



Disability Network/Lakeshore is providing more information online and through social media. Please visit our website at **dnlakeshore.org** for pictures, blog posts, calendar, and up-to-date information about our work within the community.



2019

IMPACT REVIEW

OUR MISSION

What does it mean to have *ACCESSability*? We describe it as “the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of life.” And that’s what DNL helped create for 962 individuals with disabilities in Allegan and Ottawa Counties in 2019.

When one has access to adequate housing, transportation, employment, healthcare, and other critical resources, they are able to actively engage in and contribute to their community.

Access also opens the door for people with disabilities to develop new skills, giving them the ability to take charge of their own independence.

ACCESSability impacts the broader community as well. DNL conveys to business that access equals greater profit and another pool of talent. We also speak with government and public service about how a person’s increased ability to navigate resources and advocate for oneself means less dependence.

In 2019, DNL worked hard to ensure that people with disabilities and our community leaders understand the full measure of inclusion.

We can all support *ACCESSability*. You have an important role to play, too. Call us and we’ll talk about the impact you can help us make in 2020!

Sincerely,

Stacey Trowbridge
Director of Community Development

Amber Marcy
Board Chair

Connecting people with disabilities to resources and opportunities while creating communities where people can participate, contribute, and belong.



“Thank God you were here to explain things! I don't know how I would have managed without your help...I'd probably be in a nursing home now!”

INFORMATION & REFERRAL CLIENT

INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

Our work with individuals is centered on helping people with disabilities set and achieve goals in life areas that increase their ability to live independently in the community and setting of their choice.

In 2019, **172 adult customers** developed plans with established targets **achieving 399 goals**. Among those, **51 individuals gained critical self-advocacy skills**. Further, **almost 1000 individuals** received referrals and **access to nearly 4200 critical services** such as employment, transportation, housing, and healthcare. In our work with youth, **nearly 100 individuals took part in essential employment-readiness programs** with the goal of attaining work in competitive, integrated job settings.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Equal to our work with individuals is our endeavors with community partners such as other non profit organizations, municipalities and area employers. The goal of these efforts is to increase equal access, equal opportunity, community participation, and the economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities. In 2019 we worked with over 85 area organizations and provided 3246 hours of networking and collaboration. In addition, we had 103 hours in systems advocacy, 975 hours in community education, 718 hours in technical assistance and 1250 hours in community outreach.

In total we had over 19,000 hours serving both individuals and our community.

“ *Educating our networking group about the importance of removing haphazard barriers, not only in businesses but also public and personal spaces, has helped make me more aware of potential barriers that I have never thought about. Learning about these haphazard barriers and how to remove them will help our business become more accessible to the community and staff members.* **”**

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

GET INVOLVED

Loan Closet

Anyone can borrow assistive devices and durable medical equipment; there is no cost or time limit.

We also accept donations of items in excellent condition. The following devices and equipment are most often requested:

- *Canes*
- *Wheelchairs: manual and power*
- *Standard, two-, and four-wheel walkers*
- *Shower benches*
- *Commodes*
- *Toilet risers*

Youth

Businesses: We need local businesses to provide work experiences for youth. These summer work experiences are 15-20 hours per week for 4 weeks and run from mid-June to mid-August.

All participants are age 16+ and most will have a job coach since they are not ready for completely independent work yet. They will have received training in work ethics and employment expectations as part of the program, and their wages will be paid by DNL. Call today to join us, 616.396.5326.

Job Coaches: We need adults age 21+ with experience working with youth of various abilities to act as job coaches for summer work experiences. Job sites will be located in Ottawa and Allegan Counties and last 4-8 weeks. This is a paid position for 15-20 hours per week. Call today, 616.396.5326.

Financially

Every dollar donated has the potential to bring three additional dollars back into the Lakeshore community from matching entities. For example, a donation of \$1,000 could mean \$3,000 of additional community resources.



ADVOCATE WITH US

It is important that together we raise awareness around the issues and barriers that confront people with disabilities. Here are some telling statistics.

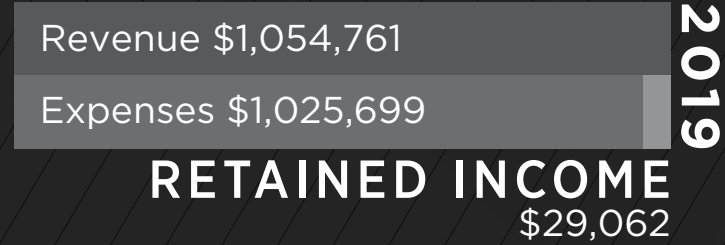
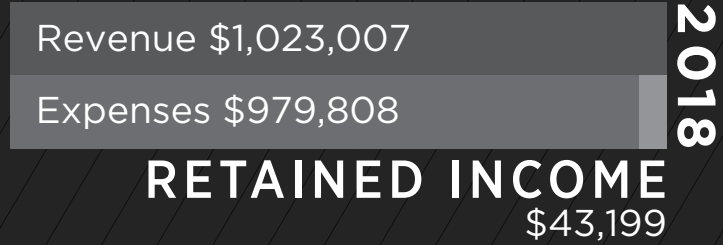
- *In 2019, 18 percent of people with a disability were employed, compared to 65 percent among people without a disability.*
- *In 2019, among people ages 16-64, those without a disability participated in the workforce at a rate of 76 percent; however, people with a disability participated at only a 32 percent rate.*

We offer no commentary on these statistics beyond this: most agree that our communities are better off when people with disabilities participate in the workforce and are employed at higher rates.

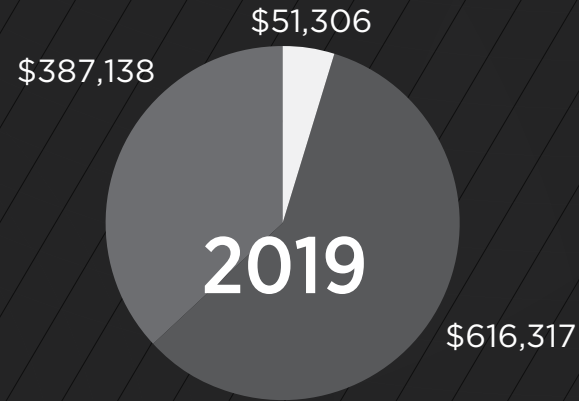
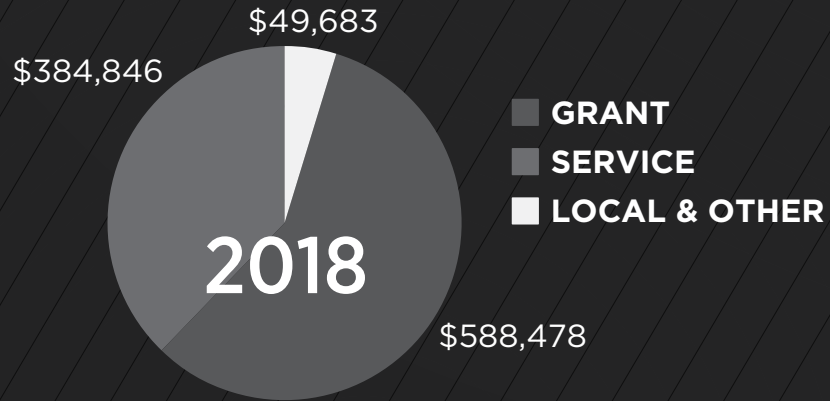
When we remove barriers and work with employers to put reasonable accommodations in place, our Lakeshore communities thrive and people with disabilities lead fuller, richer lives.

FINANCIALS

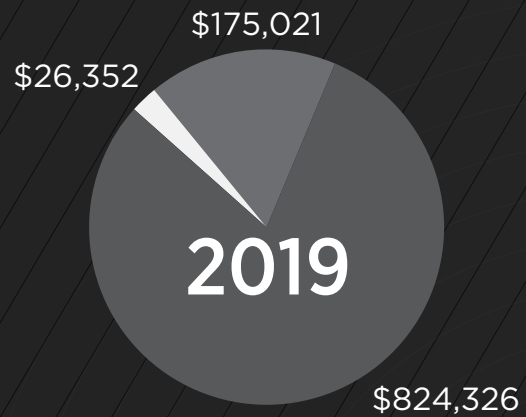
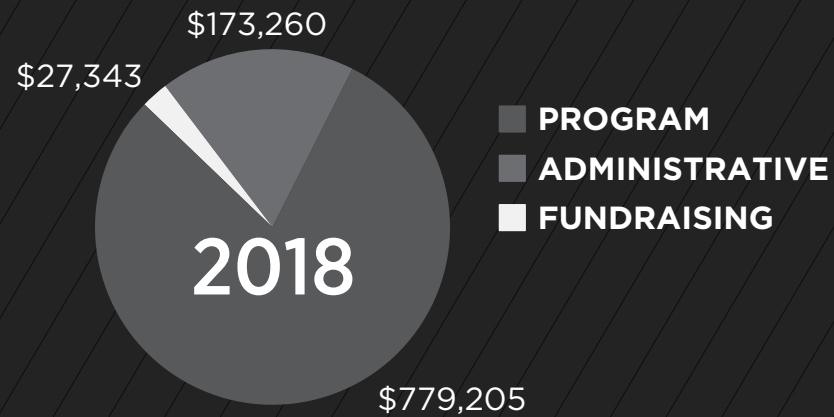
WHO WE WORK WITH



REVENUE



EXPENSE



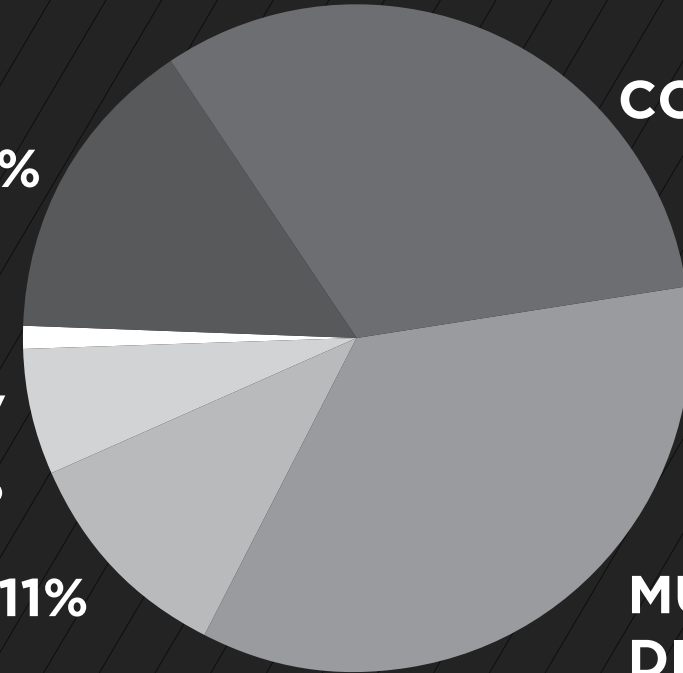
PHYSICAL 15%

HEARING 1%
MENTAL/EMOTIONAL 6%

VISION 11%

Female 54%

Male 46%



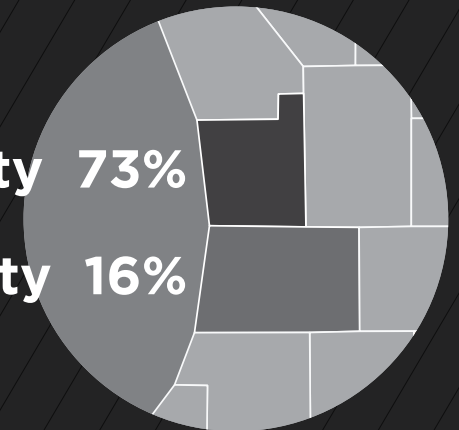
COGNITIVE 32%

MULTIPLE DISABILITIES 35%

Ottawa County 73%

Allegan County 16%

Other 11%



THANKS TO OUR FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS!

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