



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

www.sasinc.org



Our Mission
Transforming lives
Through creative
opportunities and
excellent supports for
people with disabilities
and special
needs.



Our Vision

sasi believes in a future where all persons, regardless of their ability, can reach their full potential as responsible, valued and contributing members of their community. We strive for excellence in providing employment, healthcare, housing options and community supports that are chosen by individuals and families. Together we transform lives and bring dignity, purpose, confidence and hope to every individual, every day.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't know who said it, but I love this quote: *"If someone says you can't do it, do it twice and take pictures."*

Since joining sasi in June 2022, I have had the pleasure to meet a lot of people who defy expectations. Some of them are featured in this report – and yes, there are pictures.

The people we support, and the people who work here, are relentless in pursuit of their goals. My goal is for sasi to be just as relentless. We exist in an often-dysfunctional system, in a challenging time. Too many regulations. Not enough funding. Too many needs. Not enough staff. Yet we look back on 2022 with pride, and we look forward to 2023 and beyond with hope and resolve.

Keep an eye on sasi. We're motivated, and we're rolling up our sleeves. Tell us it can't be done, and we'll want to do it even more. And we'll try to remember to take pictures for next year's annual report.

Thanks for your support,

Jeff Paterson

President and CEO



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HAPPINESS IS... NO MORE MASKS!

In September, we finally got to take off our masks after two and a half years of dealing with COVID-19. It had been far too long since we were able to see all of these smiling faces.



CLEARING THOSE HIGH HURDLES

2022 was a great year for High Hurdles in many ways. We overcame some “hurdles” early in the year but finished out strong. We had some injuries with horses over the winter that kept us busy, as well as continuing with volunteer and staff trainings, and keeping the horses happy.

In April, we had a new horse, Beau, donated to the program, and he has proven to be a wonderful asset for our riders. In August, we were able to purchase a pony, Rapunzel, to fill the role our long-time resident Dancer has retired from.

We had a total of 959 individual units of service to about 90 riders throughout the year. High Hurdles riding instructors and volunteers continue to collaborate on lesson planning and instruction while keeping safety measures at the forefront of our operations. They love watching the riders learn and grow, building physical strength, increasing their horsemanship skills, and having an enjoyable activity to take part in.

We were able to lift the mask requirement this year and have a more traditional show that allowed for as many family and friends as riders wanted to invite to come watch them this year. The show was an enjoyable time for all!



2022 sasi FOUNDATION GRANTS

Dublin, Shirley Rd., Rosslare, Genesee Rd., North Blossom, Waterford and Shirley Rd. IRAs – walk in shower - \$57,329

George Street – concrete pad in back yard - \$6906.25

Sardinia Day Program – concrete sidewalks - \$11,000

Holland/Glenwood – paved driveway - \$10,880.00

Monaghan & Symphony IRAs- ceiling lift - \$18,750

High Hurdles – rider scholarships - \$1,280.00

Moving Miracles Scholarship - \$1,260.00

High Hurdles – two new horses - \$21,000

Grand Total – \$135,005.22



2022 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue:		
Government Revenue	\$47,914,111.08	88.71%
HUD	\$31,527	0.06%
Sub Contract Revenue	\$3,338,129	6.18%
Program Participant Fees	\$3,000,968	5.56%
Clinic 3rd Party Reimbursement	\$75,609	0.14%
Investments	-\$642,979	-1.19%
Vending Sales	\$0	0.00%
Contributions	\$271,326	0.50%
Miscellaneous	\$26,419	0.05%
Total Revenues	\$54,015,110	100%

Expenses:		
Personal Services	\$36,677,529	66.77%
Fringe Benefits	\$9,875,434	17.98%
Professional Fees	\$631,348	1.15%
Supplies	\$1,236,393	2.25%
Utilities	\$884,623	1.61%
Building Maintenance	\$649,354	1.18%
Leased Facilities	\$327,622	0.60%
Insurance	\$431,004	0.78%
Equipment Expense	\$337,228	0.61%
Individual & Staff Transportation	\$1,675,751	3.05%
Workshop Expense	\$308,393	0.56%
Interest Expense	\$138,284	0.25%
Depreciation Expense	\$1,448,819	2.64%
Miscellaneous Expense	\$311,596	0.57%
Total Expense	\$54,933,379	100%

(Net Deficit)/Surplus - \$918,269

RESIDENTIAL REVERIE



Matt Klajbor realized a dream that many people share: to live in his own apartment.

There's nothing quite like the first time you sit on your couch, that you purchased, in your own living room, watching your favorite show on your TV. With help from some sasi staffers, Matt was able to do just that.

Matt moved into the Elliott Woods Apartment Complex in Orchard Park. He was able to receive a rent subsidy through sasi from the OPWDD Housing Subsidy Program, which provides monthly rental assistance to those who qualify. It also provides a transition stipend that can be used to purchase furniture, home items, and help pay for a security deposit.

"Without this funding, it may be more difficult for people to move out on their own, find housing they can afford, or furnish their home," said Kelly Cline, sasi's Director of Community Services.

Matt had previously lived with his parents. While it was a lifelong dream to one day have his own place, it was at the beginning of 2020, just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, that he started making actual plans for it. Matt received plenty of help from his parents, who worked with him on what living alone means and how to care both for himself and for an apartment. Matt is also part of the sasi Community Habilitation Program and with the help of Barb Feldman, Community Habilitation manager, Matt changed his address on his license. Matt and Barb also shop and cook together.

Matt admitted it was a little scary to live on his own at first, but he loves it.

"It's been a good experience," he said. "I have more freedom and more space."

sasi's mission to transform the lives of people with special needs means that the organization shares in Matt's success.

"It's been exciting watching Matt's transition into the apartments, from the initial tour to his lease signing to move-in day," Cline said. "I'm so glad I got to be a part of that process and watch Matt's confidence grow as he made his apartment his own."

So what does Matt say is the best part about living alone?

"I would have to say staying up late!"



MAKING MIRACLES FOR 25 YEARS



It is with joy and pride that we celebrate our first 25 years of success and wonderful memories.

Almost 25 years ago, Moving Miracles Dance Studio was established through a coincidental meeting of dance teachers in an 84 Lumber Hardware Store. Unbeknownst for many years, a universal shift was simultaneously occurring among dance teachers in different corners of the country. Research papers reported dance educators were witnessing the profound effects music and dance had on awakening communication and learning pathways in people with different abilities.

Since September 1998, each drop of the needle has inspired passion within dancer and teacher. Moving Miracles' first community outreach was an appearance on the Variety Club Telethon, performing Annie's classic, "Hard Knock Life." We were so proud of those dancers then, and are happy to say that Jenna, Erica, and Ashley are still in studio every week.

"Who Let The Dogs Out" brings back memories and laughter, of when Stacey, Jessica, Elena and Carly sang through rehearsals never missing a beat. Stacey's parents, Ron and Diana Papa, of National Fire Adjustment Co., Inc. have been a driving force from the studio inception through every milestone. NFA has served as one of our greatest corporate sponsors!



Moving Miracles' very first community outreach performance. MM was invited to perform The Variety club Telethon - "It's a Hard Knock Life" from the classic Broadway show "Annie."

After 25 years, ballet dancers, Amy and Haley still have the most gorgeous and highest arches and pointed feet ever! Dance pioneers from 1999 Hillary, Denis, Laura and Kate (not to mention their parents) became the backbone of the dance studio.



Hillary and Terry were kindred spirits. She introduced him to Moving Miracles; he graciously donated his time and talent.

In 1999 Clem and Karen Arrison of The Arrison Family Charitable Foundation, attended the show at Orchard Park High School. A technical comedy of errors unfolded at the show and the pair was so impressed with the dancers three days later they called and came to the rescue with seed money, continual operating support, and an endowment in 2012. They also established an Annual Scholarship.

"Outstanding people have one thing in common : An absolute sense of mission." Zig Ziglar

Hillary, our studio angel, forged a kindred friendship with Elvis, AKA Terry Buchwald, whose talent and dedication provided 17 consecutive years of fundraising support.

Since 2009 the National Dance Education Organization has recognized Moving Miracles' Dance Studio with distinction. The curriculum shares the National Core Standards of Dance through the artistic processes of creating, performing, responding and connecting.

As we continue to grow we know that one thing will never change: our commitment to best practices and old school dance training and standards. Thank you to dancers, friends and families for making our first 25 years such a success. We will look forward to seeing you at our celebration on Saturday, May 20. For information, visit: movingmiracles.org/Annual-Performance

DAYHAB HAPPENINGS

2022 was a year of getting people back into program and re- establishing community partners. The Community Prevocational Program has gone back to working at Astronics Industry, volunteering at SPCA, food banks and senior centers, and helping with Mats for Mission. The program also has internships at McDonalds, Green Zone, and Lime Lake Marina. Everyone is happy to be able to socialize with community members.



Along with that, our Group Day Habilitation Program has also increased community opportunities such as volunteering at the Botanical Gardens and delivering flowers donated by Tops Markets to several local nursing homes. We have many fun and educational activities. Music is a big part of our day. At any of the day programs, you will frequently hear everyone laughing and singing!

sasi's Supported Work Program has new leadership with Director Bridgette Zittel and Team Leader Arian Anstett. In 2022, sasi had many referrals for students transitioning into the world of work. The department is working with four school districts to provide training and hands on experience. The people in this program are referred by ACCES-VR. We look forward to continued expansion of the Supported Work Department.



DERBY DAY HAB RUNS SUMMER WALKING PROGRAM

Our Derby Day Hab concluded a walking program that ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The four program rooms were divided into two teams that competed against each other for the most laps walked. One team earned a pizza party, while the other earned an ice cream social.

Everyone walked a designated indoor lap in inclement weather and outside laps on nice days. They received one point for each indoor lap and two points for each outdoor lap. This encouraged everyone to get outside daily. Some people enjoyed it so much they were observed jogging.



Everyone worked very hard every day to fit in their walks, log the points, and keep charts for the competition. The managers kept the enthusiasm going all summer long to see who would win the pizza party and ice cream social.

Each room had a top walker and received a personalized prize, compliments of Kateri Kuppel and her Cricut machine. Jackie Hotter was one of the top walkers with 68 laps. The other top walker was David Huff with 45 laps.

During the final lap of the program, everyone cheered each other on and sang "We Are the Champions."

What a great way to spend a summer!



ANNUAL AWARDS
BREAKFAST

sasi's Corporate Board of Directors proudly hosts an Annual Staff Awards Breakfast to recognize the outstanding efforts of our employees. This has been another challenging year, and the dedication of our team has been the driving force that has kept sasi strong. The front line of that team is our direct care staff. From our Direct Support Professionals to our program managers and beyond, their hard work, countless hours, and dedication to the people they support is commendable. While every staff member is valued, we are pleased to recognize the outstanding efforts of several staff members who received special recognition.



Direct Support Professional and Distinguished Service Awards

The Awards for Distinguished Service are presented to those employees who consistently exemplify the heart of sasi's mission and vision. Each have been nominated by their supervisor or peers in an effort to recognize their commitment to provide the highest quality supports to the people they work with.

2022 Award Recipients

- Taylor Fox-Spaich, Habilitation Instructor, Angola Day Hab
- Eli Harris, Habilitation Instructor, Elma Day Hab
- Allison Lonkey, Residential Team Manager, Rosslare and Shirley Road IRAs.
- Linda Quinn, Residential Manager, George St. IRA
- Phouthone Sihavong, Habilitation Instructor Donegal IRA
- Adam Smith, Habilitation Technician, Holland-Glenwood IRA
- Nikki Swatsworth, Habilitation Instructor, Bailey IRA



RESPECTED RESCUERS—Each of these staff members stepped in and stepped up to save a life in 2022:
Alicia Halstrom, Brian Harris, Desiree Kuczkowski and Angela Capitano

sasi's 2022 FOUNDER'S AWARD

sasi was founded over 40 years ago by a group of parents who had an idea about the types of services that they would like to see for their sons and daughters. At that time, there were limited opportunities for family members with disabilities. They decided to put their ideas into action. Through a lot of hard work, dedication and persistence, what started out from humble beginnings, operating out of a garage has metamorphosed into the multifaceted agency that we know today as sasi.

The Founder's award is based on this concept of good things coming from the germination of an idea coupled with determination, persistence and hard work. The winner of the Founder's Award is a staff person who exemplifies the attributes of the founding board members and whose ideas have helped to improve the agency and provide opportunities, influenced the people sasi supports, and has had a positive effect on the agency.

Amanda Kinmartin, Associate Vice President of Payroll, Elma

Amanda worked overtime to make sure that a series of state and federal bonuses were paid correctly to staff. She has also been instrumental in developing spreadsheets and other tools to assist with employee recruitment and retention initiatives. Her thoughtful analysis and the options she presented helped the work groups to see the impact of the various choices they were considering. The biggest impact Amanda has had is that she has done all of this with grace and dignity, despite the constantly shifting objectives and last-minute changes. Her work has been invaluable, and we truly appreciate her efforts.



Michael O'Connor, Amanda Kinmartin, and Jeff Paterson.



CONGRATULATIONS

To all of the 2022 award recipients!

Your hard work and dedication shine through every day and make a positive impact on the lives of the people we support!

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"Always give without remembering and receive without forgetting." ~ Brian Tracy

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Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.

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