









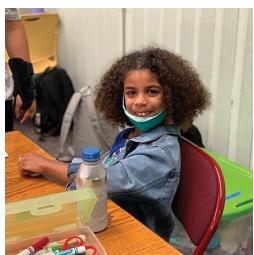
# FY21-22 GRATITUDE REPORT

May 1, 2021-April 30, 2022









# Message from the Director...

Dear Friend,

We are proud to present our annual report with insights into how we serve our nine communities and beyond. The numbers and activities contained herein are a snapshot of our organization's significant activities as well as our current financial picture.



You'll notice that we title this our Gratitude Report and I can sincerely say that has never seemed more appropriate. Since joining WDSRA as Executive Director on June 1, 2021, I have had the distinct privilege of seeing amazing support from both within and beyond our organization. Continued challenges from the pandemic, staffing shortages, unforeseen cancellations and other events have not deterred our staff from serving in the best possible manner.

Participant stories like Christian's, Sophie's and many more provide us evidence of meaningful impact on an individual level. Of course,

#### **MISSION**

The development of individuals through recreation.

#### **VISION**

Opening a world of untapped potential and a lifetime of possibilities.





the goal is to serve our communities to the greatest possible level. We're working toward that through a return to adequate staffing levels and a focus on what's NEXT. Helping us along the way is a new strategic plan which should be completed late 2022 or early 2023. We're reaching out to our nine communities, intergovernmental partners, community leaders, families, participants, staff, our Foundation board, and others to get agreement on where we are headed. I'm excited about the future and promise that we're going to embrace new directions.

Our gratitude report might not reach everyone who deserves thanks. But know that we are mindful and humble to have the support of our service partners, Foundation, board members, part-time staff, volunteers, and in-house professionals who make our services go. The demand for services continues to increase and we're grateful to be ready to answer the call. Thank you for everything in 2021-22, but I'm hopeful that you'll see an even stronger WDSRA in 2023 and beyond.

With gratitude,

Dan Leahy

**Executive Director** 

#### **CORE VALUES**

RESPECT is our foundation.
PASSION drives us.
INNOVATION energizes us.
INTEGRITY guides us.
COMMUNICATION connects us.
COLLABORATION enriches us.
FUN is who we are.

## Restore & Rebuild

### Leaning into the Mission & Vision

At WDSRA, the focus to RESTORE & REBUILD was achieved through creativity, innovation and an inspired energy. Rethinking the way we do business is how we focused on fulfilling our mission & vision, and of course, serving our participants & families.

Emerging from an ongoing pandemic and a significant labor shortage, the focus of the year was to **RESTORE & REBUILD** to continue delivering the very best programs and services essential to the health and wellbeing of participants and families.

Despite frequently changing COVID mitigations, we continued to modify how we delivered programs and services:

- As more facility space reopened, we were able to offer additional programs
- As the popularity of virtual programs continued to grow, we continued to serve in new ways
- We sought out new space to fill in where needed
- We worked closely with families to ensure the continued health and safety of participants and staff

The labor shortage, which impacted the available pool of program staff, had a direct correlation to what programs were offered:

- We developed innovative ways to manage the growing need for programs and the limited availability of program staff
- Alternating week schedules and additional sections were created for some of the most popular programs to accommodate more participants with fewer overall staff
- Families embraced the gradual return to programs.

Finally, we continued to evaluate how we can best serve our families by creating a strong, sustainable organization:

 We realigned our internal staff to better accommodate the ever-changing needs of our participants, families, staff, and communities





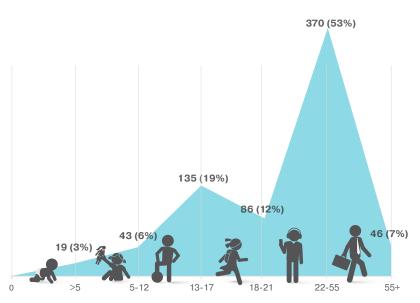


## FY21-22 in Review

#### Who We Serve

#### **Regular Programs**

Total individuals served = 699

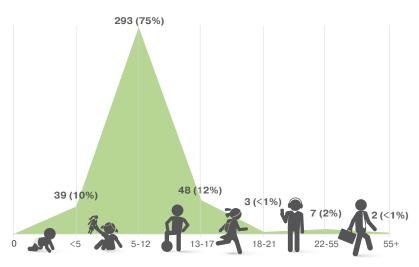


### **Programs Offered Individual Locations**

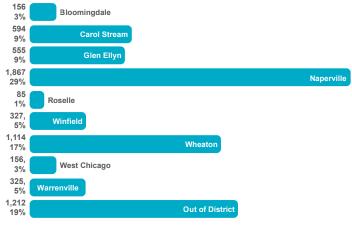
Regular In-Person **390** More than **60** locations Virtual **105** 

### **Inclusion Programs**

Total individuals served = 392



#### WDSRA Seasonal Program Registrations



# **WDSRA** Inclusion **Program Registrations**



#### **WDSRA Registration Trends**



\*FY 21-22 combined winter and spring seasons resulting in a reduction of registrations despite an increase in true program hours.

#### **Organization Highlights**

- Dan Leahy steps in as Executive Director
- The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for comprehensive financial reporting
- WDSRA was named the Best of the Best in Special Needs Resources by Glancer Magazine.

#### **Recreation Highlights**

- Summer camps were held with fewer sections and with reduced numbers to allow for compliance with facility spacing requirements
- Program seasons were changed from six or eight weeks to twelve weeks
- Adapted an alternating weekly schedule for high-volume programs to allow for greater participation
  with half the number of seasonal staff, as well as remaining compliant with distancing expectations
  and best practices

#### **Athletics Highlights**

- Synergy Jr. Bulls won the IHSA state championship
- Synergy Jr. Bulls improved their ranking, placing in the top 15 of national rankings
- Synergy Boccia athlete, Michele Lynch, competed with Team USA in Brazil
- Synergy Boccia coach, Sam Williams, joined the Team USA coaching staff
- Two WDSRA Wildcat Floor Hockey teams medaled in the Special Olympics Illinois state games
- The first Wildcat Flag Football team was organized and won a bronze medal in the Special Olympics state tournament

#### **Rec & Roll Day Program Highlights**

- Fort Hill Rec & Roll site returned for three out of five days per week
- Increased the number of participants attending:
   2021 104 unique participants, 249 registrations overall
   2022 130 unique participants, 297 registrations overall
- Began construction on a seventh Rec & Roll site in Winfield

#### **COVID-19 Impact**

- COVID-19 Eligibility Guidelines remained in place for the year, which significantly impacted participation from individuals with more significant needs; this resulted in a reduced number of 1:1 staff needed for programs
- Removal of IDPH mask mandates increased participant eligibility
- Program maximums returned to normal allowances (with specific exceptions due to facility requirements and/or staff availability)
- Increased refunds due to COVID-19 related cancellations, as well as targeted Rec & Roll site shutdowns to limit exposures/spread



scholarships awarded

\$17,192 scholarship dollars awarded

3 scholarship funds

families awarded scholarships



After a difficult camp experience before finding WDSRA, Christine found herself at a <u>crossroads</u>. Would she be able to <u>trust</u> another camp to keep her son Christian safe? Would Christian feel <u>safe</u> going to camp again? OR was he destined to being cut off and isolated – away from the community.

Christian is a fun-loving 23-year-old. Living with cerebral palsy has its challenges but has never stopped him from wanting to be as involved as possible.

Christine, Christian's mom, has always tried to give him as many experiences as possible. At 12 years old, that included going to summer camp.

What began as an opportunity to enjoy typical summer camp fun led to an experience at another camp which left Christian traumatized and Christine heartbroken, devastated and angry.

That's when she turned to WDSRA

"It took a little while, but it definitely was well worth it once he got involved. Once he flourished through all the programs he participated in, it made a tremendous difference."

Christine, Christian's mom

Reassuring Christine of the safety measures and protocols taken in every program and answering all her questions was huge for her AND Christian. Importantly, seeing Christian well-cared for at every turn made all the difference.

Now Christian has a safe place where he can spend time with friends and be a part of the community in which he lives. WDSRA has given Christian a social life and independence from always needing his parents with him. Through it all... he is flourishing!

With WDSRA, Christian is living life to his fullest!



After the fourth trip to the hospital last year, hospital staff urged the need for a plan to manage the consequences of Sophie's severe anxiety and depression. At 17-years-old, Sophie was trying to cope with Autism, dyslexia, depressive disorder, and chronic migraines as well as severe general, social and separation anxiety. That is a whole lot for a 17-year-old. She needed structure, an outlet for stress outside of home and school and an environment where she would feel safe.

Sophie is a delightful, bright 17-year-old.

It wasn't until she was a freshman in high school that there was a formal diagnosis of Autism and anxiety.

Though she loves school, the structure of it was something she needed, it could be exhausting for her. Going into the weekends exhausted and with no structure, her anxiety would sky rocket.

Every day was a challenge for Sophie.

After her fourth trip to the emergency room last year, hospital staff urged the need for a plan to manage the consequences of Sophie's severe anxiety and compulsive thoughts. Heather, Sophie's mom, knew they needed a plan for the weekends. She just didn't know what that plan would be.

"WDSRA provides a safe place for friendships for Sophie. And I am so thankful for that."

**Heather, Sophie's mom** 

That's when she was referred to WDSRA.

WDSRA was the lifeline she needed. Sophie found people she could be comfortable around and peers she could feel relaxed with all within the safe, structured environment she thrived in. She was finally able to make friendships and have a community where she could be herself. Heather found WDSRA was the place Sophie could be excited about without her anxiety escalating.

WDSRA was the weekend plan that they needed for Sophie and the whole family.

### **Financial Power**

#### **WDSRA Balance Sheet**

April 30, 2022

#### WDSRA Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds April 30, 2022

#### **ASSETS**

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$3,831,736
Receivables:	
Program Fees	109,588
Other	83
Due from WDSRA Foundation	13,694
Prepaids	23,449
TOTAL ASSETS	3,978,550

#### LIABILITIES

715,783
442,137
128,876
144,770

#### **FUND BALANCES**

Total Fund Balance	3,262,767
Unassigned	<u>2,733,266</u>
Committed	506,052
Nonspendable	23,449

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

30

3,978,550

### REVENUES

Contributions from Members	\$3,371,500
Charges for Services	708,621
Donations and Grants	318,051
Interest Income	1,452
Miscellaneous	2,618
TOTAL REVENUES	4,402,242

#### **EXPENDITURES**

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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,984,220
Capital Outlay	103,943
Development and Public Relations	379,824
Recreation	2,363,488
General Government	1,136,965

### NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES 418,022

FUND BALANCE - BEGINN	ING	2,844,745

#### FUND BALANCE - ENDING 3,262,767









**TOTAL NET ASSETS** 







**WDSRA** Foundation **Statement of Financial Position** April 30, 2022

#### **WDSRA** Foundation **Statement of Activities** April 30, 2022

ASSETS		REVENUES	
Cash & Investments Receivables Prepaids Beneficial interest in assets held by others	\$ 668,290 104,030 12,521 362,908	Public Support Fundraising Other TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 243,294 377,763 <u>4,074</u> <b>625,131</b>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,147,749</u>	EXPENSES	
Accounts payable Due to WDSRA	- 13.694	Program Services Fundraising Management and General TOTAL EXPENSES	333,223 121,688 <u>26,917</u> <b>481,828</b>
Total Liabilities	<u>13,694</u>	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	143,303
NET ASSETS  With Donor Restrictions  Without Donor Restrictions	169,660 <u>964,395</u>	NET ASSETS, BEGINNING NET ASSETS, ENDING	990,752 1,134,055

1,134,055









# The WDSRA Family

#### **WDSRA Board of Directors**

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Bloomingdale Park District

**Dave Harris** 

Glen Ellyn Park District

Ray McGury/Brad Wilson

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Winfield Park District

**Dan Leahy** 

Board Secretary, WDSRA

**Sharon Gedvilas** 

**Board Treasurer, WDSRA** 

#### Families, Partners and YOU

There are thousands of supporters who positively impact WDSRA families with their time, talents and contributions. They create the solid foundation which makes it possible to bring the WDSRA vision to life every day.

#### **WDSRA Foundation Board of Trustees**

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Kids Matter

**Ken Munzing** 

Visa, Inc., Retired

**Greq Schwarze** 

DuPage County Board Member, District 6









#### **Full-Time Staff**

Full-time staff manages WDSRA's day-to-day operations. Staff members hold degrees in the areas of therapeutic recreation, special education related fields, or have the experience and skills to support our participants and organization.

**Emily Ackerman** Ted Adatto **Justin Banks** Mary Beck **Brianne Carroll** Steve Eckelberry Phil Eide Meghan Ferguson Nieta Gates Sandy Gbur Sharon Gedvilas Kristv Henson **Ashley Hinton** Dayell Houzenga Lea Jackman Jenna Johson Ann Kennedy **Tammy Kerrins** Dan Leahy

Curtis Lease Elise Logan Katie Lyter Maddy Manden Sherry Manschot Jorie Meyer Kathy Noviskis Rachel Pavesich Joy Poling **Becky Prince** Donna Raney Heather Richardson Diane Sabathne Lisa Santoria Jason Stubbeman Alex Tufts Katie Weadlev Kari Wiggins

#### **Part-Time Staff and Volunteers**

Hundreds of part-time employees assist WDSRA during the year. Orientations and trainings are provided for anyone who interacts directly with WDSRA's participants. Throughout the year, volunteers offer their time, skills and efforts with the good feeling of making a difference as their reward.

#### Seasonal Staff

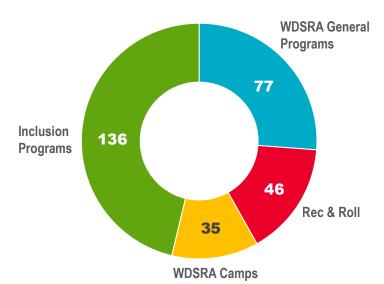


**125** returning staff

**52** new staff hired

177 total staff

#### **Seasonal Staff By Program\***



\*Staff work a multitude of programs each season

# Volunteers



303.5 volunteer hours

\$9,089.83\*

\*Value of volunteer efforts is calculated at \$29.95/hour



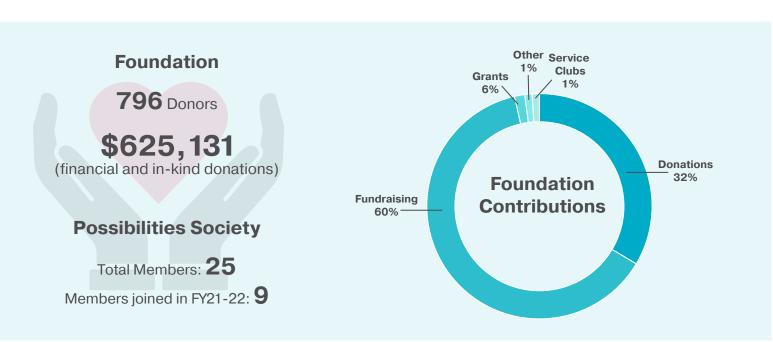
### Supporting the WDSRA Foundation

We believe in building lasting relationships in our communities that will benefit participants and create long term relationships while furthering the WDSRA mission. There are many ways to support the WDSRA Foundation. We welcome your support however you feel comfortable.

#### **Foundation Highlights**

- The Charlie Long/WDSRA Golf Classic sold out for the third year in a row
- The Bash continues to set records of giving by generous donors
- The Foundation Board reaches a full compliment of Trustees

If you are not already receiving our WDSRA Enews, please sign up to make sure you are kept up-to-date with all the latest news and events. Sign up at www.wdsra.com.



### Thank You to Our Fundraising Partners

Your contributions help sustain in-person programs, virtual programs and inclusion services.

Because of the labor intensive nature of our programs, the constant fluctuation of part-time staff needs, and the rising costs overall, we continually need to bridge the gap between the cost of programming and the support received through member district contributions. That gap is filled through the generosity of grantors and donors.

The WDSRA Foundation assists with scholarships, vehicle purchases, program supplies, inclusion services, special projects, and more. Funds are generated through donations, sponsorships, events, appeals, and more. All proceeds benefit WDSRA participants and families.

#### **Possibilities Society Members**

Possibilities Society members make a significant, multiyear commitment over the course of 5 years in support of WDSRA participants & families. \*Denotes Possibilities Society members.

WDSRA and the WDSRA Foundation thank the following individuals and businesses for their financial support or in-kind contributions throughout the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022:

#### \$50,000 and above

Itrich Family Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable

#### \$49,999-\$20,000

The FJK Private Foundation

#### \$19,999-\$10,000

First Trust Portfolios, L.P.

Mr. Kevin Lavin\*

Scott & Trish Karll Giving Fund\*

The Coleman Foundation

The Grace Bersted Foundation

**Topfer Family Foundation** 

#### \$9,999-\$5,000

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Mr. Kevin Beck\*

Mr. Anthony Beyer & Ms. Wendy White Eagle

**Brandsma Family Foundation** 

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Wheaton Bank & Trust

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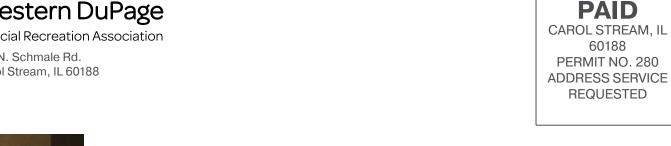
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