



Avenues to Community Inc.

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MISSION, VISION, VALUES



## 2022 Board of Directors

Michelle Bailey Gutzmer (President)~Chris Patterson (Treasurer)~Jessica Platt (Secretary)~Hou Lee (Director)  
Ben Redding (Director)~ Brandon Allen Russell (Director)





# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kevin Keisling, MS

## It's All About the Mission

Dear Friends of Avenues to Community:

2022 was another year of expansion for our Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Support and Service Coordination services. We added seven new Support and Service Coordinator (SSC) positions for a total of 25 SSC staff and maintained five Program Director positions. In total, we provided approximately 33,665 hours of service to 683 children/youth, an average of 4.11 hours per month per child.

In 2022, Avenues staff and Board of Directors voted to update our mission statement. Since 2017, our mission had been to help people with disabilities and older adults lead self-directed lives. In 2020, we ended Support Broker services to adults with disabilities enrolled in the IRIS program and focused all our efforts on providing CLTS services. Since we exclusively serve children and youth with disabilities in CLTS, the staff and Board of Directors felt it was important to remove the words older adults and refine our mission to reflect our new direction. It is a slight change, but a change nonetheless. We believe self-direction remains a fundamental aspect of long-term care support services, and self-determination is an important aspect of self-directed services. As defined by the Center for Self Determination, it is a process that is built upon these five principles:

- **FREEDOM** - To decide how one wants to live their life.
- **AUTHORITY** - Over a targeted amount of dollars.
- **SUPPORT** - To organize resources in ways that are life-enhancing and meaningful to the individual.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** - For the wise use of public dollars and recognition of the contribution individuals with disabilities can make in their communities.
- **CONFIRMATION** - Of the important role that self-advocates must play in a newly redesigned system.

In addition to our mission, our values include relationships, self-determination, inclusion, creativity, and choice. We are fortunate to work in Dane County, where these values are typically shared with County staff, service provider agencies, and other Support and Service Coordination agencies. As you read this report, there are two examples of the CLTS program's positive impact on the lives of the people we serve. We are thankful to these families for sharing their stories and appreciative to have had a small part in their success.

We are grateful for the opportunity to continue providing CLTS Support and Service Coordination services to many children and families in Dane County. We hope to continue our mission to help people with disabilities lead self-directed lives for many years to come.

# MANY THANKS TO CLTS

Brigham was born prematurely at 30 weeks. We anticipated that there would be the normal developmental delays that occur with a premature birth. However, as he grew older, we could see that the delays were more acute than we originally realized. Birth to Three became involved with him when he was a year old. They worked with him until the age of 3, when he entered the Early Childhood program through our school district. It was at that time, we sought the help of the UW Waisman Center and a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder was given. The symptoms of ASD which presented in Brigham were severe speech and language delays, sensory issues, and a delay with social and inter-personal interactions. What that means in his world is that by age 3, he had a vocabulary of approximately 30 words. He was uncomfortable with loud noises, sudden movements, and touching wet or unfamiliar items such as bubbles, soap, finger paints or any soft or wet situations, including water. However, as ASD often presents, Brigham had some incredible gifts and areas of advancement that we would discover after several therapy programs were introduced to him.



Thanks to the guidance of CLTS, Brigham was introduced to a Summer Dance therapy class, a Water Therapy Class, and a Music Therapy program. In addition, they helped us find an intensive ASD therapy program which was covered by his insurance. This has helped Brigham accomplish incredible growth.

The many areas of assistance have taught us about Brigham's many strengths. The little boy who didn't have words, now has a much larger vocabulary, and can communicate in short sentences, and is continuing therapy for articulation issues. Brigham now reads at an advanced level and although he has difficulty writing due to small motor issues, he can communicate by writing on a tablet. The dance and water therapies have increased his comfort with being with others and he now is very social. And the little boy who didn't like water, now loves swimming lessons. His music therapy program has shown us that he has a love of music, loves singing with perfect pitch, and it has been suggested that he start formal piano training in two years. His hands are currently too small and further small motor development will aid in his playing at that time.

CLTS have also been helpful in directing us on how to obtain diapers, pull-ups, and diaper wipes through his insurance company. This has helped immensely since at age 5, Brigham has not yet mastered potty training.

But without a doubt, CLTS has been the resource and support that we needed to meet Brigham's special needs. Had it not been for them, Brigham would not have accomplished the many goals that he has reached. The reality is, "we didn't know, what we didn't know". We didn't know how to help this amazing little boy. CLTS gave us the path to his successes. We will be forever grateful.

-Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kingslien, Brigham's Grandma



# Making an Impact



Bella is a child who receives respite through Christian Servants Home Care. Receiving respite has made a positive impact for Bella by promoting independence, and has created a positive relationship for Bella.

"Kyiana is quite possibly an angel on earth. Bella instantly gravitated to her, didn't even pretend to be shy or nervous, just brought Kyiana into the fold. I am SOOOO thrilled about working with Kyiana. She's the sweetest, she is so kind and matches Bella's energy perfectly. She's been incredibly flexible, genuine with Bella, and really seems to work well with our family. Bella adores her already (they've spend parts of the last three days together). Kyiana is responsible, responsive, and totally lets Bella take the lead while supporting her. Quick example, Bella HATES cleaning up her own toys. Its a major trigger for us ALWAYS. I had let Kyiana know that I'm totally ok with getting messy but try not to make giant messes in the house if possible. I went for a walk with my doggo the other day and when I got back Bella was vacuuming. I was shocked. They had created a "snow globe" with onle of Bella's waterbottles (its sooo cool! Brilliant idea) but accidentally got glitter on the floor and somehow Kyiana was able to convince Bella to help clean up (mindblowing to me). It seems so simple, but the weight that took off my shoulders is HUGE. Knowing that Bella is happy to comply with Kyiana (doing a nonpreferred task is a big challenge usually) and knowing that Kyiana creates a safe space where Bella can have alternate reactions in a positive way is the most incredible thing. My heart just melted.

I wasn't sure what respite care was going to look like or feel like but so far, this is a million times better than the best situation I could have imagined. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" - Testimony from Bella's mom



# FACTS & FIGURES

683

TOTAL CHILDREN  
SERVED



## DEMOGRAPHICS



### AGE

Age 0-3: 72 children (11%)  
Age 4-7: 259 children (38%)  
Age 8-12: 198 children (29%)  
Age 13-18: 148 children (22%)  
Over 18: 6 young adults (<1%)

### GENDER

Male: 484 children (71%)  
Female: 196 children (29%)  
Transgender: 3 children (<1%)

### CITY OF RESIDENCE

Madison: 280 children (41%)  
Outside of Madison: 403  
children (59%)

### ETHNICITY

African American: 106 children (16%)  
Asian/Pacific Islander: 37 children (5%)  
Caucasian: 399 children (58%)  
Hispanic: 71 children (10%)  
Hmong: 2 children (<1%)  
Multiracial: 67 children (10%)  
Native American or Alaskan Native: 1 child (<1%)

### DIAGNOSIS

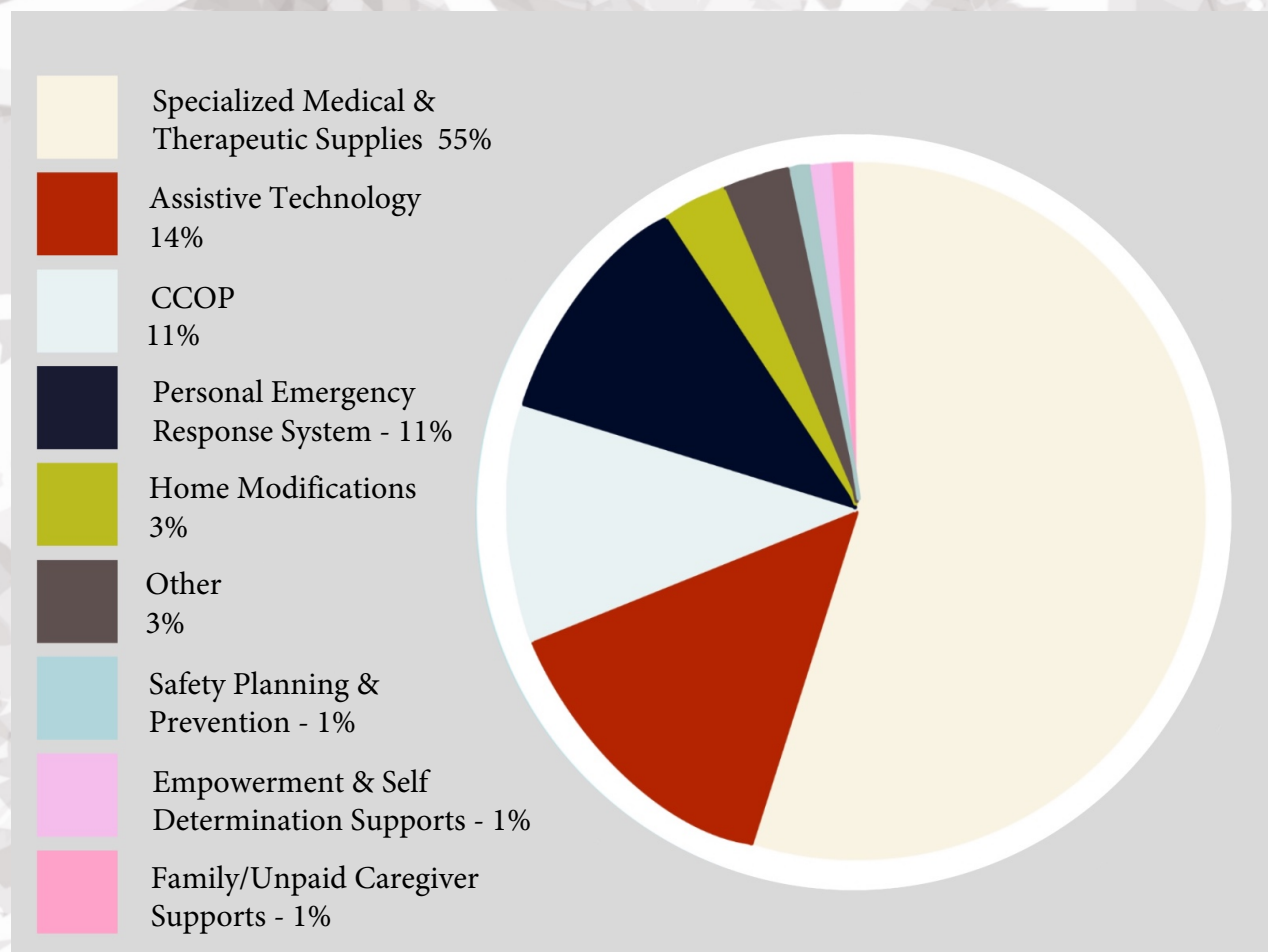
Autism: 360 children (53%)  
Mental Health: 126 children (18%)  
Intellectual/Developmental Disability: 128 children  
(19%)  
Physical Disability: 61 children (9%)  
Neurological/TBI: 8 children (1%)



# SUBSIDIES

There are a broad range of services offered through the CLTS Waiver and CCOP programs to meet the needs and goals of each participant. Each plan is individualized and a CLTS Support and Service Coordinator works with the participant and their families to identify needs and goals that will help the child/youth actively participate in their home and community. Some services are covered by service providers through a contract with the Dane County Department of Human Services. Avenues pays with our credit card for other services and benefits described below, and we are then reimbursed for those services and benefits.

The following chart represents the CLTS Waiver and CCOP services and benefits that Avenues paid for with our credit card in 2022. In total, \$151,572.11 was approved, with the highest utilization being Specialized Medical and Therapeutic Supplies at 55%, Assistive Technology at 14%, CCOP at 11%, and Personal Emergency Response System at 11%.



# Road to Success



With final approval by the Avenues to Community, Inc. Board of Directors in December 2002, the Road to Success Fund is a restricted account that consists of money raised through grants and specified donations received. Funds in this account can be carried over from year to year. The purpose of the Road to Success Fund is to provide financial support to consumers of the agency to assist with otherwise unmet needs. Money allocated to the Road to Success Fund cannot be used for administration, agency operations, or personnel expenses.

In 2022, income to the Road to Success Fund totaled \$1,499.01, which included \$1,335.29 from Access to Community Services donations, \$153.55 from a private donation, and \$10.17 in interest income. \$2,678.55 in expenses was approved for 14 different participant requests.

Examples of requests include:

- Floor cushions for a family from Afghanistan
- Two twin beds
- A bed frame
- Transportation and lodging to attend Ainsley's Angels half-marathon race
- A winter coat
- Numerous VISA gift cards to help cover the cost of school clothes, household expenses, and holiday gifts

# Access to Community Services

Avenues is a member of Access to Community Services (ACS), an umbrella group of numerous organizations working together to help people with disabilities and other challenges to live, work, play, and succeed in our community. More than 3,500 individuals receive services from ACS organizations every year. ACS organizations are not affiliated with the United Way of Dane County. State of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Dane County and City of Madison employees can contribute to Avenues through the State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC). Avenues is listed under Access to Community Services as number 512 in the Combined Campaign and Partners in Giving brochures. Avenues received \$1,335.46 in 2022 from donations made to Access to Community Services through these campaigns.

Avenues' fundraising practices include the following safeguards: (1) Publicity and promotional activities are based upon this organization's actual program and operations. (2) This organization does not sell or otherwise permit others to use lists of WI SECC charitable contributors. (3) This organization does not mail unordered tickets or merchandise with a request for money in return. For more information about ACS, please visit our website at [www.accesstocommunityserviceswi.org](http://www.accesstocommunityserviceswi.org)



# FINANCIALS



AVENUES TO COMMUNITY

AVENUES TO COMMUNITY, INC.  
Madison, Wisconsin

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022			2021		
	Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	Total	Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Support:						
Program Service Revenue	\$ 2,630,883	\$ -	\$ 2,630,883	\$ 1,876,422	\$ -	\$ 1,876,422
Contributions	1,559	-	1,559	-	1,444	1,444
Interest Income	1,013	10	1,023	129	4	133
Miscellaneous Income	13	154	167	619	10	629
Total Revenues and Support	2,633,468	164	2,633,632	1,877,170	1,458	1,878,628
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:						
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	922	(922)	-	1,049	(1,049)	-
Total Revenue, Support and Reclassifications	2,634,390	(758)	2,633,632	1,878,219	409	1,878,628
Expenses:						
Program Expenses	2,290,329	-	2,290,329	1,619,158	-	1,619,158
Administrative Expenses	219,192	-	219,192	170,407	-	170,407
Total Expenses	2,509,521	-	2,509,521	1,789,565	-	1,789,565
Total Change in Net Assets	124,869	(758)	124,111	88,654	409	89,063
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	288,723	7,690	296,413	200,069	7,281	207,350
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 413,592	\$ 6,932	\$ 420,524	\$ 288,723	\$ 7,690	\$ 296,413

