



*Empowering people. Creating possibilities.*

Annual Report **2018**

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**ON THE COVER: MICHAEL EXPERIENCED THE FREEDOM OF FLIGHT  
AT BOLINGBROOK'S CLOW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS PART OF  
ENVISION'S NEW ADVENTURES UNLIMITED PROGRAM.**



# DEAR FRIENDS,

For as long as he could remember, Michael had a singular goal: *to fly an airplane*.

This would be a lofty goal for most of us. For Michael, a program participant at Envision Unlimited and one of the 61 million American adults living with a disability, the challenge seemed even more daunting. Although he has earned a food service certificate and participates in the horticulture and employment programs, something significant was still missing for Michael. All of that changed on October 13, 2018, which just happened to be his 37th birthday.

On that sunny morning, as fluffy clouds dotted a brilliant blue sky, Michael took flight in a small aircraft at Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport. The single-engine plane gave him an unprecedented view of the earth below. Then, as planned and prepared for, he was given the controls himself. For a few moments, Michael was flying an airplane!

The experience was a dream come true, and it was just one of multiple life-changing experiences for Envision program participants and their families as part of "Adventures Unlimited," an initiative to provide inclusive, integrated recreational activities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Crucially, it also provides respite services for caregivers who otherwise spend entire days taking care of their loved ones.

This type of holistic approach is key to Envision Unlimited's vision of the future. Far more than just a one-off event, Adventures Unlimited opportunities

are transformative experiences. Everyone involved benefits, from volunteers like the generous pilots at the Experimental Aircraft Association who offer free rides to children and adults interested in aviation, to others who set aside valuable time to share their expertise with our

Adventures Unlimited program participants. The skills imparted, and quiet moments shared, can forge connections that last a lifetime.



Further, this is part of a broader effort at Envision to continually raise the bar that is set for people with disabilities. Envision Unlimited staff and supporters work tirelessly to break down the barriers and stereotypes that persist for adults with IDD and mental illness, along the way creating steadfast advocates for integrating people with disabilities into the community.

Adventures Unlimited is one of a whole host of innovative efforts that we believe will create an ever more inclusive society for those whom Envision supports. It is our hope that over the next several years, hundreds more individuals will – like Michael – spread their wings and fly.

Mark McHugh  
President and CEO

Heather Nornes  
Board Chair



# CATCH HIM IF YOU CAN

## Looking for Mr. Leslie? So is everybody else.

Whether he's signing for checks from the delivery man, greeting a guest at the door, or zipping around in his motorized wheelchair to ask colleagues a question, Richard Leslie is always on the go at Beverly Bank & Trust.

Mr. Leslie has been working at the bank part time for 10 years with support from Envision services designed to provide comprehensive, home-based support. He lives nearby, so the commute to work is quick and easy. Importantly, the work is satisfying. And Mr. Leslie's job is a crucial one: he handles all incoming mail, ensuring that statements match up with the names on the checks and that his colleagues receive their correspondence in an accurate and timely manner.

Several years ago, Mr. Leslie received a call that he had become eligible to receive home-based services through Envision. He and his family were elated, as these types of high-quality opportunities can take years for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive. Envision program staff quickly put together a strategic plan for Mr. Leslie. In addition to collaborating with him on his individual service plan and resource agreements, his support team was able to help him secure employment in the community.

Mr. Leslie liked the idea of working for a business in his neighborhood. He likes his colleagues

and will often join them for a lunchtime sloppy joe sandwich at a restaurant near the bank. He enjoys interacting with customers as well, many of whom are neighbors that Mr. Leslie has known for years. The bank – “big and fancy” in his estimation – is an important anchor institution for the Beverly community, and Mr. Leslie is proud to be a part of that, too.

When he's not running around the bank, Mr. Leslie is traveling across the city, usually by public transit, to catch a Cubs game or some other sporting event. He exudes confidence and a sense of independence that have no doubt been fostered by the support of Envision and the professional and personal growth he's undergone while working at the bank. Mr. Leslie appreciates that every day brings with it different tasks and new things to learn, within an atmosphere that's supportive and adaptive to his work style.

As the words “Hi, Rich!” echo across the bank lobby for what seems like the third time in ten minutes, Mr. Leslie is off again, ready to receive a package or respond to an inquiry at a moment's notice. He says his long-term plans are to stay at the bank, continue to acquire new skills, and engage with the community he loves. It's clear that this community loves him back.



“

Rich's outgoing manner and gentle demeanor are a welcome addition to the normally busy Beverly Bank lobby, where he seems to know most of the customers and always shares a smile and a warm hello.

– Colleen Feigenwinter,  
Co-worker at Beverly Bank  
& Trust

”

**BEVERLY BANK & TRUST ALSO SUPPORTS ENVISION  
BY OFFERING FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES TO OUR CLIENTS.**



# BEVERLY BANK & TRUST Co. N.A.

A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK

10258



Like all participants with home-based services through Envision, Mr. Leslie chooses what services he would like and with whom he would like to work in order to achieve the goals and outcomes he's set for himself. This approach helps to ensure that individuals with disabilities remain in their homes and become as independent as possible in their communities.







# GET ON YOUR BIKES AND RIDE!

The morning of Sunday, May 27th dawned bright and warm as program participants, staff, and volunteers from across the city gathered their cycling gear and made their way to Chicago's lakefront. The group proudly wore their "Team Envision" jerseys as they fueled up for what would be for many the longest bike ride of their lives: the 17th Annual MB Bike the Drive.

This momentous occasion was the culmination of nearly a year of training as part of Envision's Buddy Biking initiative, a program that welcomes community volunteers to join Envision program participants and staff on The 606/Bloomington Trail, combining physical activity with community interaction. The 606, a trail system built on an old rail line, runs adjacent to Envision's Westtown Center in the Humboldt Park community and provides a safe, convenient place for new or returning cyclists to train on the tandem bikes used for the program (*read more about these on page 16*).

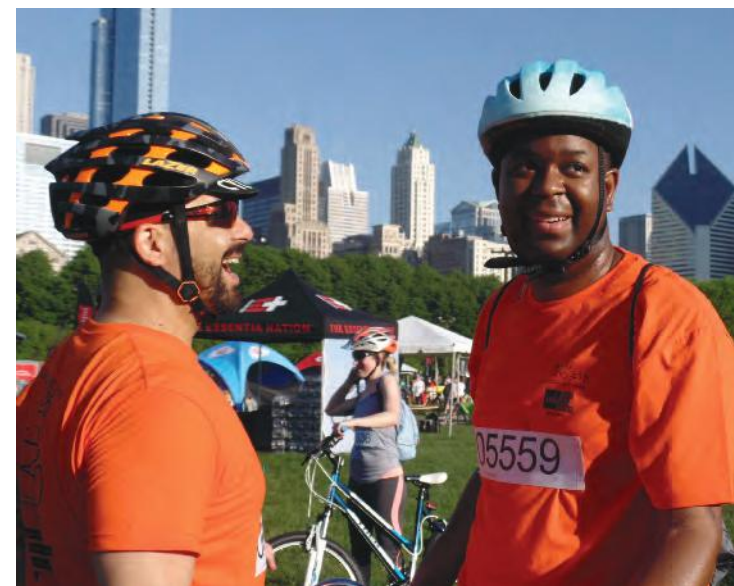
An enthusiasm for bikes has long been a part of Envision's day programs. At Rose Center in the Back of the Yards community, program participants regularly volunteer for repair and maintenance duty at Working Bikes, a nonprofit bike shop that repairs bikes for resale and redistribution across the globe. Their skill at

fixing flats, checking for alignment, and carrying out general tuneups has made the group a sought-after commodity. They even managed the bike parking at Riot Fest this year!

Bikes have literally and metaphorically taken program participants to new places and new levels of fitness, but these programs are about much more than just physical health. The individuals involved speak repeatedly of the sense of camaraderie and new friendships that have formed as a result. Jamie, a member of Team Envision, put it best at one of her indoor training rides when she burst into the door of the spin studio and exclaimed, "I'm so happy to be here!"

The work of Jamie and her teammates paid off, as Team Envision successfully completed its first MB Bike the Drive, raising over \$30,000 for Envision in the process. After the ride, tired and sweaty cyclists gathered to celebrate their journey together. They had pushed hard, pedaled fast, and accomplished something many thought they never could.

What's next for our Buddy Biking crew? Why, more training, of course! Next year's MB Bike the Drive is just around the bend.



“

Through our holistic indoor cycling program, Envision cyclists have improved their fitness, confidence, and independence and have fostered a sense of belonging. Together, we're demonstrating what an innovative, inclusive wellness program looks like. In fact, our work will be presented at a national fitness educator convention in 2019. I can't wait to see where the team is going!

— David Pufundt  
Owner of FullPsycle Chicago

”



**VISIT [ENVISIONUNLIMITED.ORG/BIKETHEDRIVE](https://envisionunlimited.org/bikethedrive) TO JOIN TEAM ENVISION AND RIDE WITH US AT A FUTURE MB BIKE THE DRIVE.**

# A HOUSE FULL OF LOVE FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

**Pamela and Richard Webb run out of fingers as they count up together the number of children who have filled their home with love over the years.**

There are their five biological children, two adopted children, two current foster children, four grandchildren, and the 12 former foster children, several of whom still stop by on a regular basis to check in on this big extended family.

Pamela readily admits that their situation isn't for everyone, or even for most people. "The energy is through the roof. It's chaotic...and I love the chaos," she says with a big laugh and a broad smile in her spacious living room. The Webb's meticulously decorated and immaculately tidy home belies any sense of chaos.

The Webbs only began to explore the foster parenting process with Envision in 2005, once their youngest biological child was an adult. They didn't know anyone else who had fostered or adopted children, but Pamela had been licensed for home child care in the past, and the house they were about to close on had more space than the empty nesters needed for themselves. So they took a leap of faith after seeing Envision's foster care program advertised on cable access TV. After completing the required training and licensing, the Webbs sat back for what they assumed would be a period of waiting before a child was placed with them.

They were wrong about the waiting part. In one whirlwind weekend, their youngest daughter got married on a Saturday, and their first foster child arrived that Monday. Jeramiah was 15 years

old and on his 11th placement when he arrived at the Webbs' home for what was known as an emergency placement. He was only supposed to stay with them for seven days until a residential facility had open space for him. That approval took three weeks, however, and by that time they had bonded with him.

Through the help of their Envision caseworkers the Webbs were able to keep Jeramiah at their home and give him the structure and support needed to thrive. His mom, with whom he had a good relationship, even though he was not able to live with her, followed him through every step of the way in foster care. Pamela said they had realized that fostering was more than just the child: "In reality we had to foster families." And these families made it work.

Jeramiah was emancipated at 18, but would live with the Webbs until he was almost 20, when he left for college. He lives in North Carolina now, but calls home five times a week. The Webbs also keep in touch with Jeramiah's mom. In an amazing twist, it wasn't until years later that the Webbs realized Jeramiah had grown up just blocks from their old home; they had actually met him when he was a young child.

Pamela and Richard prefer the term "children in care" over "foster children," as that term reflects their belief that every child needs, and deserves, a network of caring, loving adults in their life,

regardless of whether or not those individuals are related by blood. The Webbs have been tireless advocates for children in care across the state in leadership roles with the Envision Foster Parent Advisory Council and for Pamela, as a three-year member of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council.

Their home currently has eight children in it, and the Webbs are as busy as ever. But don't call any of this work; it's just who they are. As Pamela explains, "Fostering is not a job, it is a commitment." Richard agrees, and shares their philosophy for keeping calm among the chaos: "Lead with your heart, because that's the only way, really, that you're going to find what you're looking for. You have to love children to do this. No matter if it's the first child or you've been doing it for years."

Ask the Webbs if they have any plans for adding to their household and they give a knowing glance to each other. As a couple who unexpectedly became foster parents overnight over a decade ago, they know that the best laid plans could always be interrupted by another child in need of their warm, loving home. And they wouldn't have it any other way.

**ENVISION'S SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM CURRENTLY HAS 63 CHILDREN IN CARE.**







“

The Webbs have worked tirelessly as foster and adoptive parents over the years, embracing the motto “we don’t give up on children.” I have so enjoyed working with them — they are such an inspiring family.

– Sylvia Woods-Thomas  
Director of Foster Care

”



# A JOB DONE WELL

**Nine years ago Jesse walked through the door to take part in a program for individuals with mental illness. He was nervous.**

This was a tough time for Jesse. He had butted heads with housemates at a group home, could not take public transportation on his own, and generally found himself unable to advocate for his wants and needs. He was prone to outbursts that frustrated him as much as the staff. And everyone — especially Jesse — knew that he was capable of much, much more.

What Jesse needed was guidance and structure, a goal to work toward. The ideal opportunity emerged with Neumann Family Services — and now Envision's — job coaching program. Jesse had never worked with a job coach before, but it was a life changing experience. Together, they focused on things like his volunteer history and how those experiences translated into meaningful skills to add to his resume. They worked on job applications, discussed appropriate interviewing techniques, and pored over online career sites to identify jobs for which Jesse would be a good match. Throughout the process, Jesse was responsive to feedback and adaptable to change, two traits that served him well in achieving rapid success.

Jesse took what he learned and began to seriously pursue a paid position, something he had not had yet in his life. He conducted the search on his own, prepared and sent off his resume, and landed an interview with a local

hospital not long thereafter. Aside from giving him a ride to the interview, staff were able to be hands-off as he independently pursued his goal, equipped with all that he had learned with his coach. Guess what: he landed the job!

Today Jesse has been at his current position in food services for nearly two years, and the positivity of that career has sent other areas of his life into new trajectories. He takes CTA on his own and loves the freedom that public transportation affords him. He has translated the interpersonal skills he demonstrates in the workplace to his home life, and now lives in an apartment with roommates. He still participates in Envision's mental health program, as well as the occasional brush up with a career coach, both of which provide Jesse with the stability and skills to live the life he's always wanted.

While he plans on staying in his position at the hospital for now, Jesse definitely has ambitions for the future. He enjoys the healthcare field but is interested in exploring a career in customer service if the right position comes along. In the meantime, he'll continue to serve in his unofficial capacity as a career coach to friends at Envision and in his community. Jesse's perseverance and focus continue to inspire those around him and will no doubt lead to more professional success.



“ From the moment I met him, Jesse was determined to join the workforce so that he could fulfill his dream of becoming independent. He has handled each obstacle with patience and persistence, and I am extremely proud of how far he's come. It's a joy to see him thriving in the community and as a role model for other program participants pursuing their goal of working and becoming more independent.

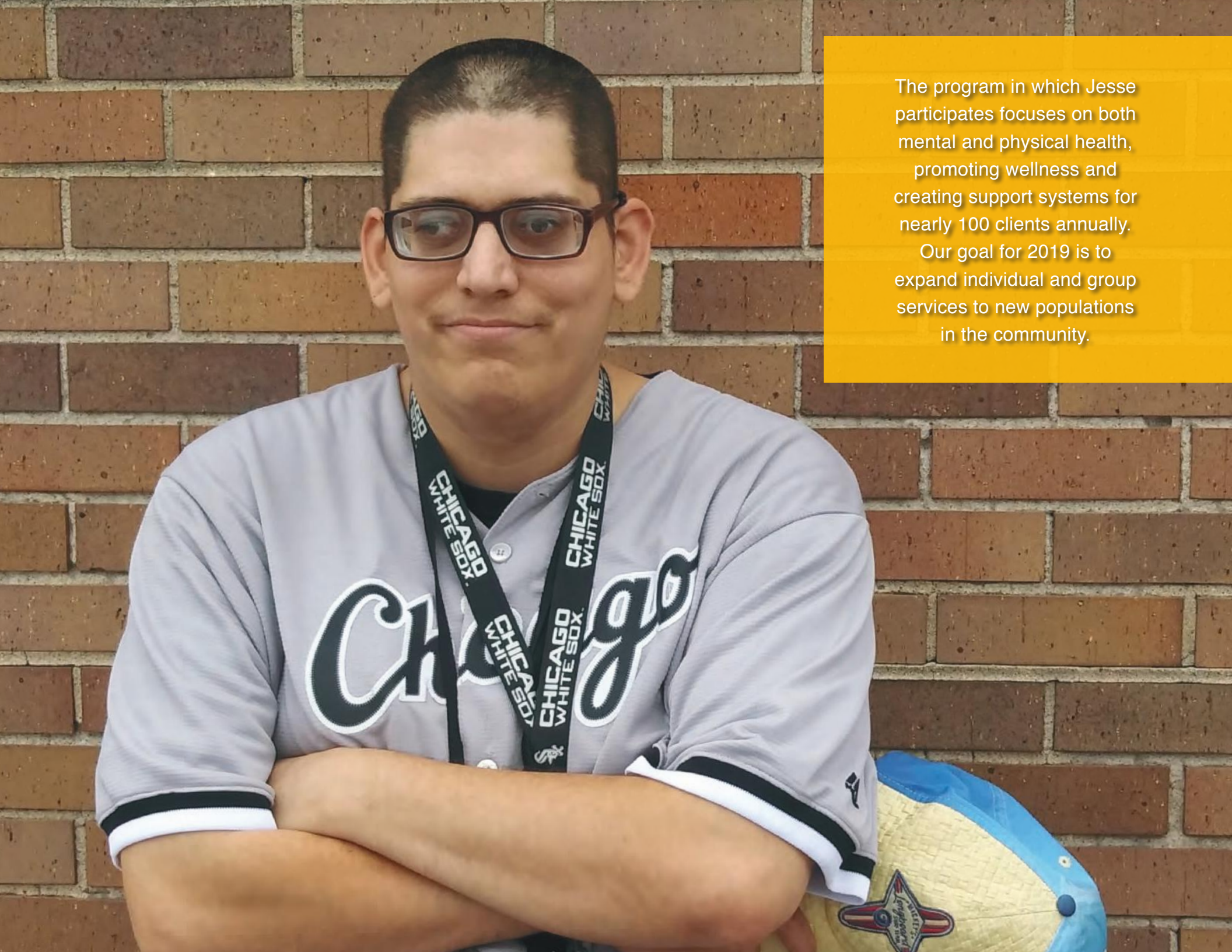
— Catherine Aranas, Assistant Director of Learning and Employment

”

**THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
FOCUSES ON WELLNESS, HOME,  
PURPOSE, AND COMMUNITY.**





A man with short dark hair and glasses is sitting against a brick wall. He is wearing a light gray Chicago White Sox baseball jersey with the word 'Chicago' in large black script across the chest. He has a black lanyard around his neck with 'CHICAGO WHITE SOX' printed in white. His arms are crossed. A blue and yellow baseball cap is partially visible at the bottom right.

The program in which Jesse participates focuses on both mental and physical health, promoting wellness and creating support systems for nearly 100 clients annually.

Our goal for 2019 is to expand individual and group services to new populations in the community.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Envision Unlimited posted an increase in Net Assets of \$3,345,708 in fiscal year 2018. The March 1, 2018 merger with Neumann Family Services drove this increase due to the re-valuation of properties to current appraised values. Combined operations of the two organizations posted an operating surplus of \$130,949. Net revenue from Contributions and Fund Raising events increased again this year.

Envision's Net Assets as of June 30, 2018, were \$10,632,713. Our balance sheet with small long-term debt grew in size and strength this past year with the merger and continues to provide the flexibility needed to implement the programs and services needed to fulfill our overall mission despite the funding challenges presented by the State of Illinois.

We begin fiscal year 2019 with the continued transformation of our day programming toward a completely community-based model and expansion of our mental health services. Such initiatives will adequately address the current challenges presented by government funding, as well as better meet the needs of our clients.

Sincerely,

Dan Durbin  
*Treasurer*



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (year ended June 30)

### Support and Revenue

|  | 2018<br><small>(Unaudited)</small> | 2017 |
|--|------------------------------------|------|
|--|------------------------------------|------|

|  |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Operational Revenue .....              | 25,279,430          | 21,344,400          |
| Program Fees and Other Revenues .....  | 2,950,262           | 2,391,030           |
| Contributions .....                    | 1,948,016           | 1,842,648           |
| <b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE .....</b> | <b>\$30,177,708</b> | <b>\$25,578,078</b> |

### Expenses

|  | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|
|--|------|------|

|                                     |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Vocational Services .....           | 8,171,803         | 7,527,677         |
| Community Living Services .....     | 15,436,598        | 12,229,909        |
| Family Support Services .....       | 2,128,243         | 2,063,774         |
| Mental Health .....                 | 973,996           | 0                 |
| <b>Total Program Expenses .....</b> | <b>26,710,640</b> | <b>21,821,360</b> |
| Management and General .....        | 2,721,601         | 2,335,736         |
| Fundraising and Development .....   | 614,518           | 615,079           |
| <b>Total Expenses .....</b>         | <b>30,046,759</b> | <b>24,772,175</b> |

Operating Surplus ..... 130,949 ..... 805,903

Net Assets Transferred from Merger ..... 3,214,759 ..... 0

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ..... \$3,345,708 ..... \$805,903**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

|  | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|
|--|------|------|

|                                   |                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash .....                        | 6,788,787         | 4,054,181         |
| Other Current Assets .....        | 3,063,762         | 6,201,152         |
| <b>Total current assets .....</b> | <b>9,852,549</b>  | <b>10,255,333</b> |
| Fixed Assets, Net .....           | 6,858,926         | 1,651,655         |
| Other Assets .....                | 439,891           | 373,559           |
| <b>Total Assets .....</b>         | <b>17,151,366</b> | <b>12,280,547</b> |

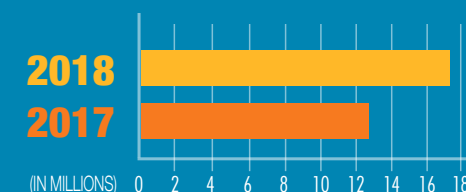
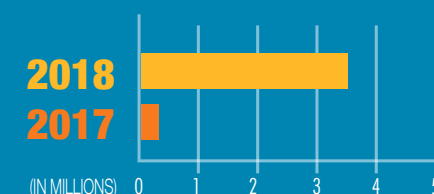
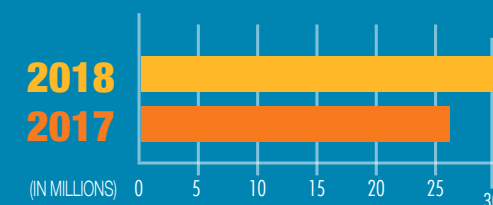
### Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Current Liabilities ..... 6,124,641 ..... 4,993,543

Total Long-Term Liabilities ..... 394,012 ..... 0

Net Assets ..... 10,632,713 ..... 7,287,004

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS ..... \$17,151,366 ..... \$12,280,547**



# THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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 Sara Haegele  
 Eric and Marilyn Hager  
 Emily Haithcoat  
 Courtney Hall



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MB Financial Bank applauds the work of Envision which is enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. The Buddy Biking program brings their special clients into the mainstream community through biking and other programming. A win-win for all. MB and Active Transportation Alliance were thrilled to be able to provide scholarships to ride in MB Bike the Drive this year. Making a positive contribution to the communities we serve is part of the MB Financial Bank DNA. MB strives to serve as a partner in our neighborhoods focusing on building strong and vibrant communities. We are proud to play a small part in enriching the lives of those with unique needs.

– Karen Perlman

Sr. Vice President, Head of Corporate Marketing,  
 Chief Brand Officer at MB Financial Bank

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*Envision Unlimited has made every effort to make this list accurate and inclusive. If you discover an error or omission, please email [info@envisionunlimited.org](mailto:info@envisionunlimited.org) so that we may correct our records.*



# ENVISION UNLIMITED

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