewey Walters

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We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by U.S. tax laws and help us reach our mission. Thank you for your support!  
Tax ID # 46-3258319



**INTEGRATION ALWAYS WINS.**

## Welcome to the Two!

We hope to open our doors and welcome you to the new Two & Company location in the fall of 2024. It's an aggressive goal, but we believe it's possible—with your help.

We have raised \$2.2 million towards our \$4 million dollar goal. By the time you read this, the training center foundation should be finished. Will you help us get ready in time to welcome a new group of exceptional students in September 2024?

**Make your gift today!**

**3 ways to give:**

1. Give online at **[twoandcompany.org/donate](https://twoandcompany.org/donate)** or scan the QR code
2. Mail a check to 8578 E. Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
3. To donate stock or give from a foundation or donor-advised fund, contact Director of Philanthropy **Lisa Herchek** at **[lisa@twofoundation.com](mailto:lisa@twofoundation.com)**