

PAEP

Be Inspired
To Hire™

PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Annual Report 2020-2021



Inaugural Class of Project SEARCH- Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital

"An organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities through individualized employment services."

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

As we enter into another year of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud to present the successful accomplishments of Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP). This past year, our board of directors worked diligently to revisit our long range plan and identify the following goals to ensure the continued growth of the agency: 1) to continue to offer programs and services that enhance consumer choice, 2) to expand awareness of PAEP services and accomplishments, 3) to develop PAEP business relationships, 4) to develop and maintain financial support of PAEP, 5) to strengthen PAEP through active leadership roles, 6) to enhance professional opportunities to staff to promote a positive working environment, and 7) to address technology needs.

Amid the recovery, one of our biggest achievements was presented to us with an open door-the ability to capitalize on the current job market and form meaningful relationships with businesses to assist them with their shortage of workers. PAEP staff worked tirelessly to promote and implement workplace inclusion, resulting in over 100 individuals with disabilities being placed into competitive employment. These business partnerships continue to be a critical piece in ensuring that our mission is carried out and each individual that is served through PAEP is able to reach their fullest potential!

Financially, we exceeded our goals this year, reaching over \$1.1 million in revenue. We finished the year with a healthy and positive bottom line. This is in large part due to our organizational planning and efficiency, and to our dedicated supporters, partners and funders.

To all of the individuals we serve, their families, our business champions, community partners, funders and donors, and others who have shared in our success, we offer our sincere gratitude for another great year, despite the challenges it has brought with it. Thank you for inspiring us and joining us in our mission.

Stay Inspired,

Kristen A. Sheffield
Executive Director

Gina Strafford-Ahmed
PAEP Board Chair

Board of Directors

Gina Strafford-Ahmed, Board Chair
Dupage County Human Services

Bryan Gay, Vice-Chair
Invest Aurora

Laura Myers, Secretary
Myers Disability Law

Sylvia Torres, Treasurer
BMO Harris Bank

Alex Beck
Aramark

Kevin Bradley
Hub International

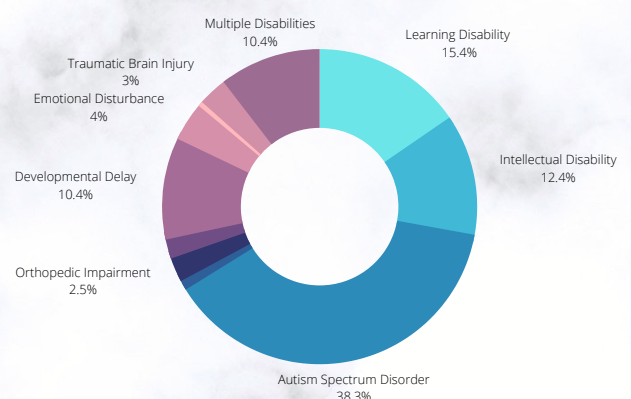
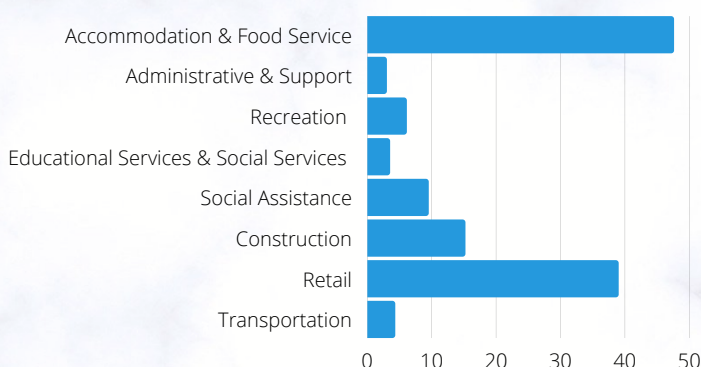
Kyle Latus
Total Fire & Safety

Rosalie Scrivo
Parent Representative

Over 220 individuals received services from PAEP through funding sources including: Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation Services, Government Grants/Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act, and Non-Government Grants & Donations



Over **100** individuals with disabilities placed into competitive employment!



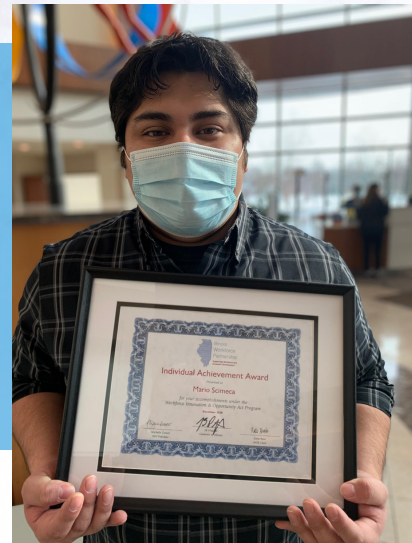
Real People. Real Stories. Real IMPACT.



Meet Cole Swanstrom. Cole participated in PAEP's Inspired by ABILITY/Autism Career Connection job training program to strengthen his job readiness and seeking skills. As part of the program, he completed job training at SWD, Inc., a recognized business leader in metal finishing and fastener sorting. Due to his hard work and dedication, Cole was hired as a permanent employee of SWD, Inc. where he continues to work hard, increase his work skills and hours.

D E T E R M I N A T I O N

Despite facing many challenges due to his traumatic brain injury, Mario Scimeca was determined to achieve his employment goals. After participating in the PAEP Project SEARCH program through Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital, Mario overcame many of his barriers and proved himself as a stellar worker at the hospital. Mario currently works at Superior Health Linens as a Food Service Worker. Mario was awarded the Individual Achievement Award through the Kane County Workforce Development Division for his perseverance and success!



G R O W T H



For individuals with disabilities, life after school leaves many unknowns. Equipping Tanner Ervin with job skills through PAEP's Project SEARCH program at Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital was instrumental in helping him discover his strengths and land a job at Kelco Industries, a leader in industrial manufacturing. Working as a production assistant at Kelco Industries, Tanner is a valued member of the Kelco family where he showcases his patience, attention to detail, and dedication during every shift.

M O T I V A T I O N

Meet Lily Peckenpugh, a highly motivated young lady on the autism spectrum. Lily's love for books led PAEP to encourage her to apply for a job opening with Thriftbooks, the world's largest online independent used book seller in Aurora. Lily interviewed and was hired on the spot in the shipping department. Lily's job entails picking books, scanning and packaging books for shipping. In the month of October, Lily was voted "Employee of the Month!"



Hard Work Leads to Long Term Success



Congratulations to Rachel Bali on 3 years and counting at Wyndemere Senior Living! Since starting at Wyndemere, Rachel has learned new skills and responsibilities and according to the staff, "Can run the dining room all on her own!" Due to Rachel's amazing work, she has opened the door for other individuals with disabilities to be hired and brought on to the Wyndemere team. Keep up the great work, Rachel! We are so proud of you.



Increasing **confidence** and **independence** one job at a time.



Dedicated to employer education on workplace inclusion.



Committed to helping families and individuals reach their full potential.

Business Spotlight



As an annual tradition, Zebra Technologies participates in the Tough Mudder event as a fun, team building challenge. Zebra Technologies turned their challenge into something more meaningful this year by including Parents Alliance Employment Project to support their Zebras of All Abilities for Inclusion and Accessibility initiative, while raising funds for PAEP. Together, Zebra and PAEP are working together to push through obstacles and barriers, on and off the course, to create more opportunities for people with disabilities!

"At Zebra, we want everyone to feel seen, heard, valued and respected as they define their path to a fulfilling career," said Natalie Bodus, Senior Director of Inclusion and Diversity and Employer Brand, Zebra Technologies. "Working with PAEP better enables us to extend the edge of possibility, including hiring people with disabilities and making a positive impact in our communities through philanthropy and volunteer activities like the Tough Mudder."



PAEP is CARF accredited for its Employment Services: Community Employment Services in Job Development, Job Support, and Job Site Training Programs.

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