

Engaging & Transforming Our Work

20




NILP
Northeast
Independent
Living Program
Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022





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.

Dear Friends of NILP,

As we emerge from the challenges and changes within the human services field, I reflect on our organization's resiliency and continued growth. A true sense of appreciation for our diversity and the strength of our community, including our staff, Board of Directors, persons served, community partners, donors, and volunteers.

During the pandemic, as housing and nutrition challenges worsened, we responded quickly. NILP and AgeSpan (formerly Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley) have worked collaboratively for many years to provide Long-Term Services & Supports to enrolled members of health care organizations across the Commonwealth. Using our collective wisdom, we provided emergency assistance to our shared consumers through our Flex Services Nutrition and Housing Program. Today, the number of referrals to this program continues to increase, as do our staff.

Simply put, we can't do this work alone.

Although each of us engage with and transform our work in different ways, all of us contribute to making NILP the inclusive and impactful Independent Living Center and Recovery Learning Community that it is today. In the pages that follow, you'll read more examples of collaboration.

Thank you for supporting over 6,000 people with disabilities in the Merrimack Valley and beyond to live on their own in the community or become more independent while living with others.

With gratitude,



June Sauvageau
Chief Executive Officer



FY 2022 Board

President:
David Bradburn

Vice President:
Jeff Wilson

Kevin Hatch
Eric Pearson
Allen Larkin
Peter Blanchette
Gary Hale

Treasurer:
Lisa Visone

Clerk:
Mark Kelly

▶ Finding a Home

After getting surgery for frost bite, John had nowhere to go except a nursing home.

He was referred to NILP's **Flex Services** program. It took a while to build a strong rapport with John. In the past, he had experienced disappointments working with service providers.

Eventually, John began to trust. We worked with him filling out housing applications. He was hesitant to search for housing outside of his hometown because his support system was here. We explained that he would have a better chance of finding housing if he expanded his search.

Flex Services is a short-term intervention, so we transferred John to our **Community Supports** department. Ultimately, John's resistance to leaving his hometown finally began to subside. We explained the MFP Waiver Program and how it could benefit him. John decided to give it a chance.

The first apartment he turned down. We pressed on and encouraged him to keep applying. He agreed to enter a housing lottery in Lowell, and he won!

After touring the unit, John was speechless. The building and his unit were accessible to wheelchairs. John turned to our staff and said, **"yes, I will take the unit."**

It took multiple services and agencies working collaboratively to get John off the streets and out of the nursing home such as MassHealth, Mass Rehab Commission, and Community Teamwork. John was grateful for help with furniture, household goods, home health aide services, transportation etc.

After 12 years of homelessness, John finally has a beautiful apartment and his independence.



"After many months of diligent hard work, I am once again happy that another consumer experiencing homelessness finally has a place to call home."

“They have helped me in every way. I feel confident.”



954
consumers received
Community Supports services.

14
individuals
were prevented from
entering long-term care
facilities by providing
services & supports.



12
individuals
transitioned from
long-term care
facilities into their
own homes in the
community.



2,177

individuals received Information and Referral (I&R) services:



Benefits
(SSI, WIC, &
Welfare)



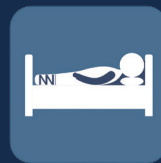
Health Care
(Masshealth &
Medicare)



Disability
Resources



Home
Modifications



Assistive
Devices/
Equipment



PCA



Transportation



Advocacy



Housing



Employment

▶ Healing Through Peer Support

For 11 years, Mandy has dedicated her life to providing peer support to people who've experienced trauma, addiction, and mental illness.

As a Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist, she has lived experience, and has received evidence-based training on how to effectively support people through difficult life challenges.

This training has given Mandy the tools she needs to support peers like Carl. Carl is a man in his late 60's who's been through unbelievable loss. He's dealt with several of his children passing away, childhood trauma, and surviving an abusive relationship with his spouse. It's understandable that Carl struggles with navigating stressful situations and has a tough time letting go of his anger.

Mandy and Carl have been meeting regularly, and it's been more beneficial than Mandy initially realized. When Carl requested to meet for an additional hour each week, Mandy was shocked. She assumed Carl didn't like her because he often directed his anger at her, but that was not the case.

Carl told his Case Manager he finds Mandy to be more helpful than his therapist because, **"Mandy listens and understands me better."** The trusting relationship they've developed is a great step forward in healing Carl's trauma.



"I love this work and I wouldn't do anything else different."

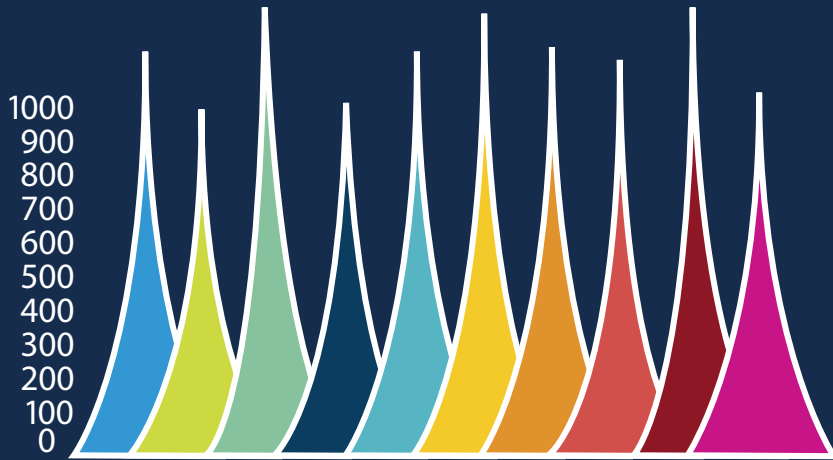


The Northeast



NERLC areas of focus include:

- **Addiction & Re-Entry**
- **Training**
- **Peer Support**
- **Older Adult Support**
- **Community Bridging**



Northeast Recovery Learning Community (NERLC) provided between 700–1,000 peer support groups, trainings, and events.

people received Older Adult Peer Services

“They have helped me through my addiction to alcohol and drugs.”

new referrals for Community Bridging Services (helps individuals transition out of mental health facilities and into the community).



Over **1950** readers of the NERLC newsletter.

▶ Bringing Community Together

Ten years ago, an NILP staff member connected her cousin Corey to our Annual Golf Tournament. Three friends joined him for an enjoyable golf outing. At the luncheon, they learned more about NILP's impact through videos and stories shared by our staff.

“This really resonated with us, and it led us to spread the word about the organization and the charity golf event to our friends and co-workers.”

Every year, Corey and his friends travel not only from towns across Massachusetts, but also from other states like Connecticut, and as far away as Wisconsin, to participate in this event. This year Corey was a ring-leader, growing their group to 5 teams (20 golfers!).

Their donations go a long way in helping people of all ages achieve their dreams. This group stretches their impact even further as many of them work for an employer with a matching gifts program. Thanks to their employer, their donations are doubled!

Each year, Corey and his friends look forward to this event, not only for the golfing, but for the interaction with the NILP team.

2012 Team (left), 2022 Team (below)



“It’s really gratifying to see the impact these donations have had on the lives of so many people in the community.”



Golf Tournament funds provide our consumers with resources & services not covered by our government contracts.

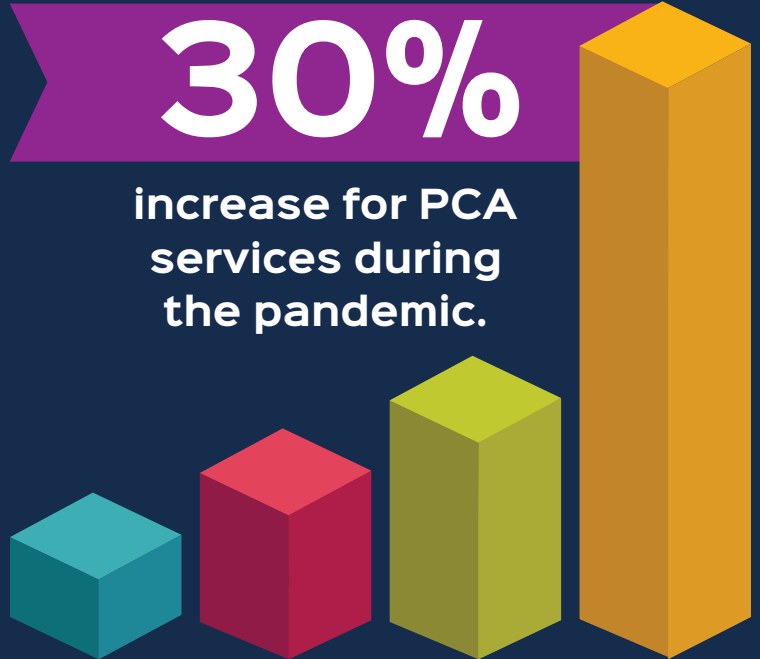
Over
\$45,000

The highest
grossing
tournament
to date.



30%

increase for PCA
services during
the pandemic.



**GOLFERS—the
highest attended
tournament
to date.**



**people received services
in their homes through
our Personal Care
Assistance (PCA)
program.**



Most participated contest:
MARSHMALLOW LONGEST DRIVE.
Winner hit his marshmallow 110 feet!

The Gift of Time

David learned about NILP over 10 years ago while serving on the North Andover Commission on Disabilities. Since then, he has supported us in countless ways.

Here's one example:

Just before Thanksgiving, David reached out asking about families in need. We identified a single parent with three young children with disabilities. David teamed up with his neighbors and they donated a turkey, a grocery store gift certificate, and toys. They personally delivered the gifts to the family.

This rewarding experience motivated him to do more at Christmas. He rallied his network and raised funds to support 5 families in need. They raised over \$600. Our consumers were given gift cards to allow them to shop for their own families.

David's actions inspired our staff. The next year we used proceeds from our Holiday Party Raffle to directly support consumers. We set a goal of \$500 and smashed it, raising over \$1,125! Combined with donations from the community, NILP provided 26 consumers with gift cards to assist them with food, gifts, and more.

Today, David serves as our Board President and Development Committee Chair. When he's not volunteering at NILP, he works at a company, which produces assistive technology for people who are blind or visually impaired. We're so grateful for amazing people like David!



“With NILP I love their mission. I admire their commitment to serving the needs of people with any disability, and I take pride in knowing that the organization is staffed by an amazing group of dedicated and caring individuals.”

Unrestricted donations cover unmet needs for our consumers, which may include things like moving expenses, assistive devices, transportation, meals, and recreational opportunities.



Staff & Board raised over \$1,000 and donors gave over \$3,000 to provide extra support for food & gifts.

Average individual gift size grew by 73%.



We quadrupled support to consumers and their families during the holidays!



32% increase in number of donors.



6,146 people served across NILP programs.

▶ Connecting Students to Opportunities

Melissa, a Special Education teacher at Whittier Tech, began working with our Youth Services Program when one of her students needed a Job Coach. Part of Melissa's job is to help students transition after high school. She assists students in finding jobs, applying to college, or figuring out Co-ops and internships.

NILP works with students, individually and in groups, to support them in different ways such as:

- Developing work readiness skills
- Increasing social and communication skills
- Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- Peer Support
- Building self-advocacy skills
- Developing and increasing basic independent living skills

Grants help pay for student internships, allowing more staff to support students with their transition goals. Melissa's passion ensures the collaboration stays strong. When Melissa is not working with students or connecting with NILP, she shows up in person and talks with the Hiring Managers.

Most recently, she secured Ruth's House and Tom's Discount Store as internship sites. Both sites provide quality positions that engage the students and help them grow professionally and personally.

Never did Melissa know she would end up in an eight-year relationship with NILP, and that the relationship would positively impact hundreds of students, Whittier Tech, NILP, and many other community organizations.



“You work all summer long and all year long. You’re one of the most engaged teachers I know and have the pleasure of working with. You’re also the most successful. Your passion shines through.”

Special Thanks to Our Partners

AdLib ILC
AgeSpan
Bernie & Phyl's
Boston Center for Independent Living
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled
Center for Living & Working
Commonwealth Care Alliance
Community InRoads
Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts
Disability Law Center
Disability Policy Consortium
Disability Resource Center
Easterseals Massachusetts
Essex County Community Foundation
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Gleason Library

Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lynn Senior Services
Greater North Shore Link
Independence Associates
Lawrence Industrial Parks Business Association
Lawrence Partnership
Lowell Telemedia Center
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Massachusetts Office on Disability
Merrimack Valley Accountable Care Organization
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
Methuen C.A.R.E.S.
MetroWest Center for Independent Living
Minutemen Senior Services
MVRTA

Mystic Valley Elder Services
National Council on Independent Living
Northern Essex Community College
Providers' Council
Recovery Cafe
Southeast Center for Independent Living
Stavros
Summer Place
Tempus Unlimited
Tewksbury Hospital
Thrive
Tufts Health Plan
UnitedHealthCare
Vinfen
Waystone Health & Human Services
Whittier Tech



Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council



Annual Corporate Partners Make a Difference

- Engage with the disability community.
- Be connected to our growing network of community partners and donors.
- Get discovered by over 15,000 visitors to our website and social media.

Participate in our Disability Training

- In 2021, only 19.1% of people with disabilities in the U.S. were employed.
- Reasonable accommodations are the responsibility of the employers and service providers.

Volunteer with our organization

- Join us at our Annual Golf Tournament.
- Help us get Raffles and Auction items for fundraising.
- Become a mentor to students in our Youth Services Program.
- Become an internship site.
- Create baskets for consumers and their families.

Thank you to our current partner for your loyal support!



**Enterprise
Bank**

Member FDIC



Why You're Needed



61 million adults in the U.S live with a disability.



40%

of people with disabilities experience low-quality housing, difficulty paying bills, unmet need for health care, or inadequate food.

Our Youth Program provides comprehensive services to students such as:

- Peer Support & Mentoring
- Self-Advocacy Skills
- Job Counseling
- Drivers Education



Massachusetts has one of the highest percentages of people with disabilities, ages 18-64, residing in nursing homes.

We help people move out of or avoid entering nursing homes.



Of the students in the U.S. almost **10%** of them have a disability.



- Connecting people to resources
- Helping teens prepare for the workforce
- Supporting people with mental health challenges to heal

Change through Connections



Fundraising Revenue more than doubled from prior fiscal year



NILP partnered with **39** schools and served **235** students.



At least **51%** of NILP's staff are people with disabilities.



Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2022 & 2021

ASSETS	2022	2021
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,912,597	2,600,829
Accounts Receivable	\$681,001	682,496
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,140	9,236
Property and Equipment — net	\$550,640	585,899
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,153,378	\$3,878,460
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$195,918	\$68,379
Accrued Expense	\$272,215	\$204,122
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$80	\$17,222
Long-Term Debt	<u>\$334,961</u>	<u>\$335,762</u>
Total Liabilities	\$803,174	\$625,485
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	—	—
Unrestricted	\$ 4,350,204	\$3,252,975
Designated by the Board for Operating Reserve	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total Net Assets	\$4,350,204	\$3,252,975
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$5,153,378	\$3,878,460

Financials are in draft format and are subject to change.



Special Thanks to Our Donors & Volunteers

Adam Wise	Corey Gelormini	Jeff Wilson
AgeSpan	Craig Cowen	Jennifer Mott
Alex Boeglin	Daniel Doke Fine Art Portraits	Jimmy Lyons
Align Credit Union	Dave Roche	John Hancock
Andrew Mazze	David & Gabriela Bradburn	John Puleo
Ann Furey	David Pearce	John Tumolo
Anthony Ellis	David Ross	Jon Barron
Appleby & Wyman	DeeDee Harder	Jon Younger
Art Takes	Dianne Crimmins	Jonathan Dowst
Arthur Certosimo	Disability Policy Consortium	Joseph & Susan Couture
Asahi-America	Disability Resource Center	Joshua Liebow
Barrett Franklin	Discovery Toys	Julia Crawford
Blue Bumble Creative	Doherty Properties	June & Francis Sauvageau
Bob's Discount Furniture	Durum Pasta	Kathy Fortier
Boston Center for Independent Living	Economised Time Services, Inc.	Kayla Blinn
Brad Howell	Elizabeth Scanzani	Keith & Ann Hill
Brian Albert	Enterprise Bank	Kevin Hatch
Brian Lowe	Eric Pearson	Kevin Storti
Candice & Christian Pechilis	Fallon Health	La Famiglia Giorgio's
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled	Gary & Lynn Hale	Lisa & Bill DiGiuseppe
Chris & Sheila McNeil	Hair Life	Lisa Marciano
Clam Box of Ipswich	Hayley Lebert	Lisa Sauvageau
CME Energy	Heidi McCormick	Lisa Visone
Collaborative Solutions	Hirsch Roberts Weinstein	Long Term Pharmacy Solutions
Columbia Construction	Indian Ridge Country Club	Longhorn Steakhouse
Commonwealth Care Alliance	James & Lisa Lyons	Lowell Housing Authority
Community InRoads	Jason Skypeck	Lynette McRae
Community Teamwork	Jean Nadeau	Lynn Raffaele
	Jeannette Sullivan	Mallory Portraits

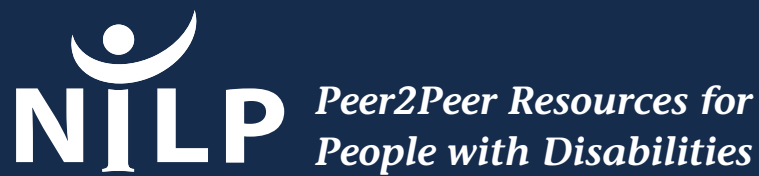
“My Community Supports Specialist is a godsend, wonderful communication, always willing to help.”



Mark & Roxanne Kelly
 Mark Conway & Mary Scatamacchia
 Mark Whitehouse
 Mary Chivers
 Mary Margaret Moore & Marcia Brennan
 Mary Radziewicz
 Matt Pellegrino
 Matthew Kane
 Maureen McGaw
 Megan Rennick
 Meghan McCann
 Melanie Lovell
 Merrimack Valley Credit Union
 MetroRock Littleton
 Michael Onners
 Michael Tiberii
 Michelle Collette
 Middlesex Corrections Officer Association
 Mindy Paper Cookies
 MobilityWorks
 Moore Staffing Services
 Nanette Goodwin
 Nathan Corey
 New England Patriots Foundation
 Nicholas Violandi
 North Shore Music Theatre
 North Shore Navigators

N-Tek, Inc.
 Omni Digital Printers
 Patrick Grant Jr.
 Paula Anderson
 Peter Blanchette
 Peter Hoffman
 Philip Lemire
 Rebecca Belofsky
 Rebecca Puentes
 Red Sox Foundation
 Renaissance Club
 Rich Hart
 Rich Smith
 Richard Novo & Rhonda Brown
 Risk Strategies
 Riverside Press
 Robert Lawliss
 Ryan Balachandran
 Salem Co-operative Bank
 Scott Mangiafico
 Sean Connelly
 Senior Care Inc.
 SERVPRO of Lowell
 Shaun Greenlaw
 Sheila & Pat Hegarty
 Shelley Bergeron
 Sky Venture NH
 Starbucks
 Stephanie McArdle

Stephen Harrington
 Steve & Beverly Sauvageau
 Steven Guendner
 Tenuta Santo Pietro
 Terence Hegarty
 The Cabot
 The Irish Cottage
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 The Sunrise Motel
 Tim & Sheila Hegarty
 Timothy Sheflin
 Tony Messana
 UnitedHealthcare
 Walmart
 Wayne Franklin
 Welcome To Floristry
 Wesley Locke
 White Farms
 Workday
 Yolanda Harmuth



NORTHEAST INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM INC.

www.NILP.org

Lawrence Office
20 Ballard Road
Lawrence, MA 01834

Lowell Office
35 John Street, 2nd Floor
Lowell, MA 01852

(978) 687-4288

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