

Annual Report 2022



Providing an innovative approach to services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities focused on independent living.



**Direct
Services**



**Affordable
Housing**



**Learning
Opportunities**

Serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who wish to live self-directed, independent lives.

Letter from the Executive Director

I am pleased to share this annual report with you as we take a moment to reflect and celebrate the past year.

2022 was filled with opportunities, new friends, and future planning. It was a year of preparation as we anticipate the opening of two new locations over the next eighteen months.

The North End Project in Carmel, offering an integrated housing community, continues to develop and we look forward to opening the doors on 40 new affordable apartments specific to adults with disabilities later this summer. Internal demolition on the Brunette Apartments building, our second location in Lawrence, is now complete. Although we have experienced some unexpected delays, plans are underway to create 38 apartments with completion slated in 2024.

We have welcomed many new faces to the Merici family, both staff and people we support. As we grow, I continue to be amazed by the quality of our staff and the beauty they reflect in the community.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. We invite you to keep in touch, watch the progress, and know that you play a role in transforming lives.

With gratitude for your continued support,

Colleen Renie

Colleen Renie
Executive Director



Leadership

BOARD MEMBERS

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Jeffrey Yu
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Nancy Buxser

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Deborah Whitfield
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DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Kristy Hayes

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Karyl Davis

COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR

Katie Blodgett

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Gracie Mulholland



VINCENT

"I am Vincent. I live in my own house on the southside of Indianapolis. I enjoy hanging out in my apartment watching television and making pizza, my favorite food. I have two jobs, working part-time at McDonald's and Meijer. Through the support of my four coaches, I am able to go out and enjoy things, learn some things and have become better at cooking for myself."



COLLEEN

"I look forward to living on my own someday. I like having a lot of privacy which I don't always have living with my family. I like to make my own decisions and learning from them. I would like to live on my own and hope to live at Merici Village Apartments in the future."



NICK

"I enjoy living on my own, watching TV, and spending time with my friend. Over the last year I learned how to budget my money and cook my favorite food, steak. I have four coaches that help me to be less stressful. I like helping others when I have time. I enjoy working at Goodwill and look forward to learning more things this year."



COLIN

Colin's coach, Jill shares her insights:

"Colin likes to learn new things. He works hard at achieving new skills and is proud of his accomplishments. Over the last year, he has learned a lot about meal preparation and cooking, how to use his phone, and understanding personal safety. Colin enjoys spending time at Merici Village where he practices his cooking skills, plays games with friends, participates in music therapy, and listens to music. Colin really likes to help people in the community and is a weekly volunteer at a local food pantry."



The *Cincy* Hat Project

A wonderful year-end surprise!

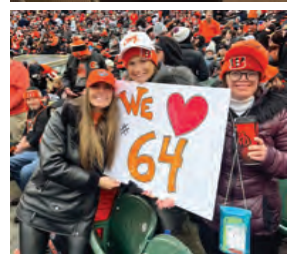
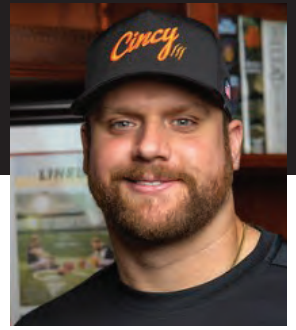
Ted Karras, NFL Center for the Cincinnati Bengals, and long-time friend of the Village of Merici came up with an amazing way to support our mission. Ted signed a four-year contract with the Bengals last year. He wanted to come up with a gift that he could give to his new teammates. In an effort to gain friendships and build comradery among the players, he designed a baseball-style hat with the word "Cincy" and began to share them one-by-one. Soon local sports reporters were asking players about the hats, having never seen the Cincy design before. The unique hats began to get noticed and requests for the hats grew, even garnering national attention. Ted decided to produce a larger quantity of hats and make them available to the public with all proceeds going to support Village of Merici.

Ted wore a Cincy hat with every interview and talked up the project throughout the season. Village of Merici became command central and handled the fulfillment for all orders, shipping hats to every state in the nation and to a few countries overseas. Within ten weeks, over 6,100 hats were sold!

Our thanks to everyone who purchased hats and volunteered to help fill the orders. It literally took a Village to keep pace with the fulfillment process.

For more information about this project or to purchase a hat. <https://thecincyhat.com/>

Thanks, Ted Karras for making this possible!



New Website

In preparation of the upcoming growth, we created a new website in 2022. This site is a good representation of Village of Merici today and will serve us well as we transition into the future. www.villageofmerici.org

Want to get more involved?

Merici City Rides – Drivers Needed

One of the greatest obstacles faced by adults with disabilities is not being able to drive. Not having transportation significantly limits one's ability to integrate into the community, leaving a large percentage of individuals feeling isolated and lonely. Consider giving of your time today to be a volunteer driver.

- Easy curbside pick-up and drop off
- One-way or round-trip options
- Flexibility – volunteer a little or a lot, whatever fits your schedule

Drivers needed in Lawrence and Carmel.

More information or to sign up: <https://villageofmerici.org/volunteer-merici-city-rides/>

Number of miles our volunteer drivers drove in 2022: 20,176

Looking for Volunteers

Want to make a difference in someone's life? We have lots of opportunities:

- Book Club moderator
- Help with events
- Teach a class or share your talent
- Lead a cooking training
- Share your knowledge of the Carmel area

Sign up: <https://villageofmerici.org/sign-up-to-volunteer/>

Volunteers are needed in Lawrence and Carmel.

Thank you so much!

In Loving Memory

Over the last few months, we have lost two individuals within the Merici family. Both of these men were happy, outgoing individuals who embraced life with a smile and big personalities.

PJ Sylvester, had the ability to make anyone laugh and enjoyed the art of being funny. At times when he didn't know what to say or how to answer a question, he would sum up his opinions with a look, typically a scrunched up funny face, just to get a reaction. PJ enjoyed talking with people and had the ability to connect briefly, then move on with his day. Not one for idle chatter, he made it a point to acknowledge every person and move on to the next thing on his agenda.



PJ

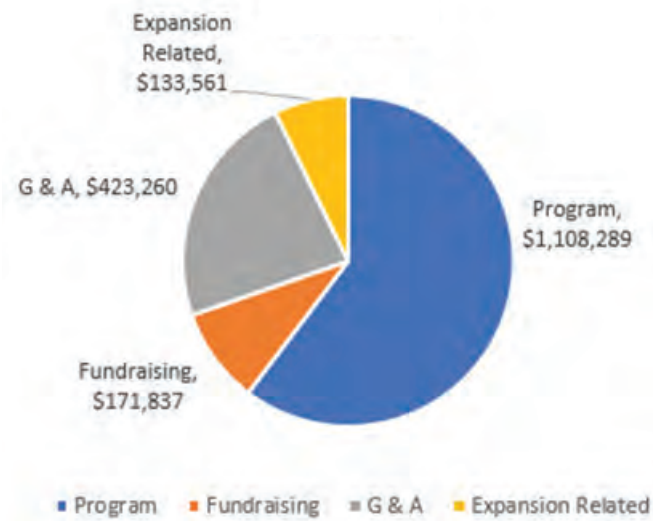
Nick Herron, was a learner and a doer. Nick loved knowledge and enjoyed sharing his thoughts on a variety of subjects. Always an easy conversationalist, he had the ability to strike up a dialogue with anyone, making friends wherever he went. Nick had friends all over the city through his involvement with various civic groups, store employees where he frequently shopped, his church community, and more recently was selected to the Governor's Council on Disabilities for the state, a position he was very proud to hold. Nick had a way of taking a genuine interest in those around him.



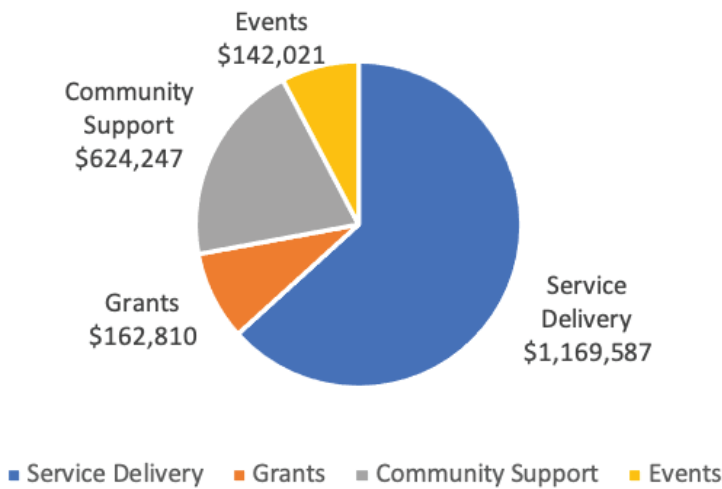
Nick

We are grateful for the laughter and warmth they brought to the Merici family.

Expenses



Income



Making A Difference

- Number of individuals that received direct support = 80
- Number of one-on-one, direct support hours = 41,451
- Number of miles driven by coaches in support of individuals throughout Indianapolis = 99,336

2022 Donor Roster

Gifts of \$50,000 - Up

Dorsey Foundation Inc
Ted and Rachel Karras

Gifts of \$25,000 - \$49,999

Don and Kathy Dunbar
David and Karen McDowell
Dallas Mulvaney

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Michael and Jhani Sample
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Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Gifts of 100 - \$499

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Remona Cowser
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Jody Davis
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Judith Hiatt
Cynthia Hill
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 Will Barnhouse
 Gerrett Bates
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 Triton Brewery
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 Clay Wagner
 Mary Walker
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 Michelle Ward
 Cliff Watson
 Timothy White and
 Kathleen McDonald White
 Tom Wilson
 Alan Yamagata
 Emma Yardley
 Theresa Yee
 Joyce Yost
 Matthew Zimmerman

Spotlight on Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is at a crisis for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Indiana and particularly in the Indianapolis area. Funding for development of independent living apartments or homes is limited and rent rates are reaching record high levels. Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are typically below 30% of the area median income levels which keeps them at extreme poverty levels with income levels below \$15,000 annually. At Village of Merici we are committed to partnering with developers to offer low-income housing so adults with IDD have the same opportunities as others to live in the community. It takes donors and grantors to help make independent living a reality.

Coming Soon!



Carmel location set to open:

Great progress is being made on the North End build, a partnership between Old Town Companies and Village of Merici. This integrated community in Carmel, a mix of differing housing options, will offer 40 apartments for adults with disabilities, creating the first affordable housing in Carmel.

Due to the extreme need, there is a long list of applicants, far surpassing the 40 units. The occupancy waiting list for this location is now closed. Doors will open on this new community mid-summer.

Opening in 2024:



Lawrence location:

The second location in Lawrence, Brunette Apartments, is also moving forward. The internal demolition is now complete. After a slow building compliance process through the Department of Natural Resources who maintains oversight of all the historic buildings on Lawton Loop, we plan to get underway with the renovation to the building as soon as possible. This building, which once housed two companies of military personnel, will be transformed into 38 affordable apartments for adults with disabilities.

There are currently over 200 individuals on the waiting list for this building which will be completed in 2024.

We're Hiring!

Be A Life Skills Coach

With all of the upcoming growth, we are hiring. We are looking for passionate and dedicated people who want to make an impact working with adults with disabilities. We offer part-time and full-time opportunities, with a flexible schedule. Starting wages \$15-\$18 per hour.

More information can be found at <https://villageofmerici.org/employment/> or call (317) 929-9408.



Follow along!



villageofmerici



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Donate



Village of Merici

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Indianapolis IN 46216

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Email: colleenrenie@villageofmerici.org