

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Helping People
Live, Learn, and Earn**

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

WOW! 2020 was a very strange year for all of us. Shut downs/closures, travel quarantines, no toilet paper in stores, limits on meat purchases, isolation, and "Wine with DeWine" are just a few memories that I want to forget. Most of us don't remember a time in America when shortages were common. I think that the oil crisis of the 1970's was only a minor inconvenience compared to COVID. In reality, America would probably have to go back to the Depression and WWII to match the restrictions and hardships.

On the other hand, we got to learn about Zoom, working remotely, using Facebook Live, improving family time, and creatively working together to tackle challenges. Overall, these positives will have the best long-term impacts on our futures.

I am proud of how our system responded to the COVID crisis. Initially, we went into triage mode when the shutdowns began. Getting a system of delivering food, PPE, and cleaning supplies out to homes was quickly handled using staff and volunteers. The group homes quickly quarantined to limit their exposure. Private providers and Direct Support Professionals took the lead in providing services to those who were not in their family homes. SSAs built lines of communication to determine where needs were the greatest. Next, we got Zoom and Facebook Live operating to allow for remote interpersonal communication and variety to keep the isolation from becoming overwhelming. I will never forget the dancing dinosaur and hippo as part of the Thursday exercise events. As 2020 ended, we were working to coordinate the giving of COVID vaccines. In a time of crisis, character shines, and our system shined well.



As a result of our efforts, we are getting close to putting an end to the biggest threats of COVID. Many of our clients have at least their first round of the vaccine. The daily report of new cases are falling steadily. The Governor has started to allow for larger group events to begin happening. So far, we have been blessed with only about 30 clients who tested positive for COVID with only one death. We have fared well in comparison to many other groups and communities.

As we look forward to 2021, I encourage everyone to work on maintaining the positives from 2020 and add new ideas for 2021.



- Don Rice



COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES



The Community Support Services Department is comprised of Intake and Eligibility, Investigative Agent, Provider Support and Compliance, and Service and Support Administration (Case Management). In 2020, we served over 620 individuals. We partnered with 150 private providers and coordinated services for 295 individuals on Home and Community Based Service Waivers.

HCBS Waivers are how a person pays for needed services throughout the year. Currently, Ohio offers three types of waivers: Individual Option (IO), Level 1 (LI) and SELF. Each waiver has a different level of funding ranges and services. These funds follow a person as long as they live in Ohio. Once a person receives a waiver, it is guaranteed funding for their lifetime as long as they maintain eligibility. The Waivers help the County Board to pay for individualized services by drawing down Medicaid dollars called "match." In 2020, the amount of match we paid was reduced to 30% from 37% due to COVID.



620

Individuals Supported
by Case Managers



150

Provider
Partnerships



295

Individuals Received
Residential Support

#IncludeME

EARLY INTERVENTION

Eligible children under the age of three and their parents receive coordinated Early Intervention (EI) services from GCBDD. We believe young children learn best from people they know in places they know. For that reason, EI services occur in the child's home or other familiar places where the child is comfortable. EI builds on existing supports and resources so that parents are empowered to best assist their child.

Research shows Early Intervention helps reduce the need for further intervention.

Our goal is to reach as many families as possible. Throughout 2020, we continued targeted outreach with doctor's offices, day cares, and the Amish population. EI offers playgroups such as Play, Learn and Grow and Movin' With Music with activities designed to encourage development in socialization, play, listening, attention span and preschool readiness.



225

Children Received
Services



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



GCBDD's employment services are designed to **help people find what is best for them as individuals**. In partnership with private providers, we help people identify their interests, strengths, and preferences, then match them with opportunities aligned with their personal and career goals. Community employment is a goal for many of the individuals we serve because it means greater independence, more money, improved social skills, better self-esteem, and increased personal satisfaction.

GCBDD supports Employment First, which is the national movement that encourages employment as the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. All adults we serve are given the chance to think about what having a job could mean for them.

Providers help people with their career goals through:

- Job development (help to find jobs)
- Job coaching (help to learn and carry out job duties – fades as skills increase)
- Follow-along services (checking in with employer/employee)



141

People Competitively Employed



558

Adults Received Services

TRANSPORTATION

GCBDD coordinates transportation services with private providers to ensure people get to their jobs in the community or attend their day programs. We currently partner with twelve private providers to transport people to community jobs.

Transportation continues to be in high demand, so in response we created a bonus structure to encourage more private providers to start offering transportation. As a result, there are more choices available as well as greater responsiveness to needs. GCBDD remains committed to continuing provider development in this area.



INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY (ICF)



The goal of this program is to provide needed care to the people we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion and improved quality of life. The ICF currently serves 16 individuals ranging in ages from 25-73. In 2019, we began a partnership with the Jewish Family Service Association, and in 2020, they took over as the operator of the ICF.



RECREATION

GCBDD offers a variety of recreational opportunities designed for people of all abilities and interests. From Special Olympics, and organized club sports, social groups like Dinner Club, to their very own service organization Aktion Club. **GCBDD offers many inclusive, recreational, and social programs that are designed to enrich a person's life.**

In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Recreation department was forced to think outside the box due to the restrictions affecting the sports and social opportunities that happen on a daily basis. Partnering with the Metzenbaum Foundation, the Rec department offered Virtual daily happenings on Facebook Live in an effort to stay connected to the individuals and their families.

Going a step further, the Aktion club, with the guidance of the Rec department, worked closely with Kiwanis and other local non-profit organizations that focused on giving back to the community. They held a food drive and delivered food baskets to 28 families in need and organized a handmade Christmas Card outreach to the veterans of Geauga County. They collected over 200 winter coats and delivered them to local schools for kids in need. They finished up the year with hand decorating 350 ornaments and collecting candy for gift baskets that were delivered to all Police, Fire, and the Sherriff offices in Geauga County as a thanks for keeping the County safe.



the metzenbaum FOUNDATION

Grants

The Metzenbaum Foundation provides financial assistance for people served by the GCBDD through grants. Family Home Based Service grants support respite care, adaptive equipment, home modifications, dietary needs, educational tools and more. Summer Support Fund grants allow clients ages 7-21 to attend summer camps and outdoor summer activities. Two Geauga County Amish schools receive funding for student transportation. The GCBDD Recreation Program is supported with a grant for 16 coach stipends (9 sports). Additionally, twice a year, TMF awards grants totaling up to \$20,000 to individuals and groups through a grant application process that considers extraordinary needs and circumstances. In 2020, TMF awarded grants to 298 individuals and groups.



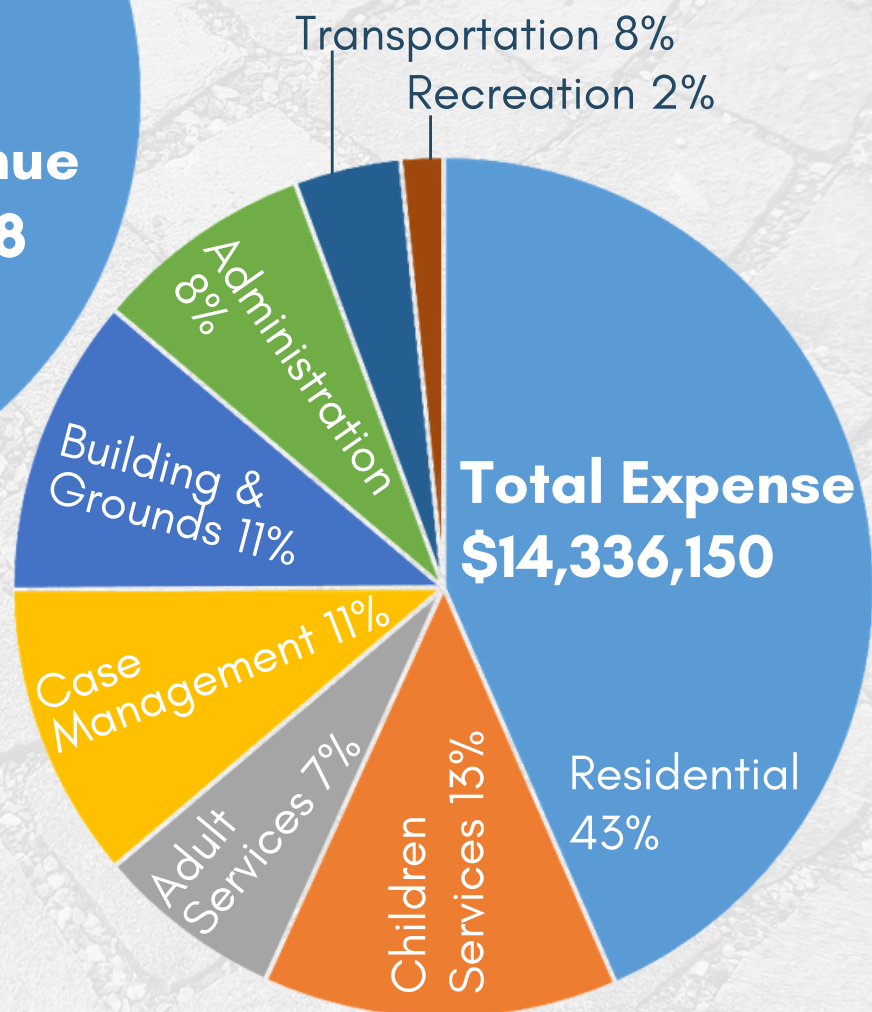
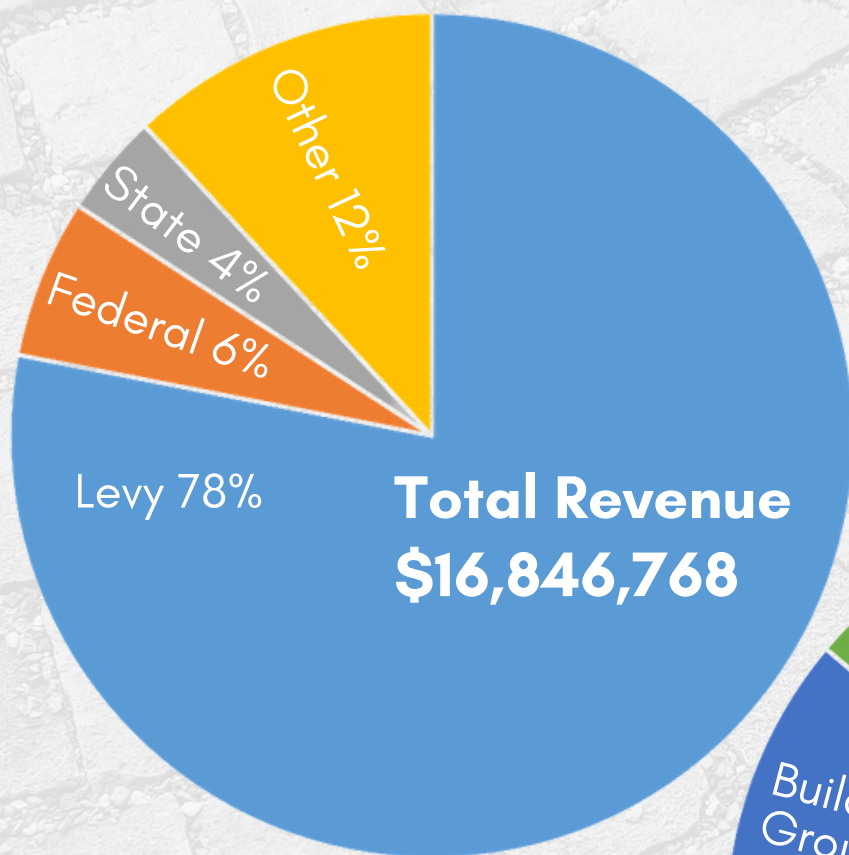
Community Connections

The Metzenbaum Foundation (TMF) is continuously working to bring unified programming to the DD population through partnerships with our Geauga County community. Our vision is to combine resources and build relationships with our neighbors to nourish the lives of all individuals. 2020 posed a particular challenge to The Metzenbaum Foundation's Community Connections Program. The program is designed to integrate individuals served by GCBDD on a social level, in the community, with a variety of interactive activities. 2020's ongoing pandemic pushed us to rework those events into virtual programs to keep our clients engaged and safe. The following virtual programs were created, supported and offered online by TMF:

- **Chair Yoga, Mat Yoga, Stretching and Relaxation** in partnership with GCBDD Recreation and yoga instructor Sue Kamensky
- **Music in Motion** in partnership with Fairmount Center for the Performing Arts
- **Outdoor Movie Night** in partnership with Chesterland Kiwanis and Eddy Fruit Farm
- **Adapted Dance** in partnership with Fairmount Center for the Performing Arts
- **Cooking Class** in partnership with HoneyBird Kitchen

For information about how to participate in or support these activities contact, metzenbaum.foundation@gmail.com.

2020 FINANCIALS



988

**People Served
in 2020**



Service Programs

- Adult Services
- Case Management
- Early Intervention
- Employment
- Recreation
- Residential
- School Age
- Transportation

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn in Our Community.



**Building a caring community
where individuals are
Integrated, Accepted, and Achieving.**

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