



Annual Report 2023



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Our Mission

CREATING POSSIBILITIES. ACHIEVING DREAMS.

Our mission at KAC is to create opportunities for the personal growth and success of persons with special needs. KAC does this by removing barriers, changing perceptions and building confidence.

Board of Directors



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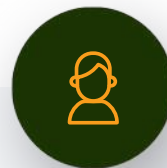
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Letter from the CEO

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

— Albert Einstein

As we reflect on the past year, I am deeply moved by the resilience and dedication of our donors, partners and staff. Together, we continue to make meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.



It was a transformative year at KAC as we pursued our mission to create opportunities for personal growth and success. As Einstein states, we cannot change the world without changing our thinking, and that is exactly what we did in 2023. We started this change by converting our physical space to accommodate adult day and employment training programs on site. This meant closing the sheltered workshop, a change in thinking.

As a result, the first class of employment training produced six graduates who are moving forward on their path to competitive employment. Paid work for adults with disabilities moved to fully integrated community sites where hourly wages replaced piecework rates. More than 91 people with disabilities were placed in jobs in the community earning competitive wages.

The newly renovated space also accommodates children's programs including playgroups, therapy services and socialization events. These opportunities were available to the more than 800 children who receive services. We launched a mobile app, Sparkler, which puts free developmental screening and activity information into the hands of parents.

As we look to the future, we are excited to continue evolving our programs and services for people with disabilities. We invite you to join us on this journey as we continue to build on the progress we have made.

Thank you for your support,

Chris Weyker

Chris Weyker
Chief Executive Officer



Children Services Programs

KAC creates a nurturing and stimulating environment where each child's social, emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development can thrive. With a belief that every child has unique strengths, we celebrate their individual achievements. We also recognize that parents and caregivers play the most critical role in shaping a child's success, and we work closely with them to support their child's growth.



Early Intervention Program



Early Head Start



Help Me Grow



Sprouts Playgroups

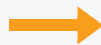


Early Intervention Program



296

Families Served YTD



350

Total Participants Served

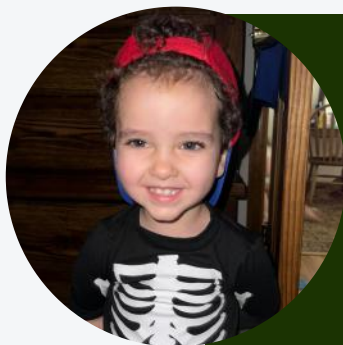
Percentage of Infants and Toddlers with Growth:

48%

functioned within age expectations in each outcome by age 3.

66%

who entered below age expectations substantially increased their rate of growth by age 3.



Meet Otto

A shining example of our Early Intervention Program's impact. When Otto first joined, he needed help with building his strength and with personalized therapy, he's now running, climbing, and reaching exciting new milestones. His journey highlights the incredible progress children can make with the right support.

Help Me Grow



Mission & Model

Goal: Support early childhood development to help every child thrive.

Services: Coordinated system for free health, developmental, and educational resources for families in Kenosha County.

Key Role: HMG Coordinator assists families with outreach, enrollment, and resources.

Community Impact

301 families served across Kenosha, connecting them to critical resources and activities.

1,200+ developmental screenings entered into the ASQ database to assess kindergarten readiness.

Successful partnerships with Kenosha Public Library (KPL), Head Start, and local community events.

Achievements

3 childcare centers enrolled for in-center developmental screenings.

4 Successful Books, Balls, and Blocks events with KPL, fostering community engagement.

This project is being supported in whole or in part by federal award number SLFRP0135 awarded to KAC via the WI Dept of Administration.





Early Head Start Program



All programs were fully enrolled and staffed throughout the year.



SPROUTS and EHS events were hosted at diverse locations, including Play Space, city parks, Kenosha Public Library, Monkey Joe's, and Funkin Farm.



Launched a new Early Childhood Indoor Play Space, expanding opportunities for child engagement and growth.



41 children transitioned to Head Start or KUSD Early Childhood programs in Fall 2023.

Yiseth's Journey: Thriving with EHS Support

Yiseth Santana's EHS journey began in 2021, when her mom, Lucerito, returned to the program she first joined in 2006 with Yiseth's older sister, Kayla. Weekly home visits helped Lucerito support Yiseth's development, set goals, and address an early speech delay. Thanks to this guidance, Yiseth is thriving. Grateful for the program's impact, Lucerito now shares EHS benefits with other families.





Adult Services Programs

01

Day Service

Promotes independence, self-esteem, and quality of life by fostering peer connections through engaging activities and community outings.

05

Work Experience

Provides practical paid experience to enhance work skills and confidence, ensuring participants are ready for employment.

02

Voyage

Focuses on life skills development to support a balanced life and long-term job retention.

06

Summer Exploration

Prepares youth (ages 14-20) with disabilities for employment through skill-building activities and paid work experience.

03

GardenWorks

Encourages creativity and environmental awareness through hands-on gardening, building peer connections, and enjoying the fruits of their labor.

07

Skills to Pay the Bills

Boosts financial literacy, fostering independence and confidence in managing money.

04

Employment Training

Builds work skills and confidence in a supportive setting, preparing participants for community employment. Includes hands-on projects like Kenosha Awesome Cookies.

Adult Services



Community Integration



Outings

352 total outings across all Adult Services programs.



Participants

1,964 total community interactions (including repeat participants).



6 participants completed the Inaugural Employment Training class of 2023.

Innovations & Improvements

- **Physical Environment:** Palmer renovations completed on 8/1/2023; full program moved in by December 1st.
- **Staff Development:** 150 hours of staff training completed; 2 new staff members added.
- **Volunteer Contributions:** Week of Hope: 980 volunteer hours contributed to GardenWorks and KAC.
- **Participant Volunteering:** 404 hours completed by participants at various community sites like Jockey and Munster Orchard.
- **UW Extension Foodwise Collaboration:** 6-week program teaching nutrition and cooking to participants using produce from KAC's GardenWorks.

Work Experience Sites

- RYOCF
- RAM
- Powerbrace
- KAC Kitchen
- KAC Janitorial
- Kenosha KingFish,
- Green Ridge Cemetery



Community Employment



The Transitional Services Department at KAC focuses on community employment for individuals with disabilities, primarily serving those aged 14 and older. Our services include internships, job search and development, on-site coaching, and post-employment support, with job placements occurring across a variety of industries—primarily within Kenosha and Racine counties.



Community Employment Placements

81 individuals placed, earning an average wage of \$12.87/hour.



Employment Sites

- Retail: Piggly Wiggly, Festival Foods, Meijer, Ross Dress for Less, Target
- Food Service: McDonald's, Derango's, Cracker Barrel, Taco Bell, Culver's
- Healthcare: Legacy at St. Joseph, Brookdale Senior Living
- Manufacturing: Kenosha Steel Casting, Laval Industries
- Other: Milwaukee Zoo, Marcus Renaissance Theatre, Kenosha public library, Kenosha Kingfish

Over \$1.3 million in estimated annual wages generated by placed individuals.

Meet Karen! Seeking part-time work, Karen joined KAC and started an internship at Stainless Wash Laundromat in September 2023. Through her hard work, dedication, and reliability, Karen quickly impressed her team. Her positive attitude and commitment led to a long-term job offer, marking a new chapter of growth and success.





Transportation

22 Hours-A-Day Service

Western Transit

Employment Trips

Care-A-Van

6,927 trips

5,110 trips

23,220 trips



Meet Carolyn

Carolyn Madsen uses our Care-A-Van and says it has become a vital part of her life. From doctor's appointments to park visits, our service helps her stay active and independent. Carolyn describes our transportation as "incredibly reliable and always there when I need it," with drivers who go the extra mile to ensure her safety and comfort. She also praises our scheduling team for making everything run smoothly. Thanks to our Transportation program, Carolyn stays connected to her community and enjoys the freedom to live her life to the fullest.



Community Partnerships



KAC's Community Partnerships create valuable connections that empower both our clients and the broader community. These partnerships are essential for building dedicated teams, providing enriching opportunities, and offering new experiences that align with our mission. Together, we create pathways for individuals with special needs to grow in independence and confidence, while fostering a thriving social enterprise through collaborative efforts.

Production

KAC collaborates with local businesses to provide individuals with special needs opportunities in light assembly and packaging, helping them develop skills and gain valuable work experience.



2,723.14 Production Hours 22 Clients Employed \$17,309.73 Production Wages

Food Services

Meals on Wheels and the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility collaborate with KAC to offer foodservice opportunities that provide valuable work experience for individuals with disabilities.



7 Clients Employed at KAC Kitchen 4 Clients Employed at RYOC \$18,922.65 Food Services Wages

Maintenance & Groundskeeping

Collaborations with the state of Wisconsin and private organizations enable KAC to offer training and job opportunities in janitorial and groundskeeping positions for individuals with disabilities.

10 Sites Maintained → 20 Clients Employed → \$17,753.44 RAM Wages



Community Support

In 2023, KAC’s success was fueled by the strong partnerships we built with our dedicated donors and community supporters. Their generous contributions made a significant impact, allowing us to secure vital funding that drives our mission forward.



57th Annual Golf Classic
\$56,455



Board of Directors Fundraising Events
\$25,046



Peacetree
\$10,706



Annual Fund Drive
\$22,739.96



\$114,947

We express our deepest gratitude to our valued GRANT FUNDERS for their generous support of KAC.

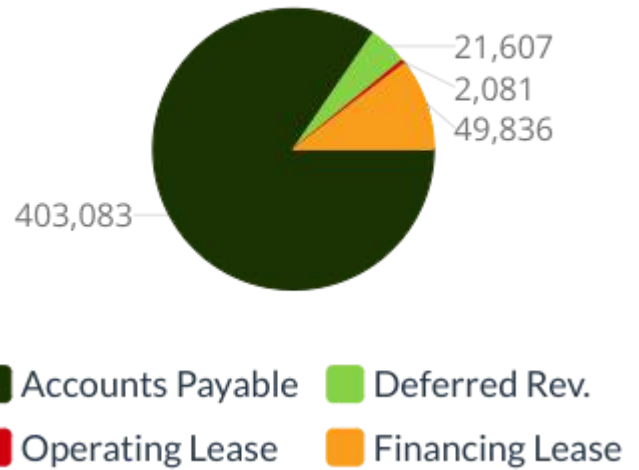
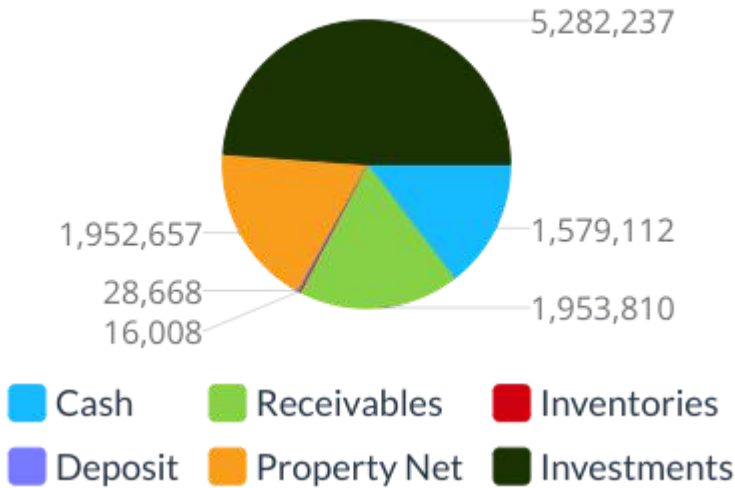
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|---|---|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kenosha Community Foundation Arts Fund | 7 | Kenosha Lion's Foundation |
| 2 | Kenosha Community Foundation LaFave Family Fund | 8 | Rotary Club of Kenosha West |
| 3 | Kenosha Community Foundation Women's Fund | 9 | Forest County Potawatomi Foundation |
| 4 | United Way of Kenosha County | 10 | Patrick & Anna M. Cudahy Foundation |
| 5 | Kenosha Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund | 11 | CLA Foundation |
| 6 | City of Kenosha Community Development Block Grant | 12 | WE Energies Foundation |

Financial Position



Assets

Liabilities



Net Undesignated Assets

Net Donor Restricted Assets

Total Liabilities & Net Assets

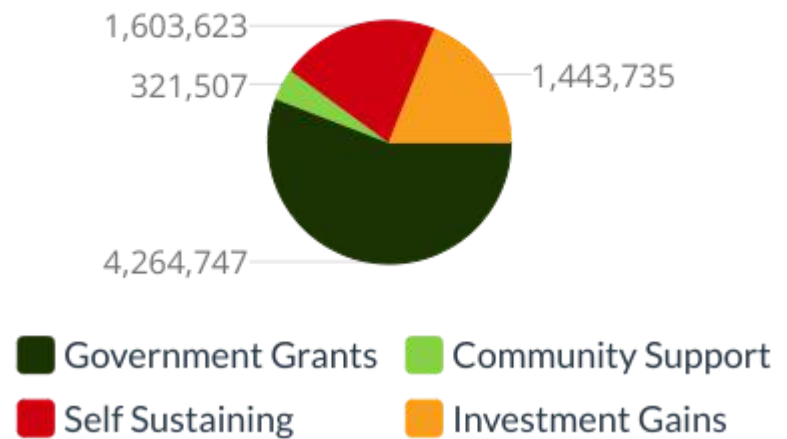
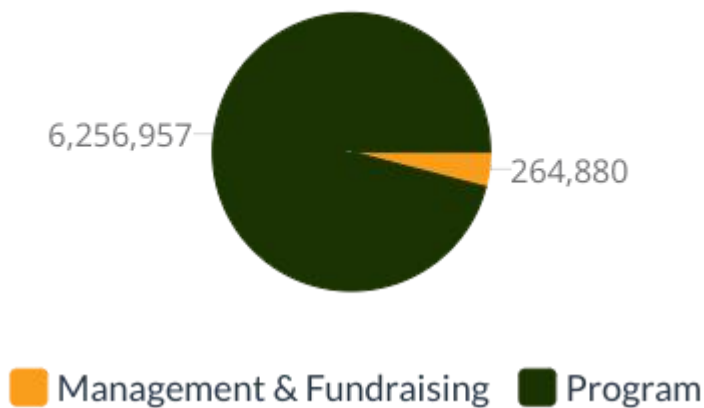
\$10,252,489

\$83,396

\$10,812,492

Expenses

Revenue



Total Revenue Including G&L

Total Expenses

Net Income

\$7,633,612

\$6,521,837

\$1,111,775

Reflecting on Progress



As we look back on 2023, we are proud of the strides made and the lives impacted through the Kenosha Achievement Center. Each initiative reinforced our unwavering commitment to empowering individuals of all abilities to thrive in work, life, and the community.

Breaking Barriers, Building Futures

This year, we strengthened our partnerships, expanded our programs, and delivered services that move us closer to a more inclusive future. Every milestone we reached reflects our dedication to fostering independence and creating new opportunities for those we serve.

Our Community of Support

None of our achievements would be possible without the tireless support of our staff, volunteers, community partners, and generous donors. Together, we are breaking down barriers and ensuring that every individual has the chance to succeed.

Looking Ahead

As we close the chapter on 2023, we look forward to an even brighter 2024. With your continued support, we will keep creating inclusive opportunities and empowering individuals to lead fulfilling lives.



For more information, inquiries, or opportunities to get involved, please reach out to us at:

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Phone: (262) 658-9500

Facebook: facebook.com/thekac

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