



#### Contents

Kelly's Korner: A Note From Our Executive Director 1
2023 By the Numbers 2
Community Initiatives 4
Nursing Facility Transition 5
Financial Statement 6
Thank You To Our Donors 7
Services Video Story 8
Board of Directors 8
Statement of Inclusion 9
Accessibility Statement9



# "Kelly's Korner"

#### A Note From Our Executive Director

Representation matters. As I think back on 2023, I am struck by the reality of some of the strides we have made and it's because people with disabilities are starting to be seen as a viable and valuable group. We have seen disability become recognized when talking about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have seen more true disability representation in media and marketing. We have seen small strides made with disability representation on television and screen. We

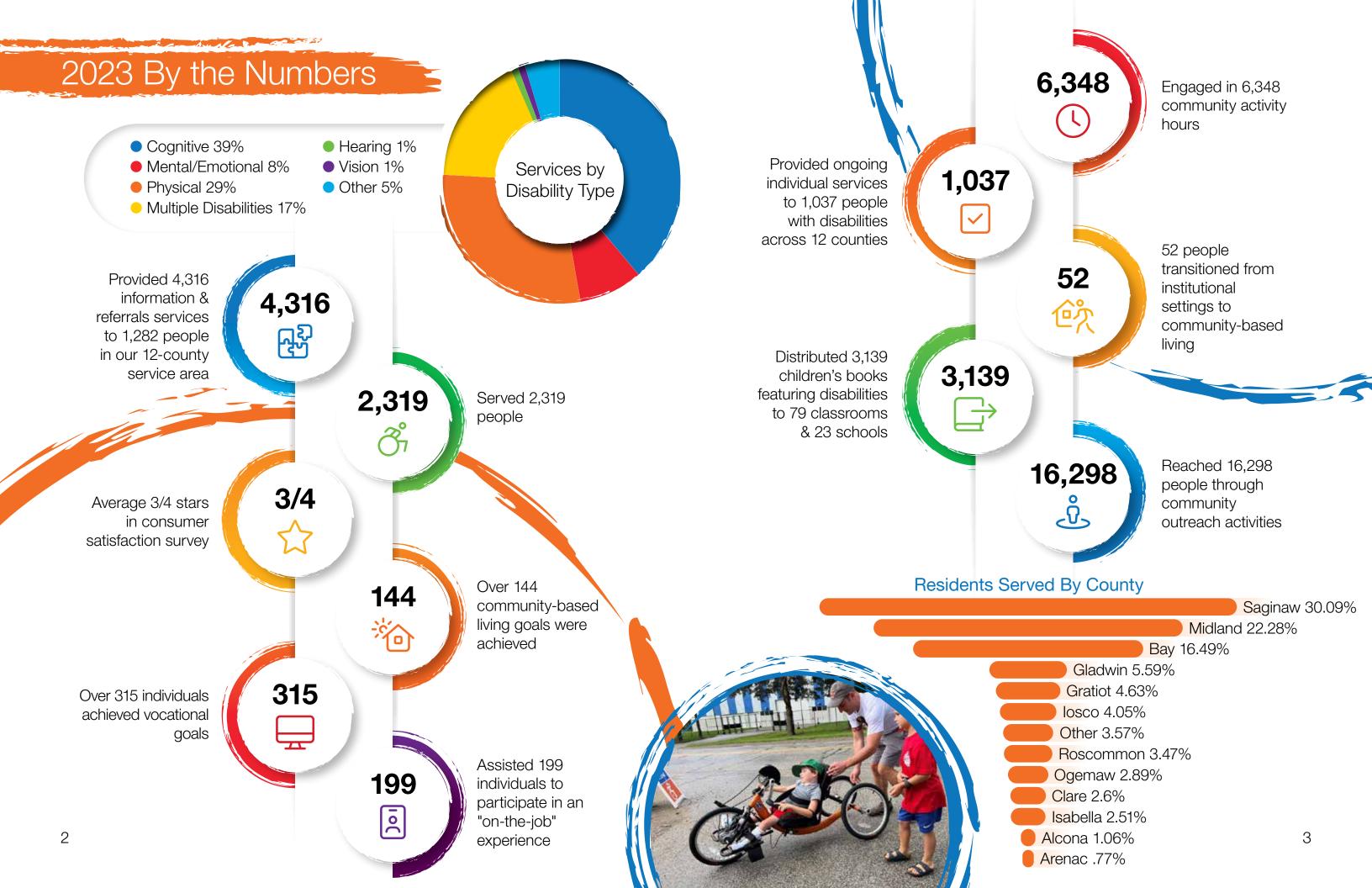
have seen the beginning stages of discussion and planning for equitable air travel.

We know that 1 in 3 families are impacted by disability and 70% of people with disabilities are not born with their disability but rather acquire it later in life due to an accident, illness, or change in health condition. Despite this, we are often overlooked. Employers forget that we have valuable skills to offer. Businesses forget that we have money to spend on their goods and services. Local communities forget that we add value to the tapestry of a true community.

To be represented we also need to represent ourselves and show those around us that we want to be included and considered, and we have something to offer. This past year we did this with a focus on establishing our presence in all 12 of our counties. We attended expos, health fairs, chamber meetings, and offered disability presentations to businesses and community groups. We attended local government meetings to voice our concerns about lack of affordable, accessible housing, and lack of transportation in our rural communities. We met with legislators. We represented the disability perspective through cultural awareness groups. We advocated for increased options for home and community-based services. We advocated for increased wages for direct care workers so people with disabilities can actually take advantage of home and community-based services. The people we support were engaged to help learn self-advocacy skills, tell their stories, and to give back to others by volunteering to assist those in need.

Our work is definitely not done but we continue to be on the right path toward accessible and inclusive communities. Our impact is all made possible by an amazing team of employees, many of whom have disabilities themselves and are representing success through the work they perform every day. We will continue to represent people with disabilities as strong, independent, talented, and dedicated people until disability is seen as an asset rather than a perceived barrier, and we welcome you to join us on the journey.

Helly Hedong
Executive Director



### Community Initiatives



# Aging and Disability Vaccine Collaborative (ADVC)

In 2023, Disability Network Mid-Michigan (DNMM) joined the Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative, led by USAging, to launch its "You've Got This" initiative with the goal of reaching a million COVID-19/flu vaccinations within 17 months. The aim is to remove common barriers prohibiting people with disabilities, older adults, and vulnerable populations from getting vaccinated by providing local support.

We are offering help scheduling vaccines, transportation to vaccine appointments, access to in-home vaccines or boosters, and companion support during vaccine appointments.

#### Accessible Restroom Grant

The Midland Area Community Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to Disability Network of Mid-Michigan from the Access to Recreation Endowment Fund. DNMM will serve as fiduciary for processing payments for the purchase and/or installation of equipment that provides access to restrooms. The focus is on recreation areas that need equipment to enhance the use of existing restrooms, such as a changing table, Hoyer lift, or toilet safety rails. This grant focuses on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the planning and building of an accessible and welcoming community.

Disability Network Mid-Michigan is committed to increasing accessibility and inclusion throughout Midland County. Many venues cannot be accessed or enjoyed by individuals and/or families if truly accessible restrooms are not available. This grant is a start to increasing the number of restrooms that are available to any user.



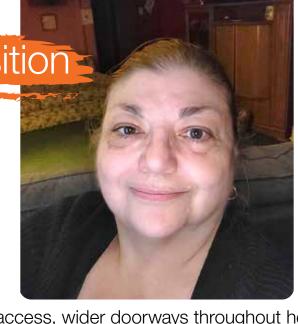
# Nursing Facility Transition

Lisa, a 64-year-old Saginaw woman, began to notice some health changes. She was having a harder time getting around but kept on working. With a stubborn wound on her leg, routine health checks were important. On a doctor visit in October, her physician insisted that she go to the emergency room. She ended up in the hospital with several infections, one of which was life-threatening, others would leave her health compromised. Her body was shutting down. "I'm just that bull-headed. I didn't realize that I was that sick."

Fortunately, the infections subsided; but now the healing had to begin. Lisa was not sure what she was going to do. Her home was not accessible, and she didn't have the support at home that she needed, as her husband had passed away three years prior. Lisa got connected to Disability Network Mid-Michigan through a social worker at the hospital.

Lisa reflected, "I can't say enough about Disability Network Mid-Michigan. I didn't know that you guys did this kind of stuff for people. Life had changed pretty considerably for me. And then, not to know, you know, coming home, how you're going to be supported. It's been amazing. It's been an amazing journey."

Occupational and Physical Therapists assisted with assessment of Lisa's home. A ramp was needed for home



access, wider doorways throughout her home to accommodate a rolling walker, a walk-in shower, even a lift chair.

"Shannon was on top of everything! She pushed me to get what I needed. It was just like a whirlwind for me, and I couldn't believe how sweet and kind everyone was. Always calling me, checking on me, asking how things are going"

Now, her house is accessible, and she can move throughout, where she could not before. She continued working with OT and PT to regain her strength and went back to work in mid-December. "I'm not ready to just give it up and retire; I'm going to work as long as I can. I'm very, very blessed."

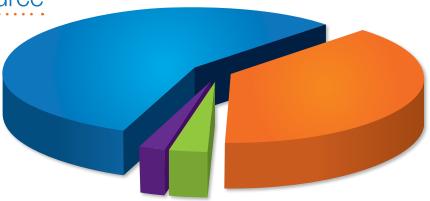
Disability Network Mid-Michigan's Community Transition Services provides individuals an opportunity to choose community-based living as a viable alternative to nursing facility residency. The program is open to anyone who receives Medicaid. If you know someone interested in living more independently, please contact us today.

#### Financial Statement

Assets	2023	2022
Current Assets:		
Checking/Savings	\$ 1,657,541	\$ 1,526,193
Accounts Receivable	\$ 520,839	\$ 586,396
Other Current Assets	\$ 26,859	\$ 24,439
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,205,239	\$ 2,137,028
Fixed Assets	\$ 594,822	\$ 281,575
Total Assets	\$ 2,800,061	\$ 2,418,603
Liabilities & Equity:		
Current Liabilities	\$ 367,782	\$ 308,372
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 317,019	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$ 684,801	\$ 308,372
Equity:		
Designated Net Assets	\$ 3,145	\$ 3,145
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 9,092	\$ 9,092
Unrestricted   Undesignated	\$ 1,838,434	\$ 1,846,490
Board-designated Operating Reserve	\$ 259,971	\$ 259,971
Net Income	\$ 4,618	-\$ 8,467
Total Equity	\$ 2,115,260	\$ 2,110,231
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 2,800,061	\$ 2,418,603

#### Funding by Revenue Source

- Fee For Service 57%
- Governmental Grants 38%
- Non-Governmental Grants 3%
- Advancement 2%



#### Thank You To Our Donors

Janet Acheson Melissa Alex Kathy Allen Laurie & Mike Allison Melissa & Joe Amend Deidre & Richard Aranjo Sarah Arthur Bill Azelton Lynn Baker Laura Biggins Lori & Joshua Biggs **Brad Blasy** Donald & Charles Bourcier Latoya Burnside Alisha & Luke Bushey Reid Calcott, DDS Heather & Lylenette Canfield Jennifer & Mike Carroll Deb & Brad Cherry Shannon & Matthew Childs Rob Clark Alex Clark Dick & Yvonne Corbat Jean M Cronin Pat Dalton Alexys Daut Tino DeLeon Jennifer & Jeffrey Dixon Anna Doe Kathleen & Steve Dolan Kathleen L Dolan Martha Doring Robert Dotson Katie & Davin Erikson Kathy Erndt Mel & Tom Evans Joe Fabiano Diane Rapson Gabil Heather Gallegos Louis & Chris Galus Todd Gambrell Connie & Michael Gavin Michael Goad Alison & Mark Goethe Courtney & Brad Gomoluch

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Access Companies BHS Insurance Bierlein Companies Dow DOW DEN Eastman Party Store Fabiano Brothers, Inc. Gambrell and Associates Garber Management Group Gavin & Associates Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center Great Lakes Loons Horizon Bank McCann Property Management Michigan Sugar Company Saginaw Spirit Servinski Sod Service Three Rivers Corporation Thumb Bank and Trust United Bay Community Credit Union Wildfire Credit Union Yeo & Yeo CPAs

# Core Services Video Story



#### Center for Independent Living

As a federally-funded Center for Independent Living (CIL), we work to change societal attitudes about people with disabilities and to provide an environment where everyone, regardless of their abilities, can contribute to their communities based on their interests, skills, and desires.



Scan the QR code to learn about our services.

### Board of Directors

President: Mary Kunz - Field Neurosciences Institute

Vice President: Scott Hepinstall - Disability Advocate

Treasurer: Jeffrey Dixon - Huntington National Bank

Secretary: Kellie Courier - Disability Advocate

Past President: Bart Maxon - Dow Retiree & Disability Advocate

Member-At-Large: Brad Gomoluch - Saginaw ISD

Member-At-Large: Katie Erikson – Dow







Statement of Inclusion

At Disability Network Mid-Michigan (DNMM), inclusion is a universal human right for all people, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or any other discernible quality. To be inclusive is to promote a sense of belonging, respect, and value for who you are as a person. It is about equal access and opportunities for everyone. Inclusion is an integral part of our Independent Living philosophy and of our agency's vision of "Accessible and Inclusive communities that provide opportunities for individual choice."

In the twelve counties we serve in mid-Michigan, Disability Network offices have been, and continue to be, places of solace, understanding, and information for all. We are committed to promoting and protecting diversity and inclusion, within our offices, among our community partners, and throughout the 15 Centers for Independent Living in Michigan.

## Accessibility Statement

DNMM advocates for the removal of barriers to independence and full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the mid-Michigan area. DNMM pledges to ensure accessibility. Each year, DNMM conducts a review of its own architectural, environmental, attitudinal, employment, communication, transportation, and other barriers that may exist that prohibit full access to our services.

If you have any issues of concern regarding the accessibility of DNMM services and facilities, we encourage you to share that information with us.

9



#### Counties We Serve

Alcona, Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon & Saginaw

# Disability Network Mid-Michigan locations in YOUR community

525 North State Street Alma, Michigan 48801

266 Uptown Drive Bay City, Michigan 48708

490 Industrial Drive Gladwin, Michigan 48624

1705 South Saginaw Road Midland, Michigan 48640

1605 Concentric Boulevard Saginaw, Michigan 48604



989-835-4041 | dnmm.org