

Our Friends at Willows Way,

Every 3 years, we create a strategic plan that outlines the course for the agency for the next few years. The Board of Directors, leadership team and Associate Directors spent many months over this past year working with a consultant to review previous plan, identify goals that were met, ones that might not have been for whatever reason. They considered the agency's strengths and areas for growth and opportunity. We reviewed our mission, vision statement and values to make sure they are an accurate reflection of this agency and how we approach service delivery. You'll note our new mission and vision statement and the four core values, which were selected by all of the employees of Willows Way, in this annual report. I think it captures our spirit perfectly!

There is an overall theme of our new plan and that is EXPANSION! We are not seeking expansion for the sole purpose of growing, but we are seeking to expand based on the needs of the people we serve. The most pressing area of need is in day services. We are in the preliminary stages of expanding Community Integration because there is a serious need for day services in St Charles County. It is a very well-known and well-respected program, so our intent is to double its current size. We are working with an architect to connect the two floors of our building, double the space of CI (which would occupy most of the lower level) and move other programs and administration upstairs. It's an exciting undertaking made possible through the generous support of the Developmental Disability Resource Board of St. Charles County and community members like you.

Other areas of expansion relate to our Realities, ISL and Project HEART programs, with particular focus on our ISL program. We've had some turnover in that program, but that's already starting to improve thanks to our outstanding group of Program Managers, Dawn Zeligman as the new ISL Associate Director and the HR team. So we're already on the right track! In Realities and Project HEART, we're going to continue expansion for folks who are still living with in their natural home. This will allow us to start working with clients much earlier allowing us to get a jump start on teaching independent living skills which will make for a more successful transition to independent living when that time comes.

Our Mentor Arts Program and related Art of Wine event is gaining momentum with each passing year. We have about 20 participants in our Photography Club and another 8 in our painting/drawing program. The pieces they create are nothing short of amazing. In June, we held our 3rd Annual Art of Wine at EdgeWild Restaurant and Winery to showcase and sell the artist's work. Art sales exceeded \$2,000! You can see several of the pieces on our Facebook page, so make sure you follow us. You'll see the work of our talented artists and all the exciting things happening at Willows Way!

We are, as always, so grateful for the support you've given us over the years and hope you'll be a part of our continued success and growth!

Joy Steele
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Officers

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Mission

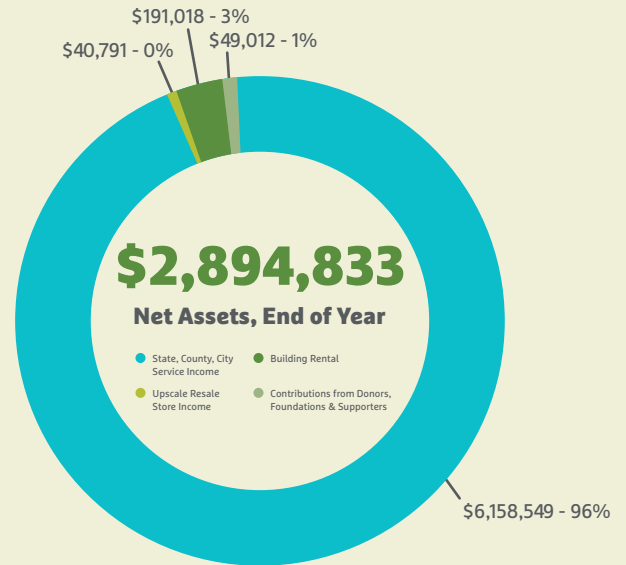
Willows Way provides personalized support to individuals with challenges, promoting dignity while fostering independence, growth and life choices within the community.

Vision

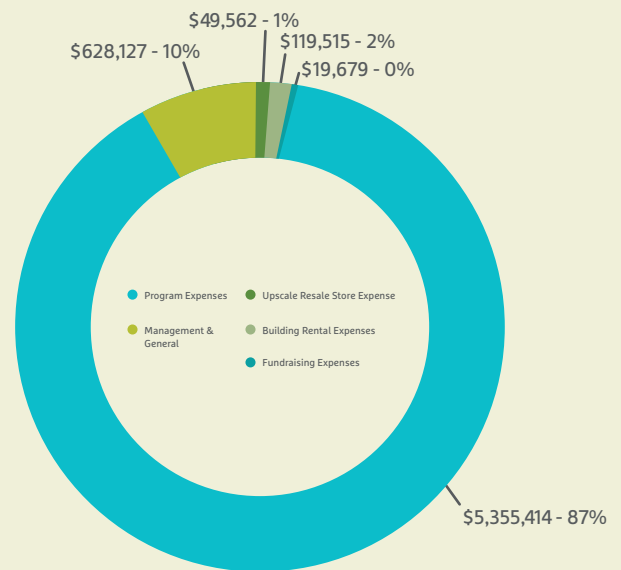
That all people who seek personalized support that nurtures the body, mind and spirit will experience a sense of home, a feeling of security, and an avenue for personal growth in the community.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Total Support & Revenue

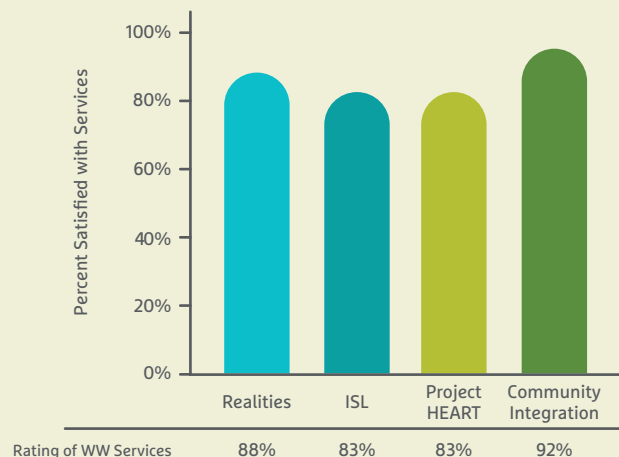


Total Expenses



Overall Ratings of Willows Way Programs Clients, Family & Friends

(April 2015) Realities: N=14, ISL: N=23, Community Integration: N=11, Project HEART: N=13



Our PROGRAMS

Community Integration

Community Integration weekday itineraries are designed by participants and qualified staff, and focus on social, educational, and physical activities that can be accomplished within the community. Activities are designed to support participants to gain confidence and independence, meet new friends and gain experience through seeing new sights and participating in new activities. Community Integration experienced a number of successes during 2016. The program was at capacity for the entire 2016 year, and had a waiting list that continued to grow as families searched for the ideal environment for their family member. Volunteer opportunities included 10 community partnerships, and the majority of our clients participated in an average 6-8 volunteer opportunities each month - with some as many as 15-20 volunteer activities.

Individualized Supported Living (ISL)

This program provides customized in-home support services for up to 24- hours a day, 365 days a year. Community based Supported Living services are designed to meet the individual 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 2016 for our clients in Supported Living. One client received professional art instruction from a volunteer and created several pieces of artwork over the course of the year. Over the summer his paintings were displayed at our 2016 Art of Wine event where he was able to sell every piece displayed. Another individual participated in community theater this year, achieving her goal acting on stage.

Realities

Realities provides Independent Living Assistance (ILA) support to enhance skills that enable clients to live independently and maintain a household. We teach living skills such as healthy meal planning, comparison shopping, and cooking skills. We provide social learning opportunities through activities coordinated by clients and staff. Realities has had many client successes in 2016. Two of our clients that have never had the opportunity to live independently 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. Another individual learned critical budgeting and household money management skills that enable him to successfully live in his own home.

Project HEART

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 household financial management. Classes are designed to encourage active participation, social interaction, and having fun while developing new skills. Client successes were also a highlight of 2016 in Project HEART. One participant obtained his driver's permit upon completing the Project HEART Drivers Permit Course while another individual has gained the skills needed to support a decision to move from the family home and transition to supported living. Completion of the Independent Living Series of courses has enabled her to make a successful transition and begin this new phase of life.

