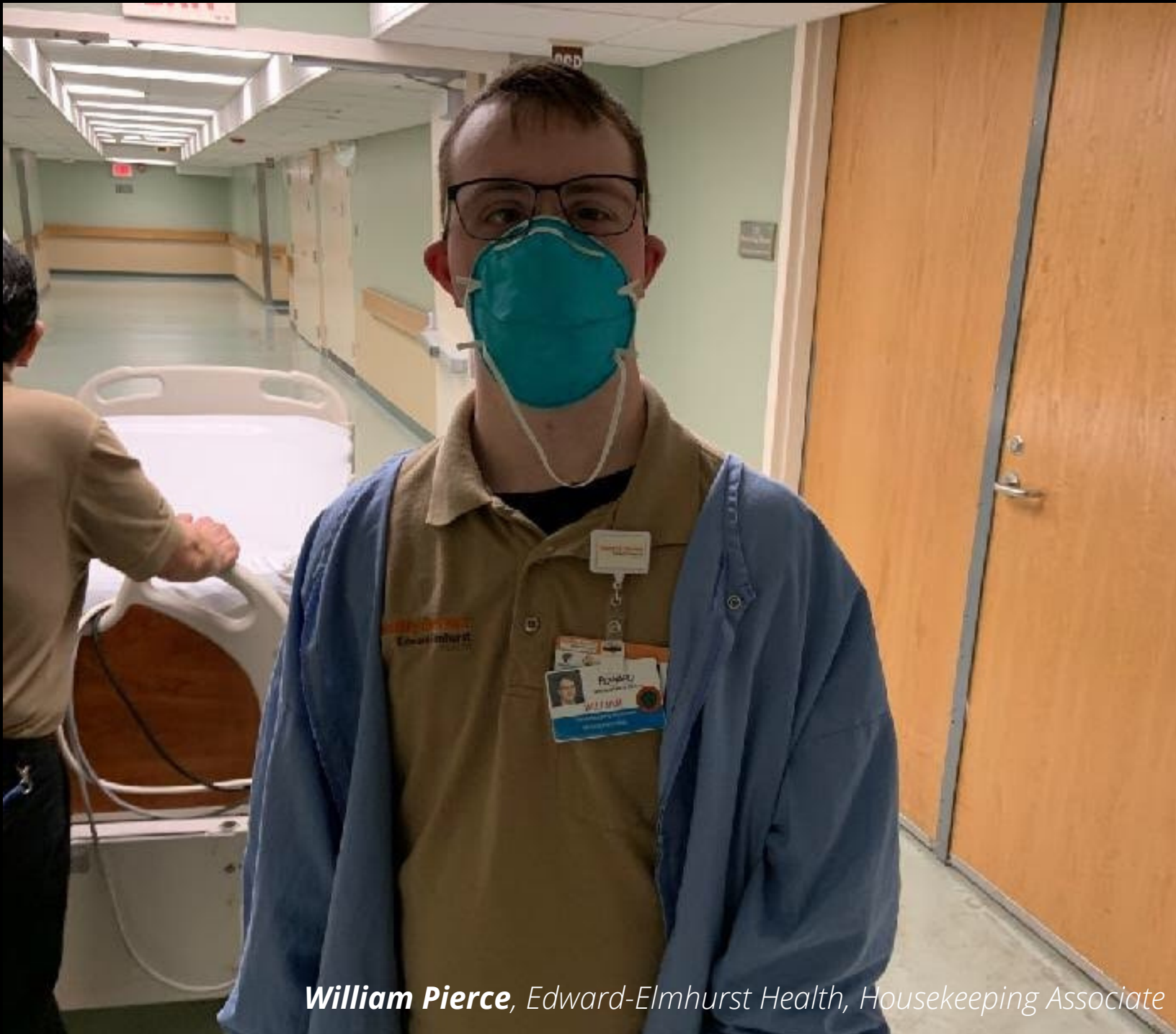


PAEP 2019-2020 Annual Report

PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT



William Pierce, Edward-Elmhurst Health, Housekeeping Associate

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

Welcome

Dear Friends,

At a time when uncertainty reigns due to COVID-19, we are pleased to share that the overall headline of Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP) is both a positive and successful one. In the last two years, PAEP has experienced great accomplishments and tremendous growth including:

- Increased revenue by 52%
- Expanded services into 4 additional county areas
- Partnered with over 100 new businesses to increase diversity and create job opportunities for people with disabilities
- Placed over 180 individuals with disabilities into sustained, meaningful employment

Amid the disruption of COVID-19, we quickly realized that, now more than ever- our people need us. They need their jobs, they need support, they need connection. Each day brought new challenges and pressures on the operations of PAEP as we worked tirelessly to implement virtual trainings, provide resources and plan for the unknown. The leaders and staff of PAEP have risen to the challenge with compassion, resilience and integrity.

In the following report, you will find the incredible impact that the services of PAEP has had on individuals with disabilities, but what we really hope you see is the impact that the individuals have on us. In our roles, we are constantly reminded that it is the people we help who teach us the most valuable lessons: perseverance and hope in the face of crisis.

Stay Inspired,

Kristen A. Sheffield
Executive Director

Gina Strafford-Ahmed
PAEP Board Chair

Board of Directors

Gina Strafford-Ahmed

Board Chairperson

Dupage County Human Services

Bryan Gay

Vice-Chairperson

Invest Aurora

Laura Myers

Secretary

Myers Disability Law

Sylvia Torres

Treasurer

BMO Harris Bank

Alex Beck, Aramark

Kevin Bradley, Zebra Technologies

Rosalie Scrivo, Parent Representative

Over **200** individuals were referred to PAEP through these funding sources: Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation Services (52%), Government Grants/Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (22%), Local High School District Partnerships (22%), and Non-Government Grants and Donations (4%)



More Than Just Jobs



Alfredo Montenez

CAPABILITIES:

PAEP offers job training opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn and acquire worksite skills, build stamina, and increase confidence.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT:

PAEP builds a supportive network of dedicated and qualified job candidates to meet the hiring needs of employers.



Andrew Mulholland



Shaanze Bhurghi

DIVERSITY:

PAEP values and promotes community diversity, equality, and inclusion as essential to our mission.

“....they always made my daughter feel good about herself and her work. Always patient and positive. Simply the best!”

A Year of Perseverance

In a time of uncertainty, Parents Alliance Employment Project participants continued to display their dedication and commitment to their essential employers



Dana Struebing @ Wyndemere



Dimitri Nguyen @ UFC Gym



Nanwei Li @ Zebra Technologies

VIRTUAL Job Readiness training becomes a lifeline



Inspired By Ability



Project SEARCH Delnor

Meet Billy, a behind the scenes hero!

In the midst of these challenging times, we admire our healthcare professionals and first responders. However, behind the scenes there is also a team on the front-lines whose work is crucial in helping keep these professionals safe. The environmental services team ensures a sanitized and safe place for everyone to operate. Working full-time at Edwards Hospital, Billy has continued to work tirelessly to clean and sanitize rooms and equipment during this pandemic. Geared up in PPE to deliver the best quality of work, Billy's upbeat personality keeps staff and patients at ease and encouraged while he keeps up with the world. We are so proud of you, Billy. Thank you for your selfless service!



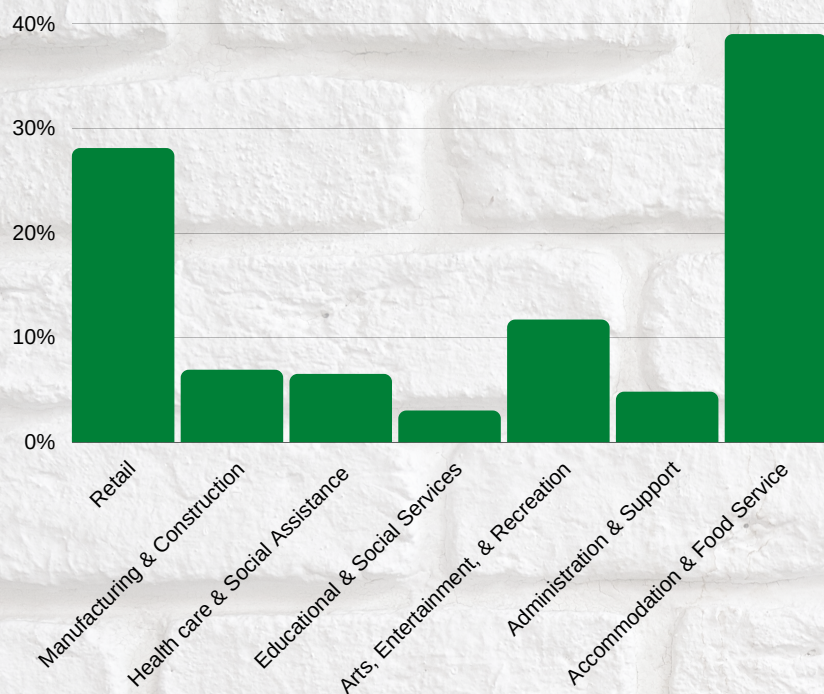
“

MY *ABILITY* IS STRONGER THAN MY *DISABILITY*

”

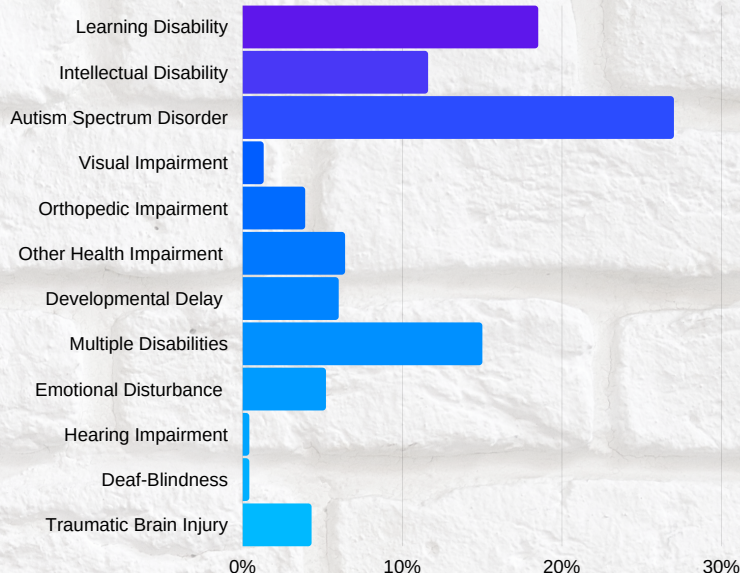
Impact & Growth in 2019-2020

FY 2019-2020 OUTCOMES



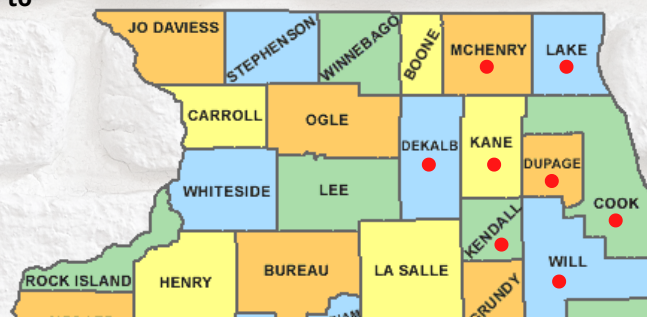
Over **85** individuals placed into competitive employment!

Disabilities Served



As the need for employment services for people with disabilities continues to grow, PAEP continues growth beyond it's DuPage County grassroots. Now proudly providing services to individuals in the following counties:

DuPage
DeKalb
Kane
Kendall
Lake
McHenry
Cook
Will



Northwestern Medicine has partnered with Parents Alliance Employment Project for a third time to bring Project SEARCH to McHenry County! In total, Northwestern Medicine has partnered with PAEP to bring Project SEARCH to three of their hospitals: Central DuPage Hospital in 2014, Delnor Hospital in Geneva in 2016, and Woodstock Hospital in Woodstock in 2020. Program start-up efforts began early fall of 2019 where all partners came together: Northwestern Medicine, Parents Alliance Employment Project, McHenry County College, The Illinois Department of Human Services: Division of Rehabilitation Services, and The McHenry County Workforce Network. With full support from the leadership of Woodstock Hospital's President, Matt Carlen, and Human Resources Business Partner, Anne Haslinger, PAEP has been able to secure ten internship opportunities for eight participants in Woodstock's inaugural year. As a result of the program, individuals with disabilities will gain work skills that will lead to gainful employment. As the program continues to grow, Matt Carlen has suggested that expanding to other NM Facilities within McHenry County could provide more opportunities for diversity and inclusion. As Lead Employability Instructor, Sarah Basit and Employment Specialist, Shannon Ciezadlo represent PAEP, they are committed to bringing a high quality of services to the McHenry county area and inspiring local businesses to hire more people with disabilities!



PAEP is CARF accredited for its Employment Services: Community Employment Services in Job Development, Job Support, and Job Site Training Programs.
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302 ~ Lisle, IL 60532 ~ 630/ 955.2075 ~ www.parents-alliance.org

