



Northeast Independent Living Program Inc.

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Resilience Through Adversity

Annual Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Our Mission

The Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) is a consumer controlled Independent Living Center providing advocacy and services to people with all disabilities who wish to live independently in the community.

Our Philosophy

Independent Living philosophy states that individuals with disabilities are the best determinants of their own needs and service choices.

Through role modeling and peer counseling, with other individuals with disabilities, they become empowered to make changes in their lives and become more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

Our Vision

We are a community of people who open doors to create an all-inclusive community free of communication, attitudinal, economic and architectural barriers for all people with disabilities.



FY 2021 Board

President:
Chris McNeil

Vice President:
David Bradburn

Treasurer:
Lisa Visone

Clerk:
Jeff Wilson

Kevin Hatch

Allen Larkin

Mark Kelly

Sid Harris*

Eric Pearson

*served until
September 2020

David Ellingson



“Despite the challenges along the way, our staff, board, and consumers showed incredible resilience. We also want to sincerely thank our community partners for their collaboration to meet the needs of our shared consumers.”

Dear Friends of NILP,

Much like last year, 2021 was full of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the systemic inequities it worsened. The aging and disability communities were among the most affected. Our hardworking direct care staff answered the call. They went above and beyond for our consumers, connecting them to critical resources and tools to remain living safely and independently in the community, or get out of unsafe living situations.

As an agency, we successfully launched two new programs during the pandemic, Flex Services and Older Adult Peer Services, expanded our Youth Services Program, and completely converted our Personal Care Assistance program to Telehealth methods.

It has certainly been a period of rapid change at NILP and across the human services sector. For 9 years, our Board President, Chris McNeil, has been at the helm, guiding us through several significant transitions. As his Board leadership and successive terms come to an end this fall, I hope you will join me in thanking him for his dedication and decisive leadership.

With gratitude,

June Sauvageau
Chief Executive Officer



Older Adult Peer Services (OAPS)

began as pilot program with Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) in FY19. Due to its success, MVES renewed the contract. A change in the law allowed for peer services to be offered under the Medicaid Frail Elder Waiver allowing us to contract with more agencies. COVID-19 stormed in mid-March. We started the OAPS Program remotely and the program has flourished to date.

Participants



126 FY 21'



58 FY 20'



17 FY 19'

“NILP helps me with things I need to make my life easier at home. Everything they do builds my confidence.”

Building Confidence

Joanne, a Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist, met Kevin in February 2019 after receiving a referral from Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES). Kevin, who is in his mid-60's, needed help with budgeting, self-esteem and living a healthier lifestyle. On their first visit together, Kevin was jittery, pacing, and couldn't stay still for very long. Sometimes he would talk, other times there were long lapses with no conversation. However, over time, Kevin's walls started to come down. As Kevin and Joanne shared bits and pieces of their life stories with each other, they began developing a trusting relationship. Kevin talked about his past issues with substance abuse and his ongoing mental health struggles. He shared how he felt uncomfortable living with his family members who refused to talk to him due to his behavioral health issues. Once a week, Joanne visited Kevin and worked with him on his recovery. Kevin spoke about his deep feelings and painful memories, and Joanne often validated his feelings. Joanne taught Kevin techniques

and tools to help him focus on his strengths and often reminded him of his accomplishments. Gradually, Kevin's confidence grew. Kevin worked with Joanne on setting goals. To improve his budgeting skills, Kevin received assistance from a MVES volunteer. Kevin also decided he wanted to live on his own, so Joanne assisted him in applying for low-income housing. A few months later, Kevin got his own apartment. He has been living on his own now for over 1 year and feels a huge sense of accomplishment and purpose. Today, Kevin has a support system in place with a team of dedicated individuals by his side. He has a stronger sense of self and has become more confident with each passing day. Kevin is doing so well living independently and maintaining his recovery that Joanne has cut their visits down from once a week to every other week.

“I feel he is ready to cut our visits back even further to maybe once a month, but I will wait for him to come to that decision on his own.” —Joanne



Flex Services Program

successfully launched during COVID-19 in April 2020. We played a key role in disseminating information to consumers by providing Telehealth services. Referrals come from the Merrimack Valley Accountable Care Organization, and go to NILP for housing support and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore for nutrition support.

The program is a short-term intervention (approx. 2–3-month process) in which we help with immediate housing challenges. We provide consumers with a solid foundation to build upon and refer them to long-term services when needed.

We educate consumers about:

- Emergency housing services and their housing rights (i.e., eviction moratorium, tenant rights etc.);
- Retaining housing (i.e., assisted with things like pest control, purchasing ACs or humidifiers, home modifications up to \$500)
- Finding housing;
- Mediation with landlords to prevent eviction and homelessness;
- Referrals to other needed services.



Consumers received housing support.



Total members.

Preventing Homelessness

Roger, a 30-year-old single parent with two young children, was struggling to afford his rent and utility bills. As an unemployed veteran living with a disability, Roger's income was limited. Affording his \$1,871 a month lease, not including utilities, was a challenge, especially during a pandemic. Unfortunately, Roger fell behind over \$16K on his bills.

Feeling overwhelmed, Roger reached out to NILP for assistance. This was not easy for Roger. He did not feel comfortable asking for help and he was embarrassed to apply for benefits. However, after speaking with Rebecca in our Flex Services Program, he agreed to work with her on applications for the RAFT (rental assistance) program, fuel assistance and food stamps. Rebecca reached out to the Haverhill Community Action Council, and together, they collaborated to get Roger the benefits he needed, so his family did not become homeless.

They gathered the necessary documents and worked together to complete several applications. Several weeks later, Roger received wonderful news. He had been approved for over \$18,000 to help him pay back rent and utility bills, and the RAFT program covered his rent for an additional 3 months. Roger was also approved for \$500 a month in food stamps for his family of three. Shortly after, Roger was also hired full-time at a local company, and was able to move into a more affordable housing unit.

“ I could not have done it without all the support and understanding from NILP and the Haverhill Community Action Council. ”

This story is a powerful example of our local nonprofits working together to make sure those living with disabilities and their families do not fall through the cracks and become homeless.



COVID-19 Has Not Stopped Us!

Virtual Social Gatherings

Housing Workshops

Drivers Education

Peer Groups

Trainings

and more...



“NILP has helped us with connecting to important resources such as food pantries, has helped us to get and stay on low-income housing lists, and given us more information on getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”

“NILP made me aware of the RAFT program, which was instrumental in getting me through my move, and saved me financially during COVID-19 furlough and eventual lay-off. I was also given a gift card I used for my household.”

One consumers' path to transitioning out of a nursing home.



This process can take anywhere from a few months to a few years.

-  **10 Housing Applications**
-  **10 Community Agencies**
-  **15 Documents Needed**
-  **15 Appointments**
-  **14 Months Later—Discharge!**



602 Consumers received Long Term Support Services.



NILP's First Juneteenth Day of Service





Community Advocacy



American Disabilities Act (ADA) site surveys were completed for local municipalities.



Voting locations in Saugus & Lynn were surveyed for accessibility.



“ I am comfortable asking them about resources and to explain legislative issues regarding Independent Living. ”

“ NILP keeps in touch with me, takes their time to listen to me, and tells me what services I can receive. All the people that are involved with me at NILP are very respectful and caring. ”



“ NILP has helped me and my family with SSI, MassHealth, food stamps, and fuel assistance paperwork. They have also helped my family and I get on the low-income housing list. ”



The **Golf Tournament** brought in unrestricted funds for programs which helped fill gaps that government contracts do not cover.



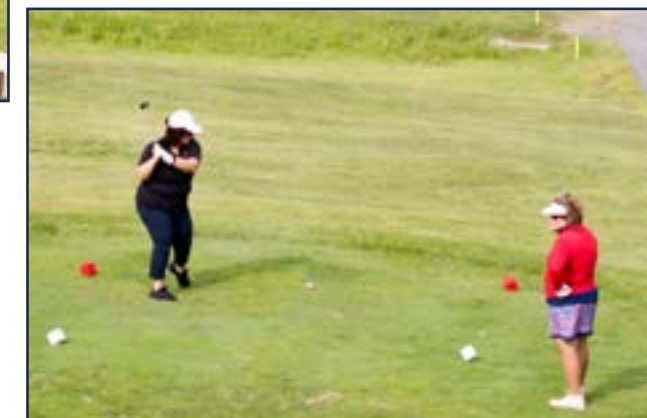
A Sponsor for every hole!



Golfers
Highest attendance in 4 years!



Sponsorships
\$14,550
Sponsorships



Over 2,000 people reached on Facebook.





Here's what our training participants have to say...

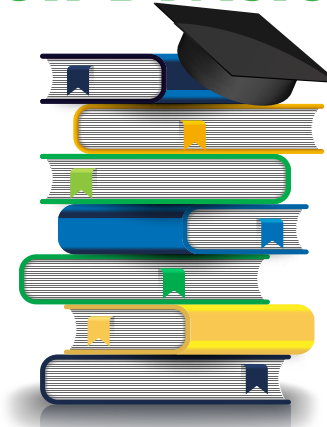


Education Division

Provided

30

training sessions



to



participants.



Pre-ETS Students Served

Services include:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work Readiness Training
- Work-Based Learning Experience Counseling on Post-Secondary Educational Programs
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy/ Mentoring



FY '21 Fundraising Highlights



Our **Annual Fund** nearly doubled from the prior fiscal year



We **raised \$35,881** at the **2021 Golf Tournament for Independence**.



We received **donations** from **49 organizations** in fiscal year 2021.



Individual **donations** **grew** by **26%** from the prior fiscal year.



The **average individual gift** to NILP was **\$113.59** in fiscal year 2021.



Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2021 & 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,600,829	\$1,603,073
Accounts Receivable	682,496	623,768
Prepaid Expenses	9,236	75,349
Property and Equipment — net	585,899	621,175
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,878,460	\$2,923,365
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$68,379	\$34,829
Accrued Expense	204,122	257,208
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	17,222	701,056
Long-Term Debt	335,762	351,245
Total Liabilities	\$625,485	\$1,344,338
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	—	—
Unrestricted	\$3,252,975	\$1,579,027
Designated by the Board for Operating Reserve	—	—
Total Net Assets	\$3,252,975	\$1,579,027
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,878,460	\$2,923,365

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements. Financials are in draft format and are subject to change**

Support Our Work



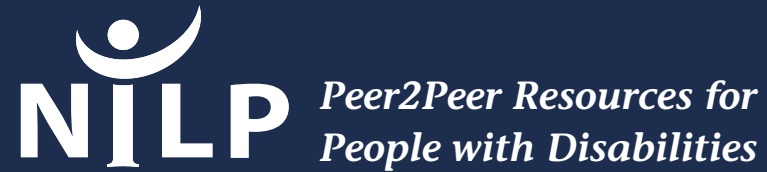
“After I was diagnosed with hearing loss in my right ear, I could not afford a hearing aid. My insurance does not cover hearing aids, so I had to go without them for over two years until I learned about this organization. I now have a hearing aid and it has drastically improved my quality of life!”

“NILP has helped me with resources I would have never known about otherwise. They’ve helped me have a voice and helped me to be more knowledgeable about my care, abilities, and assistance needs.”



Special Thanks to Our Supporters

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Adam and Christine Wise
Ad-Lib Inc.
Align Credit Union
Alyson Ferro
Andrew Mazze
Antoinette Jones
Appleby & Wyman
Arlene and Jamie Reiss
Asahi-America
Barrett Franklin
Bates Insurance
Bill Droege
Blue Bumble Creative
Boston Center for Independent Living
Bryan Gorham
Candice and Christian Pechilis
Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled
Carol Ann McNamara
Center for Living and Working
Charm Medical Supply
Chris Plant
Columbia Construction
Commonwealth Care Alliance
Community InRoads
Community Teamwork
Copper Door Restaurant
Corey Gelormini
Craig and Brittany Cowen
Cyndi Wood
Daniel and Breanna Costello | Dave and Julia Crawford
David and Gabriela Bradburn
David Trainor
Department of Mental Health
Dianne Crimmins
Disability Law Center
Disability Policy Consortium
Disability Resource Center
Easterseals Massachusetts
Elder Services of Merrimack Valley & North Shore
Elizabeth Scanzani
Emanio Creative
Enterprise Bank
Eric Madeiros
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Fidelity House CRC
Gary and Lynn Hale
Gary Martin
Gerard Boucher
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lynn Senior Services
Greater North Shore Link
Hair Life
Hannaford Supermarket
Hayley Lebert
Hegarty Family Chiropractic
Heidi McCormick
Hirsch Roberts Weinstein
Independence Associates | Indian Ridge Country Club
Jeffrey and Deborah Hirsch
Jeremy Ciaccia
Jim Greco
Jim Klimas
Joanne Eno
John Hancock
John Puleo
Jon Younger
Jonathan Couture
Jonathan Mendonsa
Joseph Couture
Joshua Liebow
June and Francis Sauvageau
Keric Kelly
Kevin Daley
Kevin Hatch
Kristyn Oliveira
Lawrence Industrial Parks Business Association
Lawrence Partnership
Lisa Crider
Lisa Sauvageau
Long Term Pharmacy Solutions
Lowell Housing Authority
Lynette McRae
Mark and Roxanne Kelly
Mark Conway and Mary Scatamacchia
Mark Dolan
Mary Chivers
Mary Margaret Moore
Massachusetts Office on Disability | Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council
MassHealth
Mathew Kane
McLarney & Company
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
Merrimack Valley Credit Union
MetroWest Center for Independent Living
Michael Tiberii
Minutemen Senior Services
MobilityWorks
Moore Staffing Services
Mystic Valley Elder Services
Nathan Corey
Nathan McEleney
National Council on Independent Living
N-Tek, Inc.
Olimpio DeMarco
Omni Digital Printers
Omo Specialties
Patrick and Sheila Hegarty
Patrick and Susan Grant
Paul and Jeannette Sullivan
Peter Blanchette
Phil Lemire
Resource Connection
Rich Novo and Rhonda Brown
Riverside Press | Rory Blinn
Scott Dube
Senior Care Inc.
SERVPRO of Lowell
Shaun Greenlaw
Southeast Center for Independent Living
Stavros
Stephen Albano
Stephen Guendner
Steven and Beverly Sauvageau
Tenuta Santo Pietro
Terence Hegarty
The Irish Cottage
The Savings Bank
Thomas McDermott
Timothy Hegarty
Timothy Sheflin
Tony Messana
Ultimate Glow
Union Office Interiors
UnitedHealthcare
UPS
Walmart
Wayne Franklin
Wayne Lord
Wesley Locke
William and Yolanda Harmuth
William Gozzo
Workday |
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