



Serving people with intellectual disabilities since 1971

Annual Report

2017

SLI supports the efforts of individuals with diverse abilities to achieve independence and actively participate in the community.

President's Message



Dear Friends,

SLI and Festival of Trees proudly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Festival of Trees, the signature fundraising event for SLI. The Festival of Trees was started when SLI needed to raise \$16,000 to cover a budget shortfall. The event was organized and spear headed by Maggie Beers along with other volunteers and board members. That year, \$16,000 was raised to cover the needed funds. Since that time, the Festival of Trees has raised over \$3 million to support unfunded services and client needs.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary included a brand new mural painted by Staci Ogle and NOTO artists, the addition of a "Fund A Need" tree with donations going to client needs, a community tree that was raffled, the implementation of an online bidding system and the highest level of corporate sponsorships in the history of the Festival. The auction party was, once again, sold out and was attended by representatives from many corporations and businesses in the Topeka community, long-time supporters of SLI and volunteers who were honored for their years of service to the event and SLI, including a number of volunteers who had 30 or more years of service. The Kaw Valley Woodcarver's were honored for their commitment to the event as they have designed a tree for every Festival since its inception. In addition, Mayor and Mrs. Wolgast were our special guests for the evening.

The funds raised through Festival of Trees are crucial to ensuring the continued implementation of programs and services that are either not funded by any other means or are underfunded. Some of these programs and services include nursing, transportation, training and development, medical safeguarding and advocacy, job training for clients, dental services, medical equipment and supplies and severe underfunding in community living and community integration programs.

In order to continue to provide for services and programs and to grow and improve an event that has been enjoyed in our community for 40 years, the SLI board of directors and leadership team initiated a strategic plan specifically for the Festival to ensure its continued success and viability in the community. We are looking forward to working with our business partners to make the necessary changes over the next 3-5 years.

We have been fortunate over the years to be a part of such a supportive community and to have the backing of so many reputable and community-minded businesses in addition to hundreds of remarkable volunteers. We are genuinely grateful to all who make this event possible, in turn, making many services that otherwise would not be a feasible reality.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Jackson
President/CEO

SLI Programs



Community Living Program

This program supports clients to be engaged in activities, volunteer in the community, learn daily living skills and other skills to increase independence. The 98 men and women living in our 21 SLI homes are provided services 24/7/365 days a year by trained SLI staff.



Independent Living Program

This program serves men and women who live in their own homes or apartments. They have learned daily living skills that allow them to live and work with a great deal of independence. Each client receives limited supports based on their needs.



Community Integration Program

In this program, focus is on life-enhancing activities, active learning and community involvement. Services are offered that reflect individual interest and support individual growth. The program is designed to assist clients to choose learning experiences, be engaged in activities, learn daily living and nutrition skills, teach responsibility and volunteer in the community.



Targeted Case Management

This program is dedicated to ensuring children and adults served are achieving their goals. Case Managers assist individuals and their families to develop and implement a person centered support plan and identify and maintain eligible state and federal funding.

SLI has access to professionals trained and educated in autism spectrum disorders and mental health and behavioral supports and planning. SLI staff has training and education in social work, psychology, human services, nursing and mental health.

Client Statistics

Community Living Program



98

Number of Clients



52.07

Average Age



18.73

Average Length of Service

Independent Living Program



35

Number of Clients



45.76

Average Age



15.27

Average Length of Service

Community Integration Program



49

Number of Clients



46.34

Average Age



8.35

Average Length of Service

Targeted Case Management



198

Number of Clients



36.27

Average Age



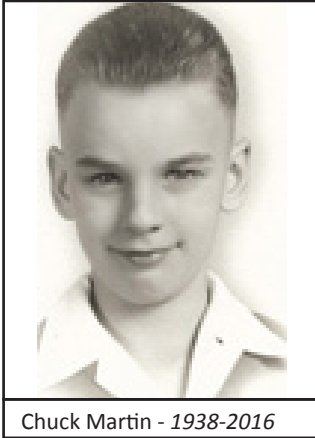
12.96

Average Length of Service

They Love, They Laugh, They Cry

As you read this story, please keep in mind that while this captures only a small glimpse of the Martin Family life, we hope you will gain the ability to see a vivid picture of what it may have been like for them, what it is like and what it will be like for others, if we do nothing.

Martin Family Story



Chuck Martin - 1938-2016

I would like to share just one of our many stories from a family who gave SLI the opportunity to know their loved one and care for him for over 35 years.

Charles “Chuck” Martin was born in 1938. While his father was gone from home during World War II, his family lived in Topeka with his grandparents. Even though Chuck had been diagnosed with a developmental disability, his grandmother taught him how to read, a skill that people with his level of disability normally didn’t have. He loved reading the newspaper, magazines and books throughout his life.

The public at large need to know they are just like all of us. They love, they laugh, and they cry. They have good days and bad days. It just may take them a little longer to express their feelings or communicate. The community needs to know that SLI is a real jewel in Topeka. We are extremely blessed by everything SLI does to provide the best possible life for people with disabilities.

- Harry Craig, Chuck’s brother-in-law

In the early 1980’s, Chuck established his home at SLI where he remained for nearly 35 years. Over the years, he enjoyed opportunities to go to camp, go on trips, attend church and participate in social activities all sponsored by SLI.

Chuck enjoyed bird watching which was a hobby that was introduced to him by his mother and grandmother. He loved to dance, bowl, watch and listen to baseball games and Kansas Jayhawk basketball. He cared for animals and spent time volunteering at Helping Hands Humane Society. He especially loved Sunday dinners with his family.

SLI has always been with Chuck when he had to go to doctor appointments and on frequent occasions to the hospital. SLI provided Chuck a loving, caring environment in which to live.

At Thanksgiving, Chuck’s family gathered in a circle and expressed to one another that for which they were thankful. For many years, Chuck said nothing, his voice maybe muted by a debilitating stutter. One Thanksgiving, however, he stated without the hint of stutter that he was thankful for his home at SLI.

“Chuck’s life was a gift to his many friends and his family, all of whom are better people for having known him. We know that God did not choose Chuck to be less than anyone. We believe He chose Chuck to be stronger, braver and more compassionate than anyone else and he was.” -The Chuck Martin Family

Community Impact

FHLBank of Topeka – SLI received the Affordable Home Program (AHP) grant to cover renovations for three duplexes on Shenandoah that 30 SLI clients call home. The grant covered new flooring, countertops, interior and exterior painting, landscaping, privacy fence, new interior doors, new roofs, remodeling of two bathrooms for accessibility, new lighting, new locks and stained decks. The grant enabled SLI to update the homes and make needed accessibility changes.

Capitol Federal® Foundation and Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A.

Trustee – The grants received supported the implementation of the “Knowledge Is Power” staff training software program called Relias Learning which allows SLI to incorporate online learning with audio and video features for intuitive learning methods and interactive self-paced courses. The trainings will keep our staff up to date with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement creative and effective strategies for quality treatment and support for the people we serve.

Sunflower Foundation - The grant awarded will upgrade and enhance technology to support efficient operations, effective service delivery, performance management, and analysis of reports. SLI is expanding the use of technology to make improvements, eliminate redundancy and ensure accuracy of data. This is part of SLI’s ongoing plan to ensure safety and efficiency for our clients and staff.

Volunteers

Washburn Big Event

Washburn University Alpha Delta Fraternity members cleaned up the landscaping and laid mulch at one of SLI’s homes.



Nancy Perry Day of Caring

Westar Energy, FHLBank, and BNSF employees volunteered to complete projects at three SLI homes.



Hayden Serve Day

Students from Hayden Catholic High School assisted with preparation for the 2017 Festival of Trees.



SLI Client Christmas Party

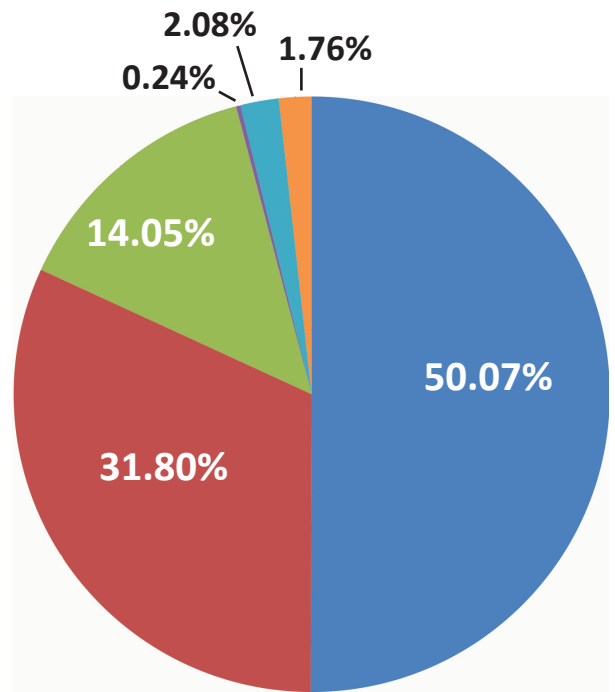
Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association and the Civitan Club of Topeka provided a holiday celebration for clients that would not have had a Christmas.



Financial Highlights

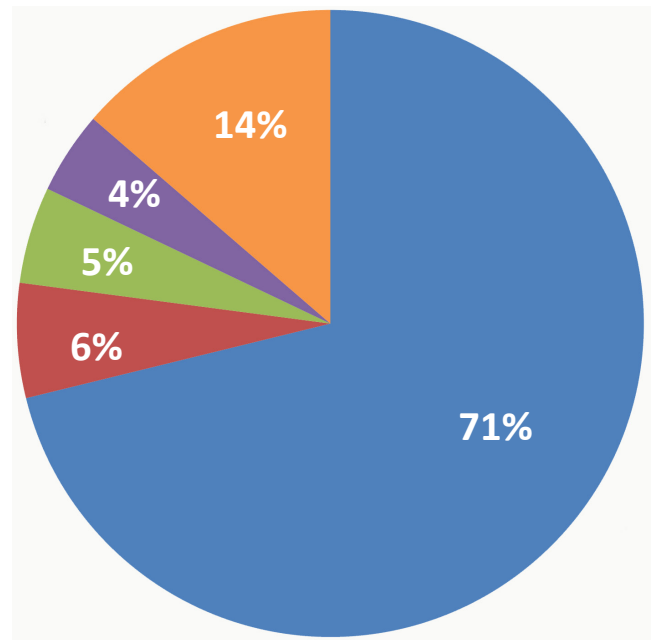
Revenue:

● State	\$2,110,019
● Local	\$932,283
● Donations	\$15,761
● Fundraising	\$138,006
● Grants and other revenue	\$117,065
● Federal	\$3,321,575



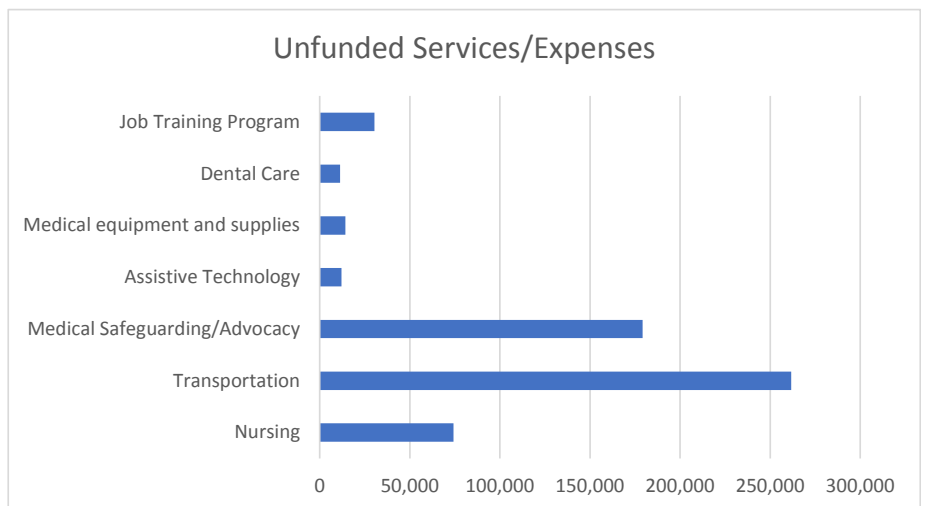
Expenses:

● Community and Independent Living Programs	\$4,843,250
● Community Integration Program	\$402,290
● Targeted Case Management	\$339,894
● Transportation	\$289,870
● Administration	\$929,545



Unfunded Services/Expenses:

Job Training	\$30,400
Dental Care	\$11,225
Medical equipment/supplies	\$14,250
Assistive Technology	\$12,000
Medicare Safeguarding/Advocacy	\$179,140
Transportation less client fees	\$261,700
Nursing	\$74,190



Leadership

Board Of Directors

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS

Michael Lesser, Vice-Chair
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SLI

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Kathy Brayton
Chief Financial Officer

Jo Ann Tate
Vice President of Development

Doug Vincent
Vice President of Employee Services & Facilities

Traci Vincent
Chief Operations Officer

You Can Make a Difference

We need your support to help children and adults with diverse abilities to achieve independence and actively participate in the community. With your support we can continue providing client programs and services that help our clients to live more independently. Your donations also help with unfunded needs such as dental services, job training for clients, medical equipment and supplies, medical safeguarding and advocacy, nursing for diabetes and wellness checks for our clients.

For more information view the donate section on our website at www.slitopeka.org. Listed below are ways to make a difference in the lives of SLI clients who depend on our programs and services.

Ways to Support SLI

- Company Matching Gifts
- Corporate Giving
- Festival of Trees Sponsorship
- In Honor Gifts
- Individual Giving
- Memorials Gifts
- Planned Giving – Bequests/Wills
- Personal Property Gifts
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Time & Talent

Wish List for SLI Clients

- Art supplies
- Appliances
- Bath towel & wash cloth
- Brush/comb set
- Bus passes
- Camp sponsorship
- Craft supplies
- Dental cleaning
- Deodorant
- Eyeglasses
- Fishing equipment
- Furnishings
- Games/puzzles/books
- Hand Lotion
- Hand soap
- Hygiene kits
- Kitchen wares
- Pillows
- Razors & shaving cream
- Shampoo
- Socks
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Twin blankets
- Twin sheets
- Winter coats
- Winter gloves and hats

Your gifts bring hope and happiness to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Volunteer with your Time & Talent

Your time and talent can make a difference. We have opportunities with our SLI programs and signature event, Festival of Trees. You chose what works best for you.

Please visit our website, www.slitopeka.org, for more details on how you can volunteer or call Jo Ann Tate at 785-233-2566. We welcome individuals, company employee groups, school groups and civic organizations.

Honor Roll of Donors

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Dena Anson
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Topeka Kiwanis Charities, Inc.
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United Steelworkers, Local 307
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Walmart
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Waste Management
Westar Energy

In Memory Of

Manuel Cervantez

Anonymous
Lisa Jackson

Janice Cline

Mary & Gary Adkins
C. J. & K. L. Bohlender
Dana Evans
John & Lisa Hamon
William Jones
Daniel & Cora Schloetzer
Candace Thomas

Burt Emery

Larry & Kathy Brayton
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Kelly Hall

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Mark May

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Dolores Spang

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In Honor Of

Long/Tate Wedding

Dena Anson
Larry & Kathy Brayton
Gary & Sandy Davis
Terry & Paul Harbert
Lamont & Lisa Jackson
Ronnie & Sandy Long
Jim & Jean Lovrien
Larry & Marty Patterson
Jerry & Sandra Quiring
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