



GRATITUDE REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023

OCTOBER 2022-SEPTEMBER 2023

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OUR MISSION

**PARAQUAD CHAMPIONS EQUITY
AND INDEPENDENCE FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
THROUGH SERVICES,
PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION,
AND ADVOCACY.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Willis, Chairperson
Elton Thomas, Vice Chairperson
John E. Butler, Treasurer
Kevin Barnes, Secretary
Ruqayyah Bailey
Dr. Michael Bavlsik
Joe Bayer Jr.
AJ Jacobson

Becca Klos
JoAnn Lam
Vicki LaRose
Ginny Orthwein
Emily Schumacher
Tracy Spivey
Kelly Stewart
Michelle Wieneke

51%
of our board
and staff are
people with
disabilities

LEADERSHIP

Jerry Ehrlich, CEO
Aimee Wehmeier, President
Gary Auch, Sr. Director of Finance
Melissa Brickey, Sr. Director of Advancement
Barb Cant, Sr. Director of Human Resources
Latoya Chauncey, Director of Consumer Directed Services
Briana Conley, Sr. Director of Programs
Guan Hollins, Director of Facilities & Operations
Annie Morrow, Director of Stephen A. Orthwein Center



5240 Oakland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110

OUR PARTICIPANTS

Total Number of People Served **1,106**

Employment Services

459

Stephen A. Orthwein Center

354

Independent Living

116

Assistive Technology Reuse Services

237

Consumer Directed Services

357

Youth Services

41

*SOME PARTICIPANTS ARE SERVED BY MULTIPLE PROGRAMS

Our Goal

THROUGH ADVOCACY AND SERVICES, WE WORK TO CREATE A FUTURE IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE WELL WITH GREATER INDEPENDENCE.



In fall 2022, Luis sustained a spinal cord injury after diving from a boat into the Amazon River. After rehabilitation, his aunt Elizabeth, who lives in St. Louis, recommended the Stephen A. Orthwein Center. In only 6 months, Luis can transfer from his wheelchair, shower, and dress independently.

Luis exudes positivity, dedication, consistency, and accountability. He exercises 4-5 days per week and utilizes our functional electrical stimulation bikes. In addition, Luis has joined our Spinal Cord Injury Support Group, expanding his community involvement and friend circle. We are beyond excited to be a part of Luis' journey and know he will go far on his road to independence.

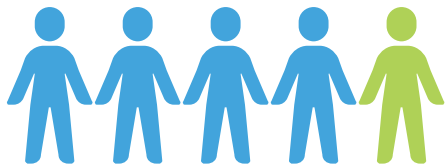
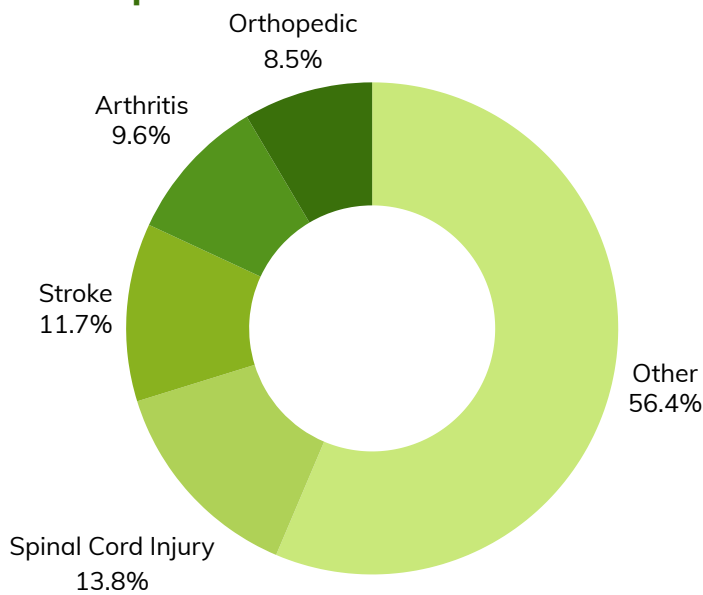
Success Story



Luis Herrera

WHO WE SERVE

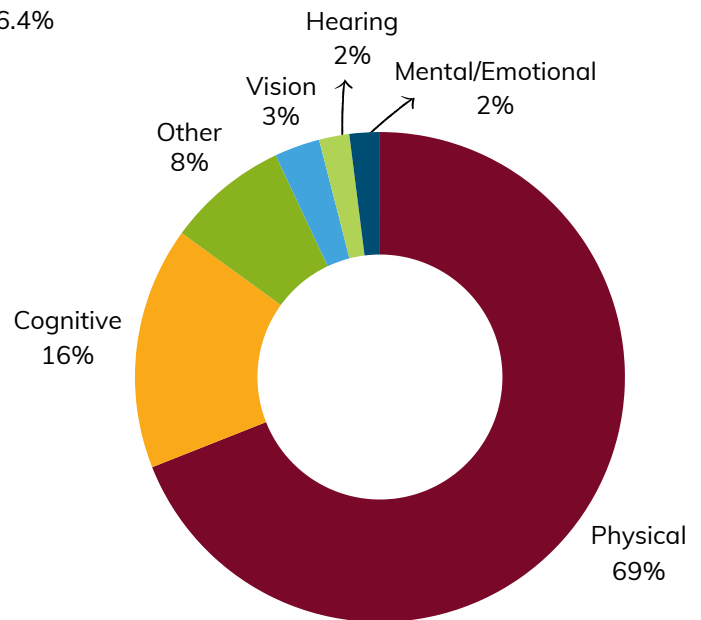
Top Five Disabilities Served



80% of people served live under the poverty level

1 *in* 4

St. Louis City residents living with a disability are employed



Percentage of People Served by Disability

Our Vision

WE ENVISION AN INTEGRATED SOCIETY FREE OF BARRIERS AND DISCRIMINATION WHERE DISABILITY IS VIEWED AS A NATURAL PART OF HUMAN DIVERSITY



Jack Poplawski

Success Story



After graduating from high school, most if not all of the services Jack had been receiving were cut off. His mom, Karen, called Paraquad with the hope Jack could continue to find services that would support him in his adult life and further his education. After learning about Jack's aspirations to work in the restaurant industry, Paraquad immediately referred him to Chef Kelly and the Culinary Program. Jack has since graduated with his food safety certificates.

After successfully graduating from our Culinary Program, Jack worked with Supported Employment to secure a job at Creek Valley Retirement Home. Jack is doing very well, and is even ready for more challenges to grow professionally. Our Employment Specialist, Steve, is working with Jack so he may continue to work at Creek Valley while expanding his growth and hospitality training in other areas!

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Paraquad Friends,

Reflecting on the past year, we are grateful for the unwavering support that has moved Paraquad forward in our mission to champion equity and independence for people with disabilities. This annual report celebrates the dedication and remarkable progress we achieved together.

In 2023, we accomplished significant advocacy milestones, including expanding employment opportunities through Ticket-to-Work and Employment First legislation, and increasing wages for Consumer Directed Services (CDS) workers. Our commitment to providing tailored support services to youth, such as expanding our Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships curriculum into the St. Louis Public Schools underscores our growing mission reach and commitment to nurturing a new generation of leaders in the Disability Rights Movement.

One of our proudest accomplishments was the successful launch of the STL Metropolitan Alliance for Reliable Transit (S.M.A.R.T.), addressing transportation gaps and gaining widespread community support. The rapid growth of S.M.A.R.T. and the commitment to improvements from transit officials is a testament to the collaboration and synergy that define Paraquad as we worked together with community allies, volunteers, and supporters.

Our financial stewardship has played a vital role in ensuring program sustainability. Through strategic resource allocation and the generosity of our donors, we've not only met but exceeded our fundraising goals. This financial stability positions us to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we express our gratitude, we extend a heartfelt thank you to each member of our Paraquad family – our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and the community at large. Your commitment to independence has been the driving force behind our success.

Looking ahead, we are eager to explore the feasibility of uniting Paraquad and the Stephen A. Orthwein Center together under one roof for expanded services and increased impact. Our vision of “One Paraquad” will guide the development of a dynamic strategic plan to strengthen and expand Paraquad services, partnerships, education, and advocacy. Together, we are partnering with people with disabilities to ensure they have the tools, resources, and opportunities available to live their best lives.

In gratitude and anticipation of what we can achieve together,



Jerry Ehrlich

Chief Executive Officer

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314.289.4220



Aimee Wehmeier

President

awehmeier@paraquad.org
314.289.4218

YEAR IN REVIEW

What's New?

- Stroke Support Group
- Multiple Sclerosis Support Group
- Autism Support Group
- Middle School Programming
- Housing Workshops
- Healthy Relationship Courses
- Improved Accessible Apartment
- AlterG & Galileo Equipment



381

pieces of durable medical equipment were given to people with disabilities to increase their independence

8.67%

of participants are participating in more than one Paraquad program

Shaping the Future

WE ARE A HUB OF RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE, FOCUSED ON SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.



Success Story



Before enjoying the St. Louis Zoo, the Summer Blast participants had the opportunity to learn about employment from the head of Human Resources. They learned about a variety of jobs available at the zoo and the interviewing process.

Jonathan had the opportunity to use leadership skills when he helped the group find the exhibits they were looking for, and Bryce shared his love of snakes by encouraging his peers to wander the reptile exhibit. Kevin and Kolyn enjoyed the opportunity to pet the stingrays and everyone had a fun and educational zoo trip!

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

FY23 Fundraising Goal
\$1.8 MILLION



Total Donors

706

Average Gift

\$2,477

Total Donations

907

\$305,000

Raised at the 2023 Shine
the Light Gala, surpassing
our goal of \$275,000

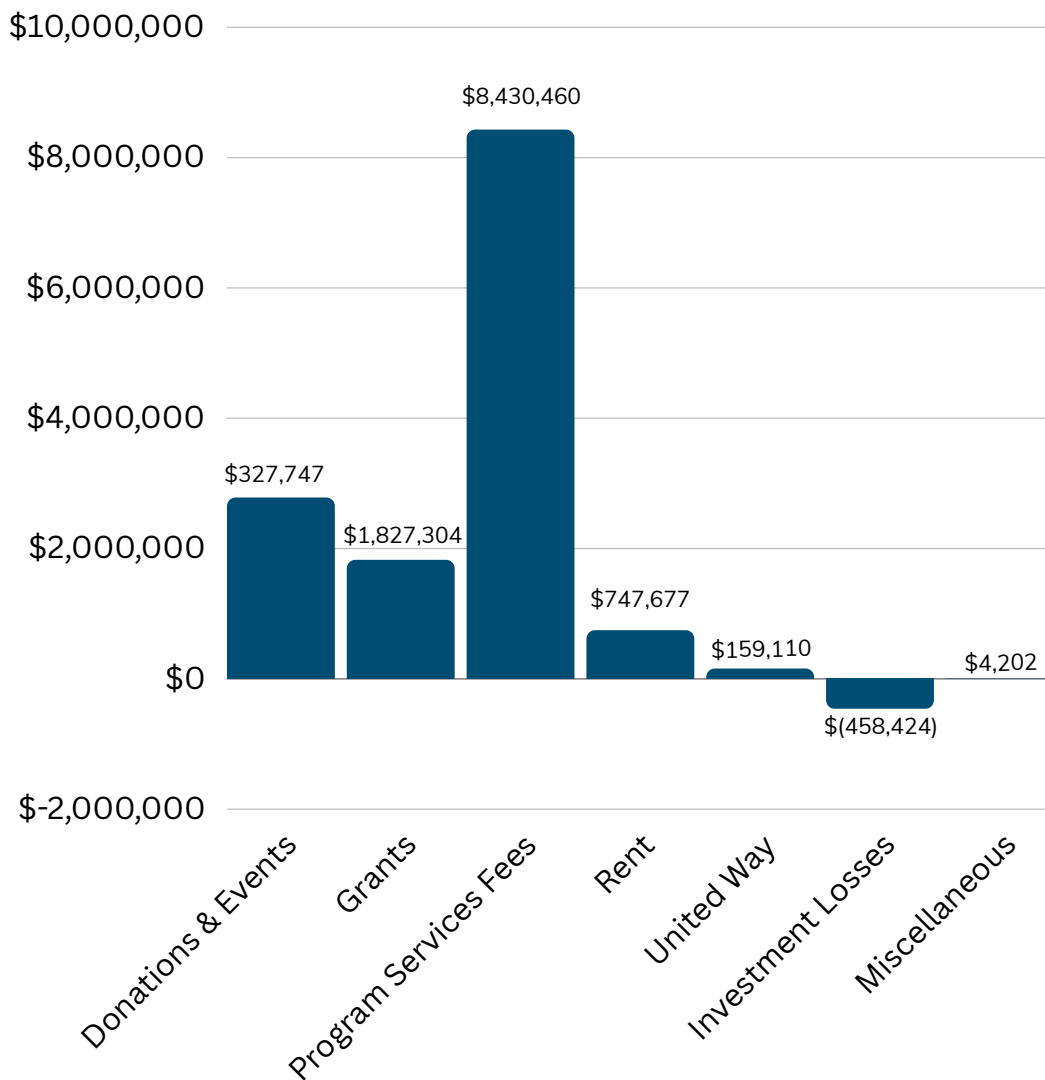
scan to donate



Your Gift

CAN HELP TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO SERVICES THAT PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

REVENUE & EXPENSES



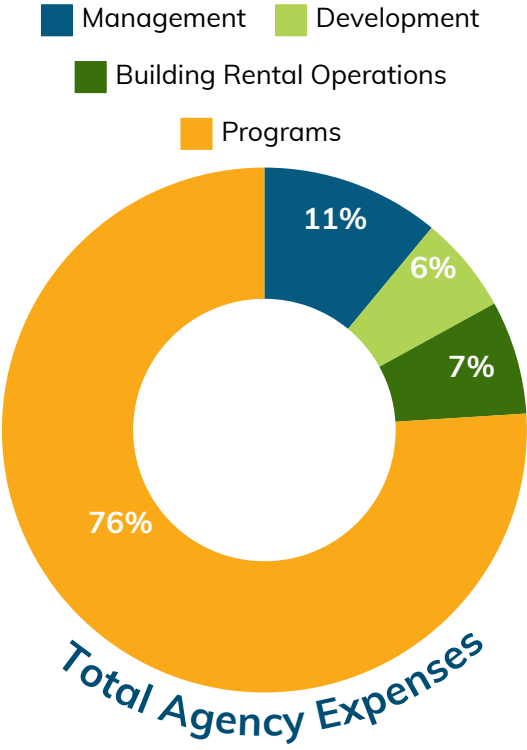
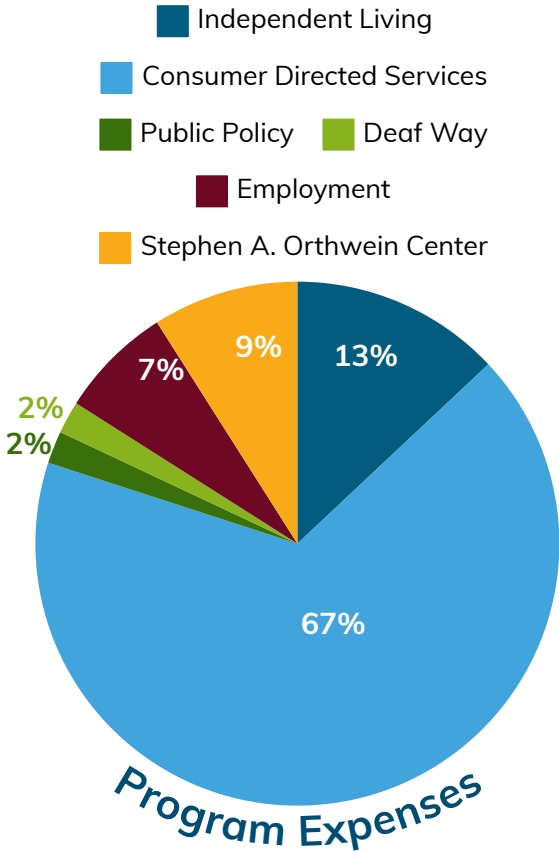
Total Agency Revenue **\$13,005,505**

Revenue less Expenses



\$(253,657)

*the deficit is the result of a real estate sale



Total Agency Expenses

\$13,259,162

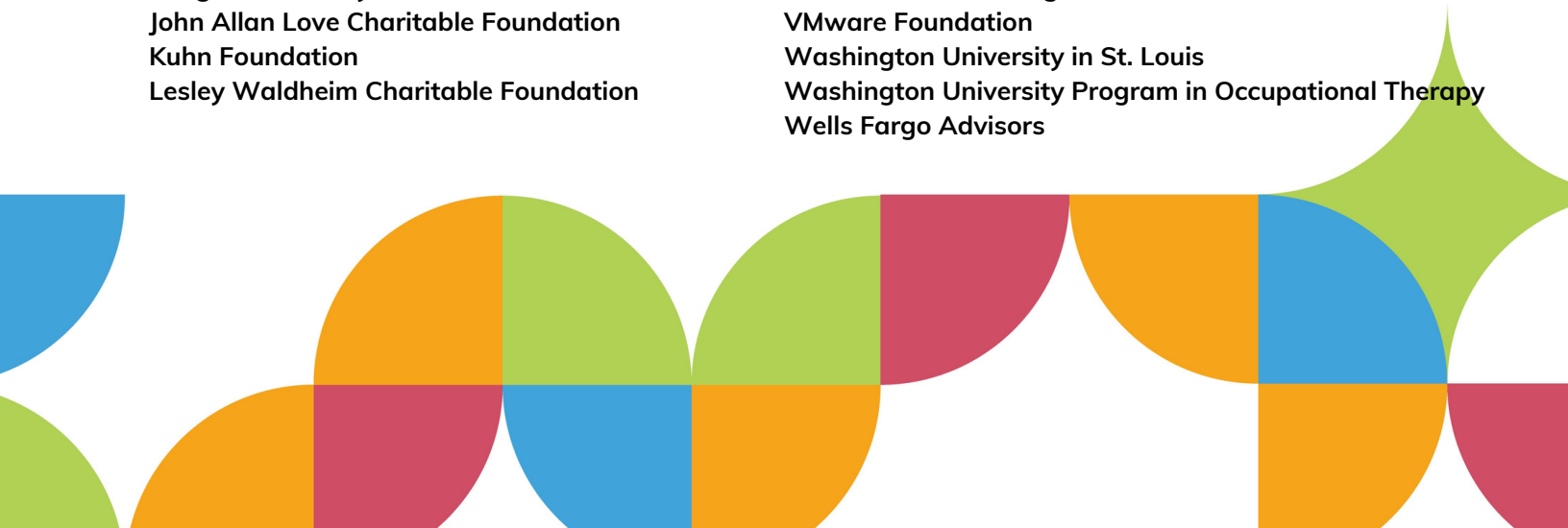
Transparency

PARAQUAD IS COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT ALL LEVELS

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE SUPPORT

4 Hands Brewing Company LLC
Affton Elks - Bingo Committee
Aligned Studio, LLC
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788
AmazonSmile Foundation
Ameren Corporation
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Family Insurance
AT&T Missouri
Bank of America
Berges Family Foundation
Bi-State Development Agency
Blueprint Interactive LLC
Charter Communications
Cigna
City Of Chamois
City Of Waverly
Concord Trinity United Methodist Church
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
Crestwood Elementary PTO
Dana Brown Charitable Trust
Distillery East
Drury Development Corporation
Eden Theological Seminary
Emerson Charitable Trust
Encompass Health
Engraphix
Enterprise Bank & Trust
Enterprise Holdings
Facebook, Inc.
Hilliker Corporation
Holland Construction Services, Inc.
ICL Specialty Products
IFF
Integrated Facility Services
John Allan Love Charitable Foundation
Kuhn Foundation
Lesley Waldheim Charitable Foundation

Lindenwood University
Marsh & McLennan Companies
Maryville University
Metro St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council
MGB Systems
Mildred, Herbert, and Julian Simon Foundation
Missouri Foundation for Health
Missouri Historical Society
Network for Good
Norman D. and Marie L. Atkins Charitable Trust
PandA Foundation
Parkinson's Foundation
Permobil Foundation
Pernikoff Construction Company
Pershing Charitable Trust
Pott Foundation
Pride Restoration
Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital
Regions Bank
Reinsurance Group of America
RubinBrown LLP
Series Six
Simmons Charitable Foundation
Smith McGehee Insurance Solutions
Social Policy Research Associates
St. Louis Community College
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis Public Library
St. Louis Trust and Family Office
St. Louis University
Stephen and Associates
The Clark Family Foundation
The Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis
United Access Holdings
VMware Foundation
Washington University in St. Louis
Washington University Program in Occupational Therapy
Wells Fargo Advisors



SHINE THE *Light*
BUILDING
COMMUNITY
Gala



 Paraquad
Making Independence Accessible

SAVE *the* DATE
09 | 06 | 2024



Making Independence Accessible

5240 OAKLAND AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63110

Join Our Legacy



Have you considered putting Paraquad in your will? Contact
Melissa Brickey to learn more about **Paraquad's Legacy Society**,
mbrickey@paraquad.org 314.289.4348



All Paths Lead to
Independence



314-289-4200
paraquad.org/paths

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