Opportunities for Independence

Annual Report

2018

Victoria and Ryan at LIFEDesigns Picnic

Check out our new look!

LIFEdesigns
Opportunities for Independence

Thanks to Ivy Tech student Alexis Price for designing the new logo.

Our mission is to partner with and promote independence for people with disabilities.
Welcome to LIFE Designs

The close of each year provides us all with the opportunity to review our successes, consider the challenges ahead, and express appreciation. LIFE Designs is home to a group of individuals who care about, support, and teach each other—staff, clients, volunteers, and community supporters. Every day a group of committed professionals help our clients achieve their goals and through that work improve our community.

My first full year as Chief Executive Officer was a year of challenges, successes, and change. Just a few examples:

• Challenge of growing our Direct Support staff numbers
• Significant growth of our employment program
• Many remodeling projects to improve our group homes
• New fundraising successes (i.e. Golf Scramble)

We look forward to continuing our successes of the past while we work to achieve new success for our clients and our agency. Watch for these upcoming opportunities:

• Increased name recognition and community presence
• LIFE Designs Ambassadors
• New and expanded fundraising events (5K and more!)

THANK YOU to our volunteer Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, interns, business and individual supporters, our clients and our staff. You are responsible for our success in 2018 and in the future!
Event Donations:
The Sweet Life (Osmon Chiropractic Center) $250
Sunburnt Catfish & Topshelf (Player’s Pub & Topshelf Band) $174
A Taste of Romance (Bell Trace Senior Living Center) $650
We Paint…the Jazz! (Bloomington Watercolor Society) $300
Roaring 20’s Murder Mystery (Mid by Midwest Productions) $1,285
Total Event Donations $2659

King of Cakes Sponsor ($10,000+)
• Bloomington Moose Lodge

Chocolatier ($5000+)
• Lamar Advertising Company
• Oliver Winery
• Baugh Fine Print & Mailing
• Bloomington Watercolor Society
• Gallery Mortgage Group
• nimboIP
• Bloomington Chocolate Company

Special Thanks to Kaytee Lorentzen Photography for volunteering for all Week of Chocolate photos!
2018 Art of Chocolate Net Total—$29,638

The Heritage Hall Ramblers played Dixieland jazz.

Artist Kurt Larsen painting chocolate on model Niki Irving

2018 Chefs
Night & Day
Sugar & Spice
Diamond K Sweets
Bloomington Chocolate Company
Sugar Daddy’s Cakes and Catering

Chocolate desserts by Sugar & Spice chef Ashley Massie

Our clients Jewel, Chris, and Jennifer sold their artwork at the event.
Golf Scramble

Our golf committee made up of Tim Hightower, Troy Whittington, and Terry Patterson really made this a great fundraising event!

Thanks to our $500 + Sponsors:

- Cook Medical
- Wooden McLaughlin, LLP
- German American Bank
- Old National Bank
- JA Benefits
- BKD CPAs & Advisors
- Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington

Thanks to 33 other businesses who supported this event.

Golfers from the scramble, and Jake May who sang the National Anthem

Net Total Raised

$9,590!
LIFE Designs Murder Mystery Events

In 2018, we started a new Murder Mystery partnership! Two events were held in 2018, and generated just over $2,000. We hope to grow these events next year!

Murder Mystery Partners:
• Mid by Midwest Productions
• Bell Trace Senior Living
• Switchyard Brewing Company

Left to right: "Clementine Rose" (the murderer) and Josh Johnson of Mid by Midwest Productions
Grants

Baxter International Foundation—$76,752 over 2 years

This grant allowed us to hire a Community Engagement Coordinator to develop the volunteer mentor program and serve as a resource to help our clients get connected with the community. We developed the LIFEMentor Program which seeks to match community members as mentors to LIFEDesigns clients to support them in making healthy lifestyle choices, community integration, and improving social and emotional health.

"Being with Joanie has been an incredible experience. Her positive outlook on life is truly something that should be admired. Her passion is readily apparent as she talks about her hobbies and interests with a big smile on her face. I always feel like our time together flies by because we get caught up in lengthy discussions about books, musicals, or new movies (of which her knowledge is far greater than mine!)."

~ Jessaca (Mentor Volunteer)

Bloomington CDBG—$11,926

The City of Bloomington made it possible to remodel the kitchen in the Winslow Group Home. The grant provided new counter tops, cabinets, sink, flooring, and improvements to the plumbing.
LIFE Designs held an Employment First community workshop series in partnership with the Columbus Chamber. Provided two new bicycles and two new adult tricycles—to promote wellness, exercise, and bicycle safety by starting a bicycle share program at LIFE Designs.

Purchased a commercial washing machine for our Highland Group Home. Over time, we hope to change all similar appliances in all of our homes to commercial grade. This will save money by increasing the durability of the equipment.

**Bloomington Bicycle Club**—$2,000
Provided two new bicycles and two new adult tricycles—to promote wellness, exercise, and bicycle safety by starting a bicycle share program at LIFE Designs.

**Owen County Community Foundation**—$2500
OCCF helped to replace the flooring in our Jefferson group home. This made it easier for residents of the home to use mobility devices in the home.

**Coros ADA**—$803
LIFE Designs held an Employment First community workshop series in partnership with the Columbus Chamber.

**Bloomington Board of Realtors**—$500
Purchased a commercial washing machine for our Highland Group Home. Over time, we hope to change all similar appliances in all of our homes to commercial grade. This will save money by increasing the durability of the equipment.
Gifts

$10,000+
Baxter International Foundation
Bloomington Moose Lodge
City of Bloomington
Lamar Advertising Company
United Way of Bartholomew County
United Way of Monroe County

$5,000+
Baugh Fine Print & Mailing

$2,500+
Centra Credit Union
Brady & Casey Mullis
Glen & Robin Hendershot
Owen County Community Foundation
Oliver Winery

Premium & Exotic Wholesale
Ed & Jan Ryan
Jon Tichenor
Tim Tichenor
Becky Wann

$1000+
Adventure Media, Inc.
Bloomington Bicycle Club
John Briles
Russell Bonanno
Community Ford Lincoln
Linda Flanders
German American Bancorp
Jim & Joyce Grandorf
Tim & Christina Hightower
IU Credit Union
Ivy Tech Community College
Mid by Midwest Productions
Old National Bank

Brian & Ann O'Neill
Terry & Dixie Patterson
Deb & Jamie Prenkert
Vickie Renfrow
Vonnie Renfrow
John & Suzi Rinne
Emily Rosolowski & Jason Kasza
Bob Salzarulo & Terri Porter
Spirit 95/WDCK/WCLS
Sharon Taylor
Tim Tresslar & Young Ae
Wooden McLaughlin, LLP

There were 363 more donors with gifts of less than $1000 and those who wish not to be publicly acknowledged.

We Thank You
Another way to support community-based services for individuals with disabilities is by pledging a monthly donation. Ongoing monthly donations provide us with a consistency in our revenue that assists in improving client services and direct support staff compensation.

We thank the following donors for pledging to monthly gifts through 2019:

Emily Rosolowski  
Vonnie Renfrow  
David Sonneborn  
AND 94 Employees!

Your sustaining donations give life enriching opportunities to people with disabilities.
Our Programs

At the heart of our mission our programs and direct support employees are the key to making a positive impact in people’s lives.

Because we had a positive net revenue, we were able to provide our employees with an end of the year bonus. *This goes a long way to retaining quality employees and providing more consistency in our clients' lives.*
Meet Ryan. He has Autism. His dream is to be like his older brother. He wants to move out of his family home, get a dalmatian and name him "Timmy", learn more about careers, and find love and have a family of his own.

Ryan recently celebrated 3 years working at AMC, is on the special Olympics bowling team, and has an extensive movie collection! We continue to help him plan HIS future!

Community Living
Supported Living, Group Homes & Respite

Our community living programs provide staff supports to teach people life skills, employment skills, and social skills.

Supported Living
Supported living gives people more opportunity to make choices in their life like: where to live, who they want to live with, and what their daily schedule looks like.
Group Homes

We have 5 group homes where services are designed to maximize our clients’ abilities.

Denny lives in our Highland Group home and attends our education day program, and works 3 days a week. He enjoys motorcycles, old cars & trucks, and Harley Davidson. What Denny wants more than anything is to save up enough money to buy a Harley jacket.

Our staff have supported Denny to explore new interests and activities, have a job, and learn how to care for himself. Denny loves sports and follows the Reds, Yankees, Red Sox, and Bears. He also has an old record player and extensive collection of records.

Pictured above: Our Highland group home. We built this group home so that each resident would have their own private bedroom and bathroom.
Respite
We provide staff supports to people whose family provides the majority of their care. This gives the family a break, while we focus on teaching the person about their community.

Meet Grant. He was born with a disability that affects his sight and movement. He was told he would never walk or talk. By 11 years old, Grant has learned to feed himself, walks with minimal assistance, and participates in many activities. His two favorite activities are horseback riding and swimming.

"Ellen (LIFEDesigns DSP) has been a major part of Grant's development over the years. She arranged for swimming lessons for Grant and each week takes him into the community to learn how to navigate various kinds of places." ~ Grant's parents
Support Services

Behavior Support, Assistive Technology & Wellness

Optional support services to clients in our community living program. These supports promote overall health, social skills, and independence.

Behavior Support

We offer behavior support to help understand, manage, and support challenging behaviors. Behaviors can affect social activities, work, and emotional health. These supports provide strategies to the client and people supporting the individual to develop appropriate skills and behavior.

"Working with Maria helps me get through challenging situations, like planning things and stuff for my job."
~ Jake
Wellness
We have four nurses on staff who performed 1601 health assessments, and act as a resource for all our staff. Wellness coordination extends beyond services provided through routine doctor visits. Clients receive face to face visits and a head to toe assessment of health and vitals with our nurses each month.

Assistive Technology
"Night Owl Security" allows people to live more independently, by giving them more time without staff. Motion sensors, a bracelet with a button, and smoke detectors alert staff immediately if help is needed.

"Jennifer enjoys not having staff with her, and we have a peace of mind." ~ Jennifer's parents

Wellness
We have four nurses on staff who performed 1601 health assessments, and act as a resource for all our staff. Wellness coordination extends beyond services provided through routine doctor visits. Clients receive face to face visits and a head to toe assessment of health and vitals with our nurses each month.

People Supported
Assistive Technology
10
Wellness
63
Community Services

**Education**

Our daytime adult education program "LECO" or Life Enrichment Community Opportunities gives people the chance to practice doing things in the community as they learn employment skills, life skills, and social skills.

On **“Flex Fridays”**, we break our clients and staff in small groups of 3-4, and clients decide where to go and what to learn about in the community for that day.

This has allowed more enriching activities to happen. In the future we plan to add more "flex" days to our programming each week.

- **29 People Attended**
Our Employment services provide individualized support for anything that someone might need related to seeking or keeping employment. We worked with 60 businesses who employed clients in 2018! Our team in Columbus has added 2 new positions, expanding our capacity to serve more clients. Additionally we have started working with transition age youth in Brown County, Edgewood, and Owen Valley school systems.

167 People Supported

Meet Jason. He loves hunting, fishing, and looking for mushrooms. He enjoys cooking his own meals, and loves exercise. He hopes to someday have a family of his own.

Jason was in a car accident when he was 15 and experienced traumatic brain injury.

After the accident, he had permanent changes in memory, attention, impulsivity, depression, and anxiety. With our staff supports, he has been able to keep his job at Texas Road House for 3 years.
Housing

We recognize the importance of affordable housing for our clients. We own 84 affordable housing units that are available to our clients and other members of the community who meet federally-defined income requirements.

A single mom working and going to college, Julie feels fortunate that she has a home in Housing Options. She is happy that her daughter has experienced some security and consistency. Her daughter has met people with disabilities, and shares what she’s learned with her little sister—"to treat everyone with respect".
Community Engagement

We promote community integration for people with disabilities in many ways. Some of the things we offer are volunteer and internship opportunities, training for community members, community events, and a mentor volunteer program.

4180 Volunteer Hours
50 Students Involved
100 Volunteers

LIFEMentor Program

2018 was the first year for the program, and already has successful and ongoing matches! We hope to continue expanding the program in the future.

Student Involvement

- Service Learning—3 partnerships
- Clubs & Organizations—3 partnerships
- Internships—9 Interns hosted

Community Trainings Offered

- Adult, child, and infant CPR & First Aid
- Disability awareness training
- Crisis prevention training
Looking Ahead

We're moving into a new strategic planning year cycle. In 2019, we'll be gathering feedback from our key stakeholders including clients, family members, donors, volunteers, employees, board members, ambassadors, and community members. We hope you'll help shape the future of our programs by watching for surveys throughout the year. Here are some key focus areas we've identified:

- **Growth in fundraising**
  We hope to engage a greater cross-section of the community in our fundraising efforts and grow our endowment.

- **Staff development**
  We hope to achieve growth and increased retention of our direct support staff with improved training and compensation.

- **LIFEMentor program**
  We've seen great success in this program in giving clients opportunities to develop relationships with community members rather than just with paid staff.

- **Increase name recognition**
  We want more people in the community to recognize LIFE Designs by our name and connect our mission to our name.

- **Board development**
  We hope to continue to build involvement of the community as members of our board of directors or various committee members.
# Our Financial Summary

## Endowed Funds
- Heritage Fund: $23,198
- Brown Co. Community Foundation: $13,129
- Comm. Foundation Bloomington & Monroe Co.: $88,801
- Board Designated: $481,890
- **Total**: $607,018

## Memorial Funds
- Brian Roedl Memorial: $532
- Robert D. Southern Memorial: $20,023
- Shrake Memorial: $3,789
- Sophia Travis Memorial: $363
- Vern Smith Memorial: $23,613
- William A. Cook Memorial: $33,631

## 2018 Total Revenue—$11,816,294

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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>County Funding</td>
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## 2018 Total Expenses—$11,460,263

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<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
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## 2018 Net Total—$628,013
We encourage our clients to volunteer in their community. Jake loves volunteering at WonderLab.

LIFEDesigns Ambassadors 2019

With state funding for disability services failing to keep pace with the increase in service costs, fundraising is essential to continue and improve the services we are able to provide our clients. We are thankful for all our supporters, and want to give special recognition to the LIFEDesigns Ambassadors. Formed at the end of 2018, the group works throughout the year to educate others about our mission and the benefits of community integration to our clients and to the entire community. The Charter LIFEDesigns Ambassadors are:

Tim & Christina Hightower  
Rick & Mona Mellinger  
Brady & Casey Mullis  
Brian & Ann O’Neill  
Emily Rosolowski & Jason Kasza  
Vickie Renfrow  
Ed & Jan Ryan  
Bob Salzarulo & Terri Porter  
Becky Wann
Our 2019 Board of Directors

Tim Hightower, Chair  
Edward Ryan, Treasurer  
Terry Patterson, Secretary  
Sarah Burgess, Immediate Past Chair  
Jake May  
Aaron Smith  
Sharon Taylor  
Troy Whittington

Donate
Promote independence for people with disabilities by giving them what they need most...staff supports.

• Start a monthly gift  
• Make a gift to our endowment  
• Sponsor or attend an event  
• Become a corporate partner  
• Email give@lifedesignsinc.org

Volunteer
Become a friend and role model to a LIFE Designs client in our LIFE Mentor program.

Member of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.

We’re a proud United Way Member Agency in Monroe and Bartholomew Counties

www.LIFEDesignsinc.org