$y>|x|$ and $y<k$ gives the region shown in the picture.
This area is 25.

1) Each triangle is $45^{\circ}-45^{\circ}-90^{\circ}$ because $y=x$ is at $45^{\circ}$
2) therefore you can label the sides as shown with the braces.

3) The two triangles you see put together give a square. The area of this square is 25 , so you have $k^{2}=25$, which means $k=5$.
