

We're turning

40

...

and proud of it!



**Disability
Advocates**

Of Kent County

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR REPORT



Disability Advocates' 40th birthday is approaching and we are proud of it! On October 1, 1981, a group of 4 individuals with disabilities started what was then the Grand Rapids Center for Independent Living to focus on fostering independent living. Many changes have occurred during those years, including our name change in 2002 to Disability Advocates of Kent County, yet our desire to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities has remained steadfast each and every day.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, we take a moment to reflect on our unique-upside-down 39th year that was 2020. While this certainly was a challenging year, the staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters like you ensured that persons with disabilities and our community would continue to receive services from Disability Advocates, no matter what!

To accomplish this, Zoom became our best friend! We all learned together the ins and outs of online meetings and how much could be accomplished even when we weren't physically together. For example, our Workforce Development classes for veterans and high school students became virtual experiences along with one-on-one supports. Our Family Support Services continued to provide services to adults with disabilities and their families connecting them to community resources. Our Information and Referral team worked from home during the shutdown months to provide community connections. Through that, we helped nearly 2,500 people who turned to us with a question about a disability.

Our Occupational Therapy team was also able to ensure the independence of seniors and persons with disabilities even when our staff couldn't be in homes. The team stayed in contact by phone and shipped out equipment during the spring. As soon as the team was able, they moved it into high gear and began to visit consumers in their homes, taking every recommended safety precaution. Overall, the team was able to complete 270 home assessments in the 10 months they could be in homes when a typical year would have them completing 300 assessments.

Our events became virtual, too. Chris Downey, an internationally-acclaimed architect who continued to practice after becoming blind, was our keynote presenter for the Second Annual Absolutely Accessible Kent workshop. Chris believes that he now "sees better than ever" on how our communities need to be more accessible for all. In addition, both our annual Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration and the reboot of Disability Awareness Day were presented online. While certainly not the same as coming together in person, important information was shared while celebrating the milestone 30th anniversary of the ADA. Finally, not only did our annual Invest in Ability event arrive in attendees' homes via the Internet, it featured a delicious dinner from three local restaurants delivered by an awesome group of volunteers!

Thanks to your support, 2021 is going to be an even more exciting year for Disability Advocates and it isn't just about our 40th birthday. Join us on social media and make sure you are on our newsletter mailing list so as to keep in touch. You won't want to miss any of the excitement!

David Bulkowski, Executive Director

Robert Doss, Board President



Nathan's Story

Nathan was ready to get his first "real" job. He had worked places where he didn't fit in and that made it hard. He was a young man with a disability that wasn't as noticeable as some, however, it affected the quality of his life. He was interested in knowing more on how to present himself as a good and knowledgeable employee. He was also interested in knowing about his legal rights as an employee with a disability. He needed more information and he didn't know where to turn.

Fortunately, he was connected to Disability Advocates and our Employability Work Group program. Here, he found the answers he was looking for and more.

Nathan signed up for the Employability Work Group in the spring of 2020 which was offered virtually as our offices were closed due to the pandemic. Through daily classes, he learned what to include on his resume, how to write his "elevator speech" to highlight his many abilities, interviewing skills and, most importantly, more about his own capabilities that employers look for. "The class is very inclusive and I enjoyed being around people who made me feel like my disability didn't define me. The class assisted me in finding a job that worked for me and gave me the guidelines to navigate through the process of finding work with a disability."

Nathan reports that since last spring he has gone to college, moved into his own apartment, bought a car, and, as he says, "earned a new life because of the opportunity that was shown to me through hard work and encouragement." He also appreciates the continuing help of the Disability Advocates who are only an e-mail away when he has more questions.

Congratulations and best of luck, Nathan! We are honored that we could provide the tools you needed to reach your potential!



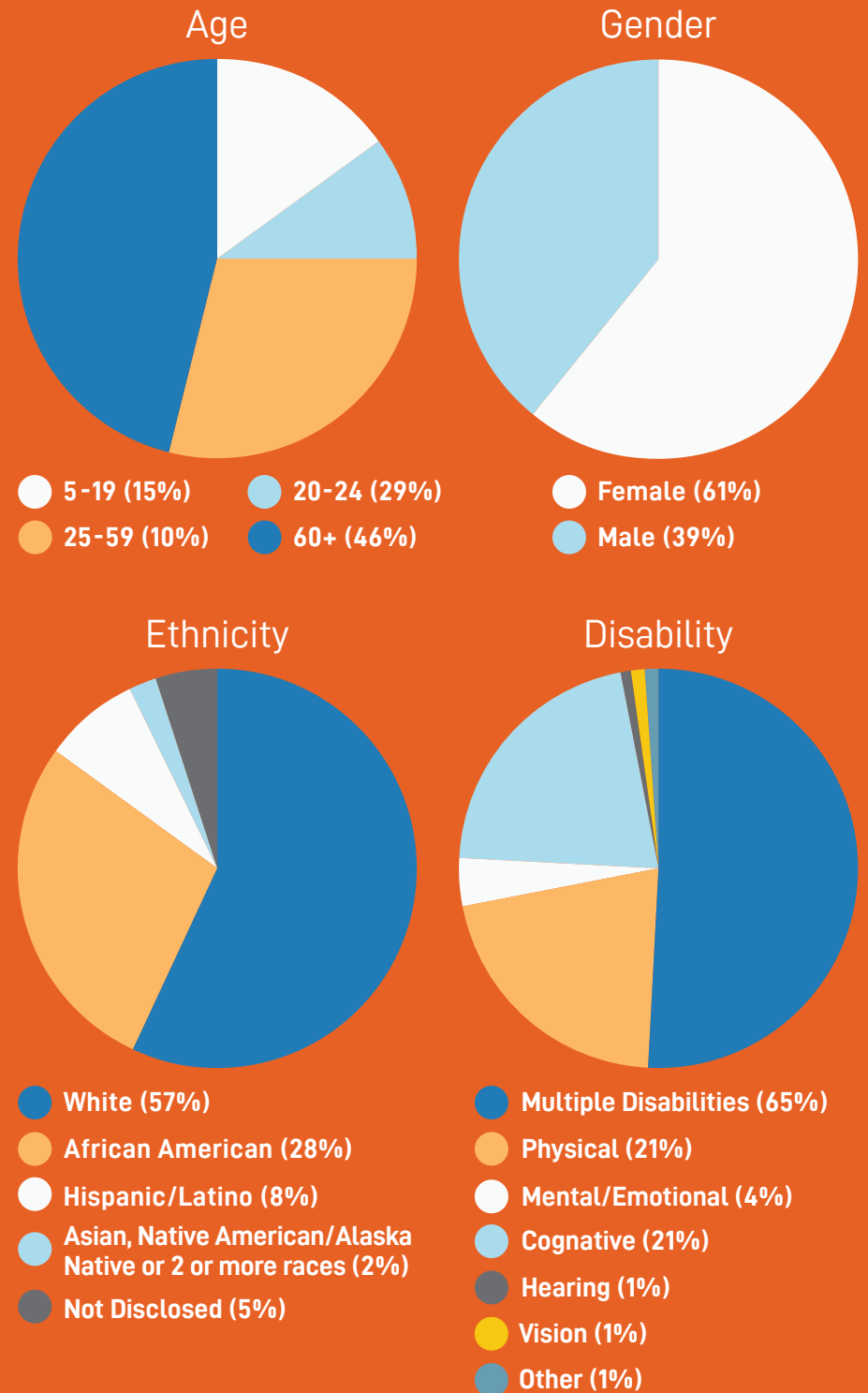
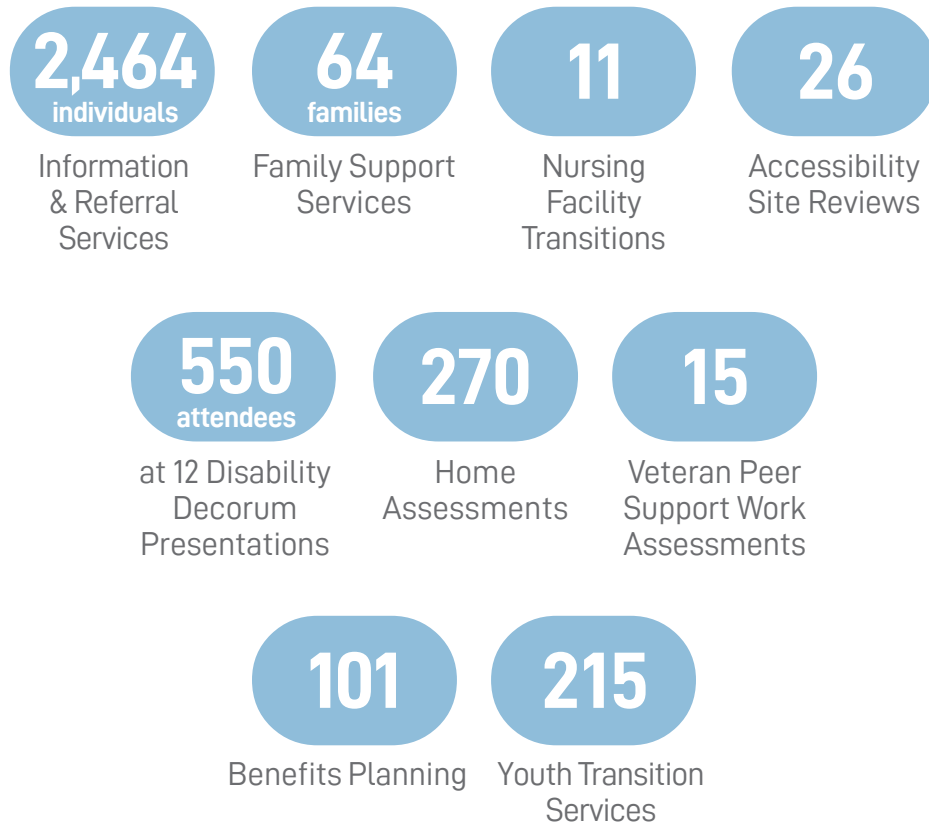
I enjoyed being around people who made me feel like my disability didn't define me.

– Nathan

Impactful Programing

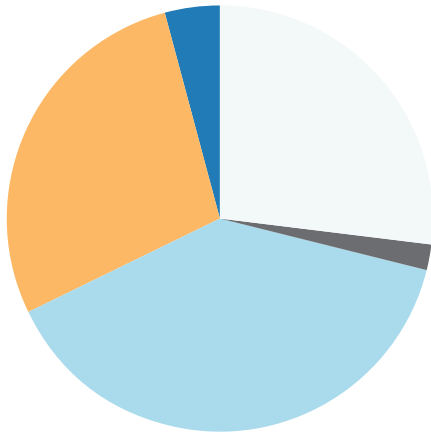
Over the past year, Disability Advocates of Kent County has helped **4,345** people with disabilities.

Along with other services, persons with disabilities were provided help in these programs:



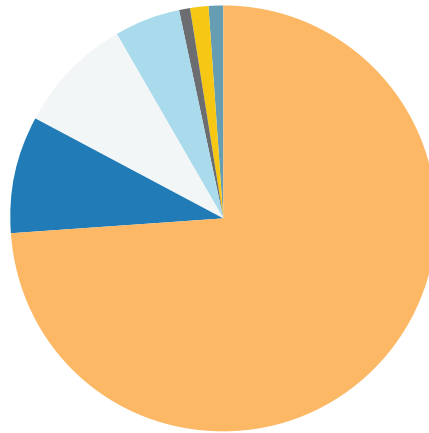
Financials

FY2019-2020 Revenue



Fee for Service & Miscellaneous	\$1,038,670
Government Grant Support (Federal, State, Local)	\$728,537
Individual Support	\$102,917
Foundation & Corporate Support	\$742,012
Donated Goods & Services	\$19,612
Total Revenue	\$2,631,748

FY2019-2020 Expenses



Personnel & Contractual Expense	\$1,702,821
Equipment & Goods for Consumers	\$205,307
Occupancy & Operations	\$199,439
Fundraising Events and Marketing	\$119,739
Travel	\$16,614
Supplies & Equipment	\$34,208
Donated Goods & Services	\$19,612
Total Expenses	\$2,297,740

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$777,729
Certificates of Deposit	\$7,527
Grants, Contributions and Accounts Receivable	\$439,487
Pre-paid Expense	\$38,622
Lease Deposit	\$1,889
Total Current Assets	\$1,265,254
Fixed Assets	
	-
Other Assets	
Certificates of Deposit, long-term	\$13,102
Grants Receivable, net of current portion	\$190,000
Total Other Assets	\$203,102
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,468,356

Liabilities & NET Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued Compensation & Withholdings	\$97,314
Deferred Revenue	\$50,188
Accounts Payable	\$51,414
Total Current Liabilities	\$198,916
Net Assets	
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$602,231
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$667,209
Total Net Assets	\$1,269,440
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$1,468,356

Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$935,432
Net Assets End of the Year	\$1,269,440
Total Change in Net Assets	\$334,008
Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$290,288
Change in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$43,720

Thank You

for the Generosity of these Donors, Sponsors and Grantors
for the period October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020

Leadership: \$100,000 +

Edward N. and Della L.
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Kate Pew Wolters

Champions: \$10,000 – \$25,000



Michael and Susan Jandernoa

Mary Free Bed Guild



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Janet Zahn

Every gift we received, either monetary or in-kind, is so appreciated. In the interest of space, we have limited those listed here. Thanks to everyone for your amazing support during this fiscal year.



We are a United Way funded agency supporting
our Workforce Development programming.



Disability Advocates

Of Kent County

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