



DISABILITY NETWORK WEST MICHIGAN

2018 Annual Report

Battling Barriers...

Becoming Accessible



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Diane Fleiser
Chief Executive Officer

As another year passes, one of the greatest opportunities our organization has is to reflect on our successes and obstacles from the previous year in order to build the momentum and focus for the upcoming. Our many accomplishments are not possible without the support we receive from our communities and volunteers.

Disability Network West Michigan (DNWM) is committed to overcome the many challenges that still exist for people with disabilities in the communities we serve. Beyond the needs of increasing accessibility and opportunity in the environmental structures of our community, society's perception of disabilities remains a huge barrier to inclusivity.

This past year we focused on cultivating community relationships and empowering consumers to help advance their goals through voter registration opportunities and education while expanding our involvement in rural communities. It is important to recognize the increasing number of youth with disabilities being empowered and connected to DNWM as their visions and advocacy priorities for the future directly impact our focus. We are uniquely situated to stay connected to our youth as they transition into their next stages of life and encourage them to remain involved with our many services into adulthood.

We all have a responsibility to help cultivate a community to carry on the opportunities for creating positive social change. Independent living involves a mosaic of energy and commitment and we're proud to continue our work with your support and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Fleiser".

Diane Fleiser, CEO

Visit our website at disabilitynetworkwm.org to donate online or call 231-722-0088 to help support the work we do with a tax-deductible donation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

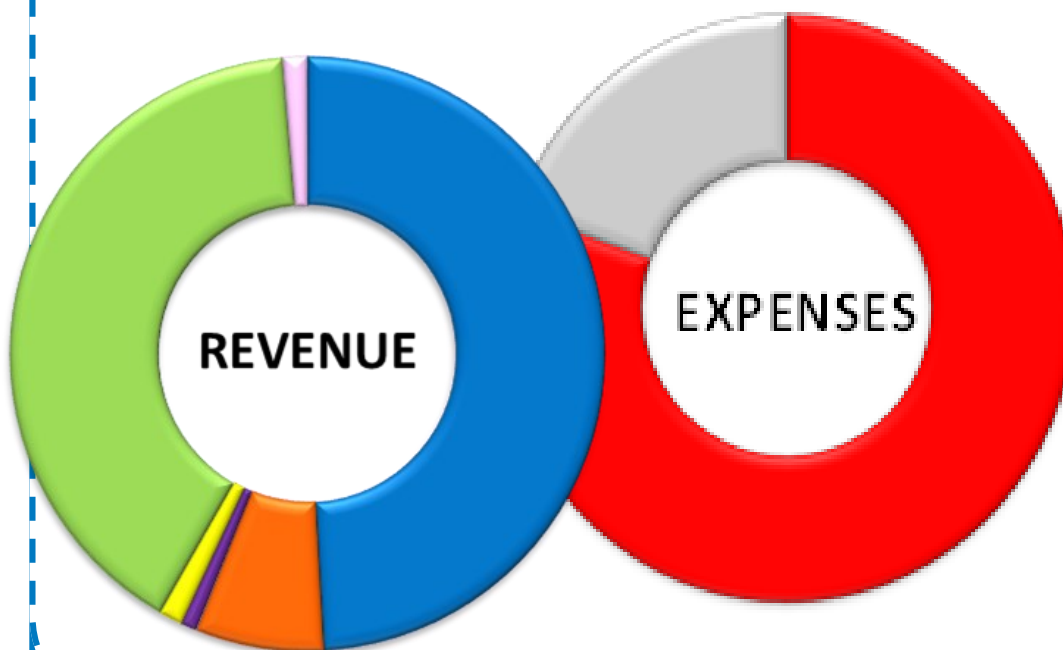
● Federal & State Grants	\$482,806	49.1%
● Local Grants	\$69,006	6.9%
● Contributions	\$12,816	1.3%
● Interest Income	\$20,827	2.0%
● Program Service Fees	\$401,364	40.4%
● Other Revenue	\$13,143	1.3%
Total Revenue	\$992,943	

EXPENSES

● Program Services	\$791,323	80.5%
● Admin/Fund Development	\$192,166	19.5%
Total Expenses	\$983,489	

Beginning Assets \$552,245

Ending Assets \$550,358



OUR SERVICES BY FY - 1



2,770



INDIVIDUALS SERVED

149

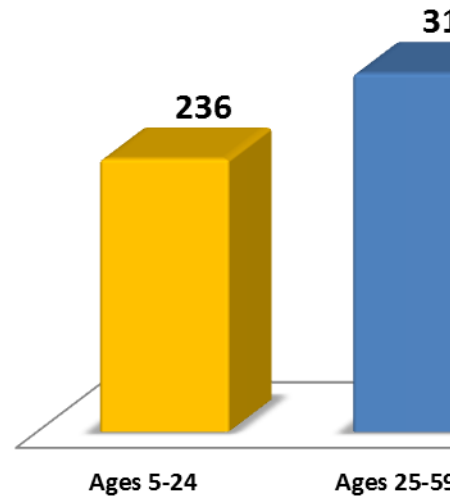
VOLUNTEERS



DONATING

8,188

HOURS



AGE OF CONSUMER



SERVICES BY DISORDER

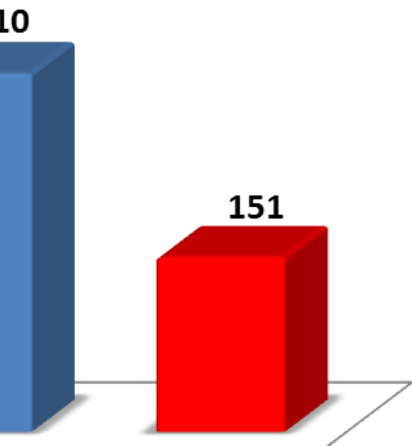
BY THE NUMBERS

7 / 18



IN COUNTIES

5



Ages 60 & Older

CONSUMERS SERVED



DISABILITY TYPE



843

CONSUMER GOALS ACHIEVED



2,567

INFORMATION & REFERRALS



2,131

HOURS INDIVIDUAL
& SYSTEMS
ADVOCACY

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

We provide many Independent Living services to our consumers, including Employment Navigation Services. We work with people of all disabilities to acquire the essential skills needed to enable them to join, or re-join the workforce.

Meet Howard Fisher, a veteran who came to Disability Network West Michigan after being separated from employment for over ten years. Through vocational assessments and evaluations, a plan was put in place to prepare him for his dream job of becoming a Veteran Peer Support Specialist.

2018 was a very busy year for Howard and our staff working with him. Highlights include: Creating and facilitating a veteran's peer support group, moving into his own apartment, providing front desk services for our agency and finishing all the requirements needed to take the Certified Peer Support Specialist training in December of 2018. Howard is a great example of how hard work and perseverance can turn dreams into reality!



Howard Fisher

MUSKEGON SENIOR MILLAGE TRANSPORTATION VOUCHER PROGRAM BREAKING BARRIERS

Disability Network West Michigan was awarded a grant from the Muskegon County Senior Millage to provide a Senior Transportation Voucher Program. The program serves Muskegon County residents 60 or older with a disability providing a mileage reimbursement of \$0.50 per mile to a driver of their choice to use anyway they wish up to 100 miles per month.

Stanley Allen has been a Disability Network West Michigan consumer for many years. In May 2018, he became the first participant to sign up for our new Senior Millage Transportation Voucher Program. Stanley uses a wheelchair which limits his access to transportation, so with the help of the transportation program, a close family friend is able to take Stanley to visit family and to the zoo. The program also makes it possible for Stanley to attend church on Sundays when there are no public transportation or paratransit services available.

Stanley has always been a strong systems advocate, though declining health has limited his advocacy efforts in recent years. He has chosen to put his valuable advocacy skills to work by promoting the Senior Millage Transportation Program to everyone in his apartment complex and to all who may benefit. Through his efforts and with the assistance of his driver, we were able to present the program to 32 of Stanley's neighbors, resulting in many new consumers!



Stanley Allen

VOTE & FLOAT “FLOTILABILITY”

More than 40 people participated in our “Vote & Float” FlotilAbility event held on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the Bridgeton Township Hall and at the township’s boat launch on the Muskegon River. The event was held on the 28th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

We helped a group of local residents exercise their rights to participate in the representative government that is one of America’s more spectacular achievements! Before the trip down the river, Vote and Float offered election and voting information at the township hall. Newaygo County Clerk Jason VanderStelt and staff member Hilary Davis shared information about absentee voting and demonstrations of accessible voting machines, helping members of the audience prepare for the Aug. 7 primary election and future voting.

After lunch, most of our participants went down the hill to the “FlotilAbility” portion of the event, which gave an opportunity for those with disabilities to use the Bridgeton Accessible boat launch. It was a beautiful day to spend a three-hour paddling trip down the river to the Maple Island Accessible Boat Launch Landing!



Participants learning to use the Verity TouchWriter Accessible Voting Machine



Bridgeton Accessible Boat Launch

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

We are committed to assisting veterans with disabilities throughout the year and find there are more veterans seeking assistance than ever before. The needs include support to live independently, durable medical equipment, ramps, home improvement, and peer support.

Disability Network West Michigan would like to thank our community and community partners for their generous contributions to our Veteran Needs Fund. The 2017 Annual Veterans with Disabilities Dinner supported and honored the 65 attendees at Baker College of Muskegon.



Tables decorated and set at Baker College of Muskegon



Our veterans & their guests in line for dinner catered by Baker College of Muskegon

Address Label

**Disability Network
West Michigan
27 E. Clay Ave.
Muskegon MI 49442
www.disabilitynetworkwm.org**



Disability Network West Michigan is committed to accessibility, inclusion, and diversity while being consumer directed and accountable.

OUR MISSION is to advocate, educate, empower, and provide resources for persons with disabilities. We promote accessible communities, fulfilling our vision of ensuring that accessibility is an accepted civil right.

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Michigan 2018
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**Serving Muskegon, Mason,
Lake, Oceana and
Newaygo Counties**

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