

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



## Dear Friends of Willows Way,

As I reflect back over this past year, I am struck by the number of challenges and opportunities Willows Way encountered. We've had so many accomplishments, from our wildly successful Art of Wine event this past June showcasing the amazing talent of our clients and dedication of local volunteer artists, to the continued steady growth and geographic expansion of our programs, and the positive transition of new leadership staff into the agency.

We are committed to our clients providing compassionate support that fosters independence, growth and life choices for our clients. Each and every day, we work to empower individuals to live their best life – a life without limits. We challenge them to learn new skills, help them realize life-long dreams, and have new life experiences they may have never thought possible.

Gratefully yours,

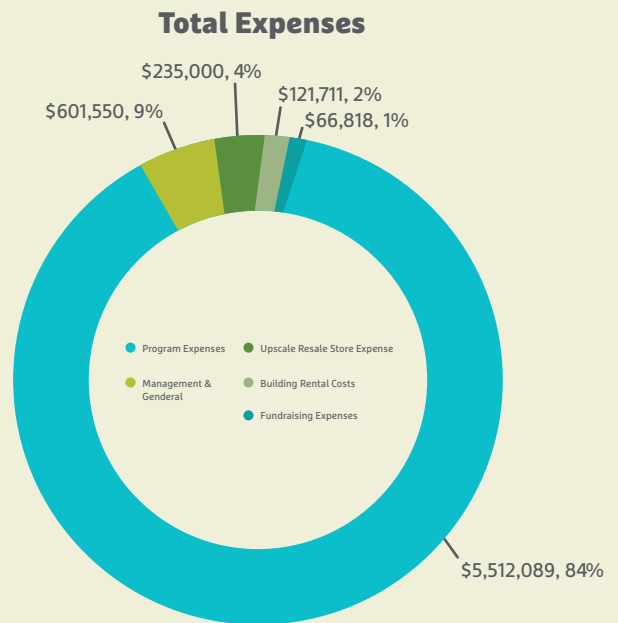
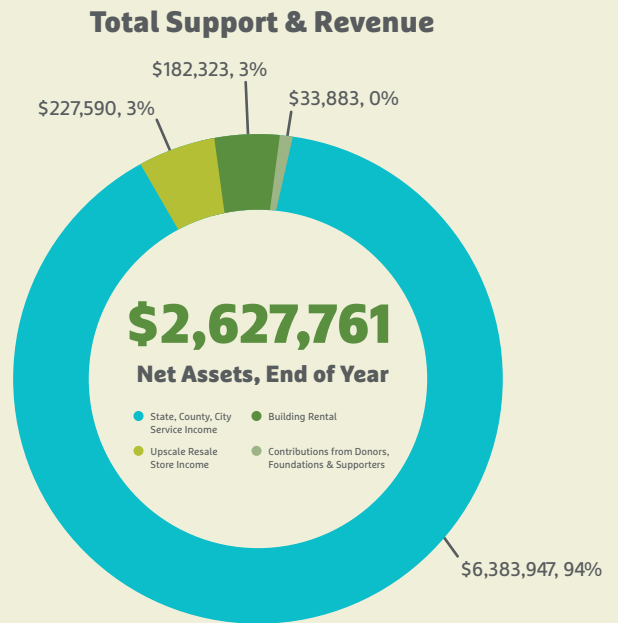
Joy Steele *Executive Director*

## Board of Directors

- Geoff Reed *President*
- Yamini Laks *Vice President*
- Mike Parsons *Treasurer*
- Michael Cherba *Secretary*

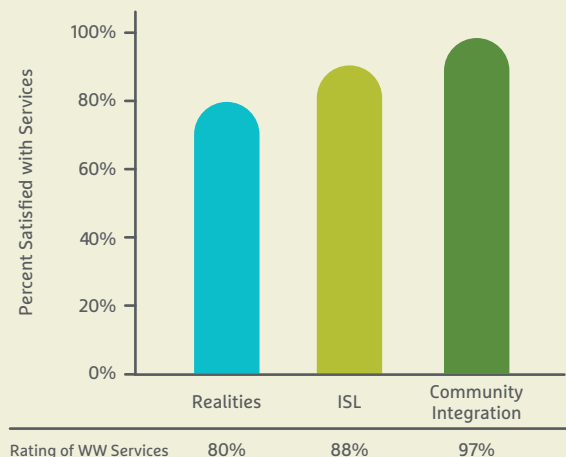
## Directors

- Janel Aemisegger
- David Barkey
- Natallia Dziatsel
- Lori Fick
- Thomas Schweitzer
- Barbara Shoykhet



## Overall Ratings of Willows Way Programs Clients, Family & Friends

(May 2014) Realities: N=72 ISL: N=66, Community Integration: N=22



## Community Integration

Community Integration experienced a number of successes during 2014. The program was at capacity for the entire 2014 year, and had a waiting list that continued to grow as families searched for the ideal environment for their loved one. Our volunteer opportunities grew to 12 community partnerships, and the majority of our clients averaged 6-8 volunteer opportunities per month (some reaching as many as 15-20), which exceeds our program goal of 4 times per month. Having an educational component to our clients' day is an important goal as well, so tours were arranged at a variety of places in the community to achieve that goal.

## Realities

Realities provides Independent Living Assistance (ILA) support to enhance skills in order for clients to live independently and maintain a household. We teach living skills such as healthy meal planning and cooking skills, comparison shopping skills. We provide socialization opportunities through clubs and activities coordinated by clients and staff. Realities has had many client successes in 2014. Two of our clients that have never had the opportunity to live alone without a roommate were able to apply and move into a local apartment complex. Both clients are successful as they continue to receive weekly services through our program.



## Individualized Supported Living (ISL)

This program provides customized in-home supportive services for up to 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Community based services are designed to meet the individual support needs of each person served. Support staff assists clients with daily living skills instruction, personal care needs, medical/medication management, financial/household budget planning, participation in meaningful social activities, and transportation with accessing the community. There have been numerous successes in 2014 for our consumers in Supported Living. One client decided to start taking art instruction lessons from a volunteer, and over the course of three months created several pieces of artwork. Over the summer his paintings were displayed at our Art & Wine Event held at Chandler Hill Winery where he was able to sell nearly every single piece displayed.

## Project Heart - St. Charles & St. Louis City

Project HEART provides interactive health-focused trainings for individuals with developmental disabilities. These monthly trainings may include topics such as cooking and nutrition, healthy relationships, fitness, personal hygiene, emotional well-being, home maintenance, and financial building are designed to encourage active participation, social interaction, and having fun. Client successes were also a highlight of 2014 in Project HEART. One participant identified having a baking business as her dream, and she has now started out by hosting her own Heart At Home baking class and making desserts for gatherings with family and friends. Another participant hosted a jewelry class and is now making and selling jewelry to generate income.

## Mission

Willows Way provides personalized support to individuals with challenges, promoting dignity while fostering independence, growth and life choices within the community.

## Vision

That all people who seek personalized support that nurtures the body, mind and spirit will experience a sense of home, a feeling of security, and an avenue for personal growth in the community.

