

Annual Report 2022



Our Mission

We are SLI. A not-for-profit supporting the efforts of individuals living with intellectual/developmental disabilities by promoting:

Success · Learning · Inclusion

Vision Statement

To accomplish the mission, SLI:

- Offers guidance to clients in determining and following their chosen path in life
- Enhances clients' individual capabilities and skills by offering life-long learning opportunities
- Engages clients, families, guardians, and staff in developing plans and measuring accomplishments
- Promotes clients' rights through education and advocacy



A glance back to 2022 reveals a year of investment, innovation, and evolution. Not bad for a 51-year-old organization but who is counting?

The backbone of SLI's direct support services is our employees and we were able to show our appreciation in several ways. First, thanks to receiving a long overdue reimbursement rate increase from the State, we were able to significantly increase the rate of pay for our direct support professionals (DSP). This and a restructuring of recruitment and retention bonuses and benefits has made a vast improvement in our DSP vacancy rate. Second, two leadership programs were developed and offered to all staff to expand skills and create succession opportunities from within the organization.

Many technology advancements increased security and enhanced workflow and capacity. The City of Topeka awarded SLI a \$212,780 ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant that will not only enable SLI to further improve our computer systems at our homes and headquarters but also provide much need equipment and supplies for our homes and clients, train staff on American Sign Language, train staff on dementia care, and more. The Department of Homeland Security awarded SLI a \$150,000 grant which will allow SLI to increase security at the administrative office and the Community Integration Program.

Festival of Trees has found its new home at Fairlawn Plaza and more than 6,500 visitors enjoyed the holiday magic! We rolled out our new holiday party called Soiree which was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to all involved, Festival raised over \$119,000. In addition, SLI has leased a storefront at Fairlawn Plaza and will use it for new fundraising and community engagement events.

Finally, although COVID remained a lingering challenge, the clients and staff of SLI returned to "life as normal." We will always remain diligent as it relates to potential health risks and many of the lessons learned since the beginning of the pandemic have helped to strengthen our ability to respond and provide the highest quality of services possible.



Lisa Jackson
SLI President/CEO





Partner With SLI to Make A Difference



Recurring Giving

Your regular donation helps carry out our mission of "Success, Learning & Inclusion."



One-Time Gift

One-time giving is a great way to make an immediate impact.



Planned Giving

Leave your legacy through your will, stocks, qualified charitable distributions, and more.



Festival of Trees

Become a sponsor, a designer, or donate something for the various auctions that take place at the event.



Matching Gift

Many companies offer a donation matching program. Check and see if you can double your impact with SLI.



Social Media

Stay up to date and share the mission and vision of SLI with your friends and family online.

***Supporting individuals with
intellectual disabilities since 1971***



Our Programs

The work of SLI focuses on ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience success, learning, and inclusion.



Community Integration

Community Integration staff worked hard in 2022 to help our clients return to a more normal post-Covid routine. Every weekday, clients participated in programming that was designed to provide a variety of experiences that empower them to grow their knowledge and skills, collaborate on projects, and celebrate inclusion. CIP worked with up to 55 clients each day and these clients volunteered 1,620 hours in the community.

Community Living

Consistent with the vision of the SLI founders, our Community Living program provided community-based, family-centered homes to more than 100 men and women in 2022. SLI owns 21 homes in Topeka and each home has 3-8 residents who have their own private bedroom. Highly trained staff support a variety of physical, emotional, and health needs while promoting community and social interaction.

Independent Living

SLI's Independent Living program allows individuals to live as independently as possible in their own home. Advisors assisted 33 men and women in 2022 through individualized support and social activities with others in the program. Thanks to more than 15,000 hours of support from Independent Living Advisors, ILP clients made key decisions to shape the direction of their own lives.

Retirement

There is nothing "tired" about the individuals in our Retirement Program! In 2022, 15 program participants attended community events, explored various activities and interests, utilized resources in Topeka, and learned how to remain active and healthy. With an understanding that all individuals naturally move through the life stages, SLI's Retirement program supports the educational, social, and emotional needs of aging individuals.

Health Support Services

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities tend to experience a multitude of health-related challenges and emotional complications. Health Care Coordinators and Independent Living Advisors help our clients manage their health and navigate a complex healthcare system. In 2022, SLI staff helped clients schedule and attend 2,798 appointments with healthcare professionals. We also supported clients through medication management and fulfilling recommended treatment plans.

Transportation

SLI ensures that our clients have access to the community through transportation services. KDOT trained staff drive a variety of vehicles throughout Topeka and beyond. Clients use our transportation services to get to work, receive services at other organizations, attend church, watch a high school football game, participate in community activities such as Festival of Trees, visit the Zoo or the Library, and more.





FESTIVAL OF TREES



Forty-five Years of Supporting the Mission of SLI.

SLI was proud to present our 45th Festival of Trees event in our new home at Fairlawn Plaza. More than 6,500 visitors enjoyed the magic and whimsy of 54 trees and wreaths. Visitors proclaimed over and over that the trees in this year's event were the best that they had ever seen at Festival of Trees! Our amazing team of designers should be applauded for their passion and creativity. The Sweet Shoppe and the silent auction added to the holiday cheer.

Client Night provided by the Civitan Club of Topeka kicked off the event with the opportunity for SLI clients to enjoy a sneak peek at the trees and wreaths. They were also able to officially turn on the lights for the event and take pictures with Santa Claus.

The new Festival Soiree brought the party back to the Festival of Trees. The evening featured lots of fun food and drinks, different games throughout, and ended the night in the best way possible - rocking out to The Bash!

Festival of Trees is SLI's annual fundraiser and raises money to support the unfunded needs of SLI clients such as transportation, medical supplies and advocacy, special equipment, and more. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, designers, and guests, SLI raised over \$119,000.

Festival of Trees Committee Members

Kathy Brayton
Traci Brown

Lisa Deghand
Jesyca Hope

Gwen Ketter
Sara Lively

Valerie Nelson
Meredith Priesner

Community and Corporate Sponsors

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Ben Schreiner Concrete Construction
Ballet Midwest
Berkshire Hathaway First REALTORS
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas
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Edwards Jones - Valerie Nelson
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Club
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T-n-T
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Topeka Electric Motor Repair, Inc.
Topeka Habitat for Humanity

Topeka Mustang Club
Topeka Needlework Group
Topeka Zoological Park
Two Kims
Union Pacific
United Steel Workers, Local 307
University United Methodist Church
Walmart Fulfillment Center #7440
Walmart Store #6585
Washburn Rural Middle School STUCO
& WERC

In Memory and Honor of

Betsy Rholeder

Kimberly Allen
Jamie Botts
Lynne Bourne
Larry & Kathy Brayton
Judith Dingley
Sharon Dubois
Tim & Carolyn Edwards
Jim & Ethel Edwards
Gwen Elliot
Jerry & Susan Farley
David & Kathleen Heit
Lamont & Lisa Jackson
Glenn & Brenda Jagodzinske
Neta Jeffus
Jeanette Johnson
Teresa Keller
Stephen Lusk
Tiffany Muller
Dorothy Myrick
Mary Peters

Mary Rinehart
Mike Rinehart
Ronald Rohleder
Richard Ross
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Jessica Sassi
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Cindy Freeman
Craig Gates
Tim Gorton
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Lamont & Lisa Jackson
Nally January
Dereka McKnight
Abigail Nation
Ken Parker
Steve Picotte
Chrissy Reetz
Denise Sanders
Bernice Stewart
Karen Streeter
Tera Triggs
Cathlyn Zecha



In Memory Of Betsy Rohleder

SLI lost a very important part of our family in 2022. Betsy Rohleder was a long-time supporter of the mission and work of SLI. Her history of support, beginning with her family, goes back to nearly the conception of SLI. She was a fierce advocate for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our CEO/President Lisa Jackson shared this about Betsy

“I am so grateful for the countless hours Betsy volunteered service to our organization. We are all better from her thoughtful guidance that came from a place of deep and genuine concern about the quality of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Personally, I miss her questions that would challenge me to think about something differently. I miss her calming nature and comforting support. I miss her mentorship and knowing I could call her anytime I needed a good opinion or to talk through a difficult situation. She was one of those people that left everything and everyone she touched better. One of those people, who, once you meet, you never forget. Betsy’s physical presence is missed at SLI but the imprint she left here will never go away or be forgotten.”

Individual Donors

Sarah Ables	John Cassidy	Erin Glenn	Jennifer LeClair	Christopher & Susan Peterson	Jenn Smith
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Financials

SLI is committed to transparency and excellence. The following numbers are taken from the audit of our 2022 financial statements by an independent audit and accounting firm.

Impact Expenses



Income Sources

Federal

50% (\$3,869,051)

State

34% (\$2,585,039)

Local

11% (\$857,595)

Other Income Sources

Fundraising and Special Events

2% (\$118,498)

Donations, Grants, and Other Revenue

3% (\$273,061)







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Success · Learning · Inclusion*

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