



*Peer2Peer Resources for
People with Disabilities*



**The Power of Our Community,
The Voice of Change.**



NORTHEAST INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



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

2020 has been a difficult year between the current COVID-19 pandemic and the heightened racial equity and inclusion issues.


NILP's staff continue to operate under a remote work policy due to the pandemic. Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and other public health experts make it seem likely this policy will be extended for the immediate future. NILP managers and staff have done a tremendous job of transitioning to assist consumers via telehealth methods.

Our Vision Statement has taken on a renewed sense of urgency in 2020 and guides everything we do:

"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."

We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring everyone with a disability is included in our organizing and outreach.

Sincerely,


June Sauvageau
CEO




Chris McNeil
Board President



FY 2020 BOARD

PRESIDENT: Chris McNeil

VICE PRESIDENT: David Bradburn

TREASURER: Lisa Visone

CLERK: Jeff Wilson

Kevin Hatch

Mark Kelly

Eric Pearson

David Ellingson

Allen Larkin

Sid Harris

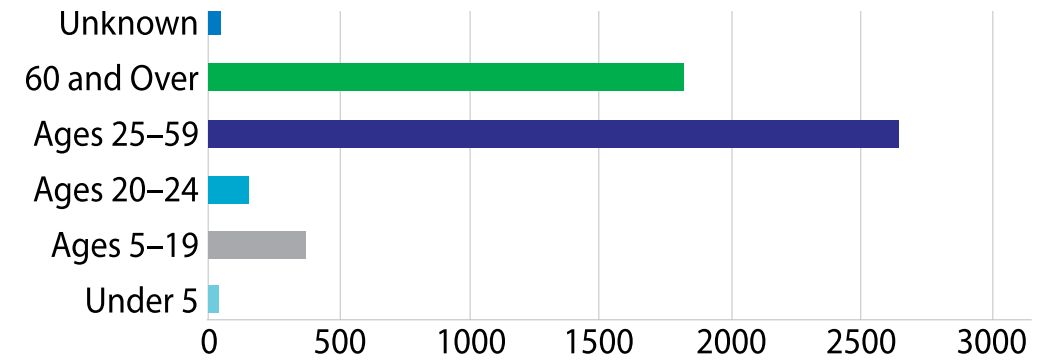


IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

In FY 2020

74%
of NILP staff
self-identify as a
person living with
a disability.

AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



289
students received
peer mentoring and
independent living
skills training.



553
people trained in
Disability Awareness
and Cultural
Competence.



1,393
people received peer
support from our
Recovery Learning
Community.

2,226
consumers received
Information &
Referral services.



26
long-term nursing
home residents
transitioned into
the community.



286
individuals completed
person-centered
care plan with
MVCP.



5,153
consumers received
independent
living services
from NILP.



2,632
PCA consumers
served in FY 2020.
75%
increase in PCA
services over the
last 5 years.



33
schools directly
served by Youth
Services Program.

MIA'S STORY



28-year-old Mia was living in a women's domestic violence shelter with her three children who have disabilities. She needed to move out of the shelter as quickly as possible to provide better care for her children and get them the support they needed.

Mia was referred to NILP for advocacy and assistance in finding resources. She began working with an Options Counselor who immediately helped her apply for permanent housing. While Mia waited for an opening, she was able to move out of the shelter and into temporary housing at a hotel.

During this time, the COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding and putting Mia and her family under heightened stress. Thankfully, Mia's Options Counselor was there to comfort her and provide peer support throughout the waiting process.

Fortunately, three months after submitting housing applications, Mia received an offer! Her Options Counselor put in referrals to furniture banks and connected her to local resources. Today, Mia is thrilled to have a home for her family and continues to work with NILP for resource advice.

*They have gone above and beyond
for me and my family.*

—NILP Consumer

HELEN'S STORY



she could benefit from applying for MassHealth Standard and the PCA program. We explained how she should fill out a MassHealth application first and we offered to provide her with assistance filling it out. Helen felt confident she could do it on her own.

50-year-old Helen was living independently in her own apartment. Recently, her disability was making it very difficult for her to complete certain tasks like dressing herself or brushing her long hair. Helen was immensely grateful that her neighbor had been coming over to help her get ready and run errands, but she felt bad because she couldn't afford to pay her.

Helen called NILP to inquire about what options existed for someone in her situation. After speaking with Helen and learning about her current reduced income and insurance information, we informed Helen

Two weeks later, we called Helen to follow up. She informed us she was asked by MassHealth to submit a couple of forms to complete her application, and again, we offered to help as needed. About a week later, we got a call from Helen with the good news. She was eligible for MassHealth Standard!

We then made an internal referral to the PCA program at NILP. Helen was eligible for 10 hours of PCA services a week. She was delighted. Now she could officially hire her neighbor.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Personal Care Assistance Program (PCA)

Individuals with significant disabilities maintain their independence at home and have control over their own personal care.

They truly have already stepped up to the plate for me. Couldn't have asked for a kinder and more competent team!

—NILP Consumer

Community Support Services

Peer counseling and assistance navigating complex systems of benefits and services.



Youth Services Program

Students with disabilities learn and practice independent living skills in a supportive and mentoring environment.

Nursing Home Transition Services

Transition individuals out of nursing facilities and back into home or community-based living.

Older Adult Peer Services

Companionship and community experiences for older adults, who have experienced trauma, mental health challenges and/or substance abuse.

Merrimack Valley Community Partner Program (MVCP)/ Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

Partnership between NILP and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore; coordinates services for Accountable Care Organization (ACO) members across their care team.

Northeast Recovery Learning Community

Community of peers and trained professionals who use their lived experience to support individuals in recovery from mental health challenges, addiction and/or traumatic life experiences.

Merrimack Valley Aging and Disability Resource Consortium (ADRC) / Options Counseling

Collaboration between NILP and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore; “no wrong door” entry point of service for people with disabilities and elders.



OUR CORE SERVICES

- Information & Referral
- Advocacy
- Skills Training
- Peer Counseling
- Transitions

TRAINING & CONSULTING

Peers with lived experience providing Disability Cultural Competence training and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consulting to organizations and municipalities.

NILP has helped educate over 1,000 of our employees and is a staple of our onboarding experience.

—Community partner since 2012

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 & 2019



ASSETS	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,603,073	\$862,704
Accounts Receivable <i>(Allowance for doubtful accounts is \$0 & \$0 Respectively)</i>	623,768	839,512
Prepaid Expenses	75,349	25,413
Property and Equipment — net	621,175	657,315
Total Assets	\$2,923,365	\$2,384,944

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$34,829	\$83,604
Accrued Expense	257,208	149,878
SBA Paycheck Protection Loan	684,500	—
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	16,556	15,915
Long-Term Debt	351,245	367,115
Total Liabilities	\$1,344,338	\$ 616,512

Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,579,026	\$1,768,430
With Donor Restrictions	—	—
Total Net Assets	\$1,579,026	\$1,768,430

TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,923,364	\$2,384,942
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*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements. Financials are in draft format and are subject to change.

NILP'S SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

- Pre-Employment Youth Services expanded into the Fitchburg area. Staff successfully supported our youth using interactive ZOOM activities. 36 students participated in our Driver's Education during February and April vacations.
- Our Northeast Recovery Learning Community (NERLC) launched Certified Older Adult Peer Services with 5 different Aging Services Access Points in the Northeast: Mystic Valley Elder Services, Minuteman Senior Services, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Senior Care, and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and North Shore.
- The NILP Education Division created and presented several online trainings to a variety of health care and community organizations.
- NILP has successfully served the community for over 40 years! **Save the Date for our 40th Anniversary Gala** (rescheduled for Saturday, April 10th, 2021) at the Blue Ocean Event Center in Salisbury, MA. NILP.ORG/GALA

William (Community Support Specialist) went above and beyond with his extensive knowledge of services and most importantly his kind compassion when my family was in crisis facing nursing home care and the possibility of losing our house. I contacted many agencies and I couldn't get help. No one was experienced or knowledgeable on our circumstances with income/illness. My husband now has MassHealth, PCA services, and is able to live at home where I can work and keep my house because your agency helped us with paperwork and disability rights. NILP is unique with knowledge/experience but most importantly genuine, compassionate and kind.

— NILP Consumer



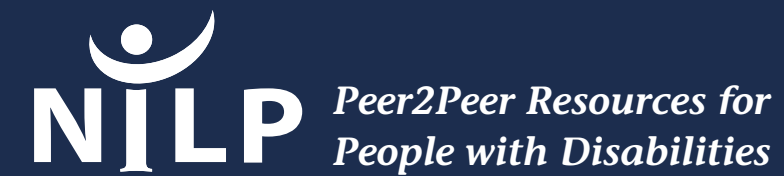
THANK YOU FRIENDS OF NILP!

Access For Opportunity
Ad-Lib, Inc.
AdultFosterCare of the North Shore
Appleby & Wyman
Blue Bumble Creative
Boston Center for Independent Living
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled
Center for Living and Working
City of Lowell
Commonwealth Care Alliance
Commonwealth Motors
Community InRoads
Community Teamwork
CranCom, Inc.
Department of Mental Health
Disability Law Center
Disability Policy Consortium (DPC)
Disability Resource Center
Easterseals
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley
& North Shore
Enterprise Bank
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Fidelity House CRC
Gary and Lynn Hale
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lynn Senior Services
Greater North Shore Link
Heritage Farm Ice Cream & Restaurant
Hirsch Roberts Weinstein
Independence Associates
John Hancock
Kevin Hatch
Lawrence Industrial Parks Business Association
Lawrence Partnership
Lenzi's Catering
Little Delights Bakery
Long Term Pharmacy Solutions



**Your support helps people
with disabilities live independent and
fulfilling lives in the community!**

Lowell Housing Authority
Lowell Sun
Outback SteakHouse
Massachusetts Office on Disability
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Massachusetts Statewide Independent
Living Council
Merrimack Repertory Theatre
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
Merrimack Valley Credit Union
MetroWest Center for Independent Living
Minuteman Senior Services
Moore Staffing Services
Mystic Valley Elder Services
National Council on Independent Living
Riverside Press
Senior Care
Southeast Center for Independent Living
STAVROS
Tempus Unlimited
The Savings Bank
Town of Groveland
Union Office Interiors
UnitedHealthcare
UPS



NORTHEAST INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM INC.

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