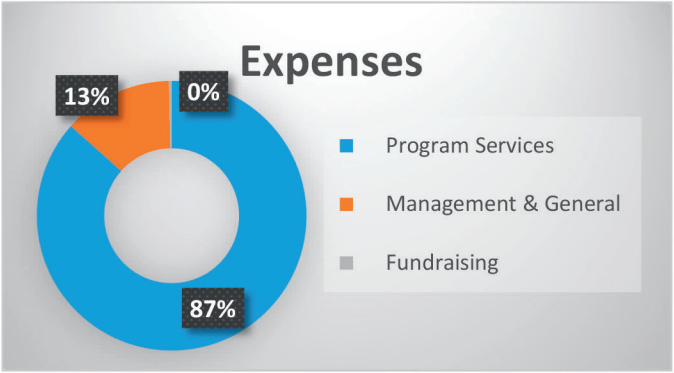
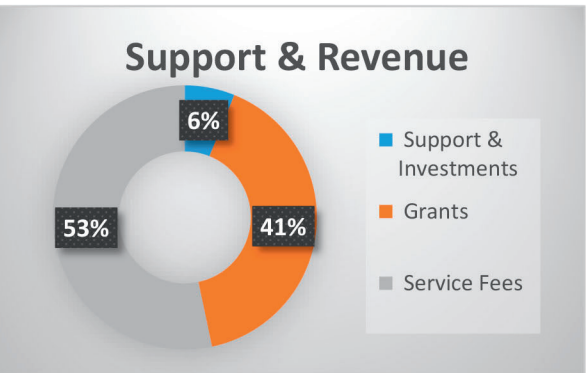


Statements of Activities		
	2021	2020
<b>Support</b>		
Contributions from General Public	58,639	48,350
Foundations	13,611	12,240
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grant Revenues	1,040,503	642,509
Service Fees & Miscellaneous	1,367,533	1,601,412
Investments	85,012	10,417
Total Support and Revenues	2,565,298	2,314,928
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	1,919,769	2,009,179
Management & General	290,500	284,422
Fundraising	7,237	25,851
Total Expenses	2,217,506	2,319,452
Total Change in Net Assets	347,792	(4,524)

Statements of Financial Position		
	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	1,184,027	1,167,491
Property & Equipment	68,522	28,991
Other Assets	7,968	11,700
Total Assets	1,260,517	1,208,182
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities	212,910	582,901
Long-Term Liabilites	79,047	4,513
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	964,419	574,304
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	4,141	46,464
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,260,517	1,208,182

Complete Audited Financial Statements and accompanying Notes are available on request.



## Thank you for your support.

Your donations make it possible to support people with disabilities as they strive for independence.

Your donations build ramps, offer information and referrals, champion advocacy, strengthen transition and support peer mentors.

Your gift to Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises and Services is tax deductible as allowed by law, but most importantly your gift supports dignity.

We offer secure credit card donations on our website: [www.smilescil.org](http://www.smilescil.org)

On behalf of the thousands of people in our service area and beyond who we serve annually:

THANK YOU!

## SMILES helps people advocate for themselves



SMILES and volunteers help promote easy safety measures to protect society in general.

### Consumers wish only to retain their independence

Sometimes SMILES can help when someone's wishes slip through the bureaucratic cracks. A 40-year-old gentleman, who has lived independently over 15 years, was admitted to a rehabilitation facility after surgery. His expectations were that he would stay for two weeks until he was strong enough to transfer himself.

After three months, he called SMILES to help him get back home. The facility had been hesitant to release him because he

was unable to get in and out of the hospital bed without help; the bed was too low and not at the height of his bed at home. The facility insisted they do a home assessment, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic precautions were not currently doing assessments.

After advocacy efforts, discussions with the facility, and the consumer expressing his desire to return home, he was able to return home with services in place.

### With independence comes more opportunities and responsibilities

During this year, SMILES assisted a 40-year-old woman with a developmental disability move from her family home to corporate foster care.

She is under family guardianship, which restricted her activities and disposable income. SMILES actively advo-

cated with the county to allow her to move into a home with people her age.

She now is able to go out into the community, choose activities, choose her meals, work hours and has more say on how she spends her disposable income.



### AS COVID COMMUNITY CONNECTOR, SMILES EXTENDS ITS REACH

With funding received as a COVID Community Connector, we were able to do more of what we do already: Connect people and resources.

We provided outreach to 144,000 households, offering information and referral and advocacy at the state level for the disability community.

### ADAPTIVE WATER SKI EVENT SUCCESSFUL

SMILES Center for Independent Living was able to offer adaptive waterskiing to individuals last summer thanks to wonderful volunteer involvement. SMILES met with volunteer instructors Mark Origer, Jen Frazee, and Grace Hermer to determine location and



equipment needs. SMILES had equipment intended to be used before the COVID-19 pandemic.

A SMILES employee contacted Scott and Corralee Borgmeier of Madison Lake about utilizing their accessible walkway and dock. A similar event was done previously on Duck Lake.

### SMILES BECOMES A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

During 2020-21, SMILES started providing representative payee services, which provide access to all services we provide, including Independent Living Skills courses.

As a representative payee, SMILES is responsible for helping someone who cannot manage their own finances to use Social Security or SSI benefits to pay for the current and future needs, and properly save any benefits not needed to meet current needs. A payee must also keep records of expenses.

When a report is requested by the Social Security Administration, a payee must provide an accounting to show how he or she used or has saved the benefits.

## SUPPORTING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

490 Information & Referral

113 People in Independent Living Skills

45 Ramps built

83 Persons reached with Assistive Technology

Individual Advocacy Served 150 People

6 Volunteers Provided 277 hours of Peer Counseling to 23 People

45 Transition Youth

2 Nursing Home Transition

57 Provided PCA Services

77 Individuals received Consumer Directed Community Supports

# It has been a year of resilience and perseverance



From the Executive Director and Board Chair:

**Resilience.** It is defined as the ability to adapt to difficult situations.

2021 has been a year of difficult situations and resilience. SMILES continued to adapt our practices both to protect our employees and persons we serve. We did so by offering services in a variety of ways: in-person, virtually, and over the phone. And during these difficult situations, your support of SMILES and the people we serve means more than ever.

As we entered another year of the pandemic, we were able to remain strong partners within the community, assisting people to get vaccines, testing, and fulfill their everyday needs. In doing so, we helped our consumers become and remain resilient.

Worker shortages in most sectors are rampant. People go without medical care, and even without those everyday things they need for daily living. It's hard to guarantee someone will find adequate help living in the community. We have heard the stories of people moving to assisted living or nursing homes because there are no personal care attendants available to help them in their home. Residential facilities are closing. Therefore, we must continue to advocate for employment opportunities, accessible housing, better health care and home-based services and for civil rights.

In spite of challenges, I commend our staff for their dedication and hard work as they continued to connect with people in the community to provide services and knowledge. They have been resilient as CDC recommendations and state directives changed. Staff assisted consumers with food insecurity, Covid-19 testing and vaccinations, as well as accessing housing and finding transportation. Center for Independent Living continued, and will continue to do, the important work of advocating for persons with disabilities. And they will advocate for systems change for equity of all people for a vision without barriers, for equal opportunities and choices for an independent life.

Very Best

  
Bonnie Danberry, Executive Director

  
Brian Koch, Board President

## 2021 Board of Directors

**Brian Koch**, President  
RBC Wealth Management

**Tom Winter**, Vice President  
Community Volunteer

**Alex Swanson**, Sec./Treasurer  
Kitchenmaster, Klooster & Begalka, CPA

**Lanette Ayers**  
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**Ione (Rain) Cox**  
Community Volunteer

**Nancy Goettl**  
The Benefits Umbrella

**Harry Jenness**  
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**Jean Marti**  
Community Volunteer

**Allyssa Nelson**  
Blethen Berens

**Sharon Taylor**  
DragonFly Experience

**Stacy Wells**  
District 77 Communications Director



Center for Independent Living

[www.smilescil.org](http://www.smilescil.org)

### OFFICES

**Fairmont** 507-235-3488  
**Mankato** 507-345-7139  
**New Ulm** 507-354-7106

**709 South Front Street, Suite 7**  
**Mankato, MN 56001-3804**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# MISSION & VISION

The mission of Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises & Services (SMILES) is to support people with disabilities to realize their full potential.

Our Vision is a world without barriers with equal opportunities and choices for an independent life.



Center for Independent Living

At Southern Minnesota  
Independent Living  
Enterprises & Services

We have continued  
to serve through  
difficult times.



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021