



Center for Independent Living

At Southern Minnesota  
Independent Living  
Enterprises & Services

Helping people with  
disabilities where  
they are so they can get  
where they are going.



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



## Statements of Activities

	2022	2021
<b>Support</b>		
Contributions from General Public	25,587	58,639
Foundations	13,900	13,611
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grant Revenues	562,708	1,040,503
Service Fees & Miscellaneous	1,624,815	1,367,533
Investments	(66,546)	85,012
Total Support and Revenues	2,160,464	2,565,298
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	1,897,338	1,919,769
Management & General	273,153	290,500
Fundraising	743	7,237
Total Expenses	2,171,234	2,217,506
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(10,770)</b>	<b>347,792</b>

## Statements of Financial Position

	2022	2021
Current Assets	1,165,617	1,184,027
Property & Equipment	60,220	68,522
Other Assets	8,530	7,968
Total Assets	1,234,367	1,260,517
Current Liabilities	218,012	212,910
Long-Term Liabilities	58,565	79,047
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	954,261	964,419
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	3,529	4,141
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,234,367	1,260,517

## Thank you for your support.

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

Your donations build ramps, champion advocacy, offer information and referrals, 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.

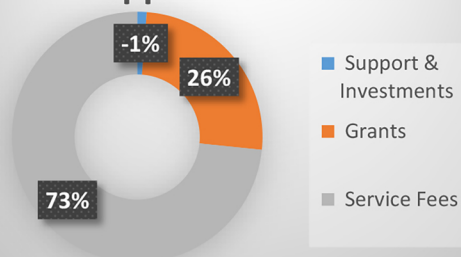
We offer secure credit card donations on our website: [www.smilescil.org](http://www.smilescil.org)

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

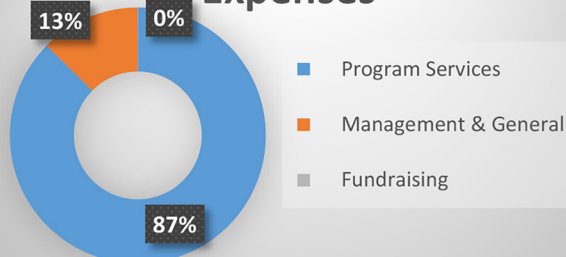
**THANK YOU!**

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

### Support & Revenue



### Expenses





1.



Center for Independent Living

1. North Mankato Fun Days Parade. 2. Visitors to Interlaken Heritage Days in Fairmont enjoyed the SMILES-sponsored canoe rides. 3. Adaptive water skiing allowed consumers to get out onto the lake.



2.

*Getting out in the community*



3.



## 2022 Board of Directors

**Brian Koch**, President  
RBC Wealth Management

**Tom Winter**, Vice President  
Community Volunteer

**Alex Swanson**, Sec./Treasurer  
Begalka & Swanson, PC

**Lanette Ayers**  
Blue Earth Co. Human Services

**Drew Campbell**  
Community Volunteer

**Jack Considine**  
Community Volunteer

**Nancy Goettl**  
The Benefits Umbrella

**Harry Jenness**  
Community Volunteer

**Jean Marti**  
Community Volunteer

**Alyssa Nelson**  
Blethen Berens

**Dan Robinson**  
True Commercial Real Estate

**Sharon Taylor**  
DragonFly Experience

**Stacy Wells**  
MAPS Communications

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

### Gus Johnson CFA

Members of the Gus Johnson Citizens for Accessibility group successfully sought getting a four-way stop at Fourth and Washington Streets, addressing pedestrian safety concerns.

### Fairmont CFA

The Fairmont group received good coverage in the Fairmont paper for efforts to increase accessible transportation. Both CFA groups meet monthly under

the direction of Jenn Jones.

### Getting on the water

SMILES was again happy to sponsor Wilderness Inquiry free canoe rides at Interlaken Heritage Days in Fairmont in June. In addition, Tom Winter and Jean Marti from the board were able to serve as grand marshals in their hometown parade.

Adaptive water skiing allowed SMILES to offer an outdoor ac-

tivity to consumers, a pleasant change from COVID-induced lockdowns. Mark Origer and his volunteers, along with Scott Borgmeier and others provided wonderful opportunities to those who love to water ski.

### Representative Payee

SMILES provides Rep Payee services for those who seek assistance managing their money. For information, contact Tricia Garza at [tgarza@smilescil.org](mailto:tgarza@smilescil.org).

## SUPPORTING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

**461** Information & Referral

**216** People in Independent Living Skills

**41** Ramps built

**55** Persons reached with Assistive Technology

Individual Advocacy Served **25** People

**29** Volunteers Provided **1,135 hours** of Peer Counseling to **25** People

**9** Transition Youth

**3** Nursing Home Transition

**58** Provided PCA Services

**89** Individuals received Consumer Directed Community Supports

# This was a year of knowing and calculating risks



2021-2022 was a year of returning from COVID and meeting people where they were most comfortable in a time of continued uncertainty. "Do I continue to isolate?" "Do I have to wear a mask when I go out?" "Can I expect support staff to wear a mask when they come into my home?" All of this while others were saying, "I'm ready to return to 'normal.'" And I choose to not wear a mask, go out to eat or attend community events."

Some SMILES consumers participated in adaptive waterskiing opportunities, attended community events, and gathered together to watch the Minnesota State Mavericks play. Staff assisted those who were ready to do these things while providing information for personal safety. As with all people, people with disabilities must balance opportunities against risks. And like others, some got COVID and some did not.

This was a year of knowing and calculating risks, then making personal choices based on that knowledge. It involved daily choices to attend meetings or not, to go to social gatherings or not, to meet one-on-one or go virtual through "hybrid" meetings. Technology was both a helper and a hindrance.

As vaccines became more available, SMILES collaborated with local public health to get people vaccinated and to distribute home tests. We again opened our doors to visitors, welcomed staff back and offered hybrid meetings to anyone wishing to get involved while maintaining a distance.

Although things are improving, we are not fully back to normal. While we are returning to work, many people with disabilities have seen their jobs disappear as organizations have discontinued offering workshops or having crews go into the community. Competitive employment is hard to find for people who wish to work but still need some guidance and assistance to learn work skills. Transportation to workshop settings and to distant crews is difficult to coordinate or nonexistent.

One thing that hasn't returned to normal is our staffing ratio. The labor crisis is real, and we are feeling its effects. From not having a labor pool to draw from to delays for background checks, people are going without needed services.

Each step in the pandemic has shed light on areas that still need improvement. As those areas surface, SMILES will continue to collaborate with community members and advocate for people with disabilities so they can participate fully in the community where they choose to live.

Very Best,

  
Bonnie Danberry, Executive Director

  
Brian Koch, Board President



**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

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



## VISION

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