DNMM Annual Report – 2017

**The Disability Experts In Your Community**

INSIDE FRONT COVER:

Left column >> Table of Contents, Service Map Lower left corner

Right column>> **Board of Directors:**

Greg Pollock, President: The Dow Chemical Company

Jordan Summers, Vice President: Chemical Bank

Robbie Waclawski, Treasurer: Special Olympics Michigan

Mary Reif, Secretary: Shine Window Care

Norm Donker, Past President: Office of Attorney General

Mary Laforet: MEL Associates

Dennis Palmer: Disability Advocate

Tom Provoast, The Dow Chemical Company

John Searles: Midland County Educational Services Agency

Michelle Ursuy: Smart ID Works

Cheryl Wade: Disability Advocate

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**History and Mission**

Disability Network of Mid-Michigan is one of 15 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Michigan. We have served the region for 27 years and now employ 81 staff members. In an eight-county area, we provide independent living skill development, peer support and mentoring, and systems and individual advocacy. Our information and referral program, and our community transitions program, which moves people out of nursing homes, serves twelve counties.

Nationally, the history of CILs is closely intertwined with the Civil Rights movement. Based on the same desires for access to housing, education, transportation and employment, both movements aim to eliminate barriers and to provide full inclusion for all individuals in society.

Today, Disability Network of Mid-Michigan continues the CIL charter of changing communities rather than “fixing” the person with the disability. Our mission is to promote and encourage independence for all people with disabilities. Our vision is accessible and inclusive communities that provide opportunities for individual choice.

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**PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS LETTER**

**Increasing our Impact**

Throughout our organization’s history, Disability Network of Mid-Michigan (DNMM) has served as the region’s beacon for the independent living of all people with disabilities. Our team of talented professionals has impacted the lives of 2400 people in the Great Lakes Bay area. This impressive achievement is only affirmed by DNMM’s commitment to levelling the playing field for all members of our community.

To this passion, the Board of Directors is no exception. This year, we welcomed three new board members along with a new leadership team that is challenging the status quo for the organization. For years, DNMM has prided itself in its outstanding operations and quality services. It is now time to take that excellence to the next level. Our Board is committed to establishing DNMM’s place as a partner in the community, increasing its visibility, and growing its services.

Disability Network’s outstanding track record of service to the community, strong leadership, financial stability and accountability, along with its diverse pool of supporters has allowed us to establish an endowment. This endowment places DNMM among the ranks of other non-profits in the area for the nationwide “Give-Local” program, which exists to raise funds for and increase awareness of the importance of non-profit endowments.

This exciting initiative gives us an unprecedented opportunity to build stronger community partnerships and add new services that help DNMM achieve its goal of independent living for all. We will continue to work closely with grantees, fellow funders, and community leaders to look for innovative ways to make a lasting impact on the communities we service.

As part of the Board’s ongoing mission to expand DNMM, we are pleased to share that we are invested in a five-year growth strategy. The plan will focus on three key areas: External Relationships, Services, and Internal Relationships. As an outcome of this new strategy, we will implement innovative and collaborative partnerships to boost our service impact, geographic outreach, and brand recognition.

Realizing our vision is an ‘all hands on deck’ experience. Our Board, Staff, and Community Partners continue to embody the Independent Living philosophy. Your commitment and support enables us to continue working together to promote and encourage independence for all people with disabilities. On behalf of the board, we are grateful for your engagement in our organization’s mission. Thank you for your support.

Greg Pollock, President of the Board of Directors <<Insert Photo>>

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**A Letter From Our Executive Director**

**Planning for the Future**

2017 built upon many of the successes from 2016 for Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, particularly with respect to skill development and our Independent Living / Vocational Rehabilitation (ILVR) programs. The expansion of the Employment Navigator Guide and Pre-Employment Transition Services helped our skill building program expand to 20 schools in nine counties, an astonishing 300% increase from just two years ago. ILVR is at its highest level ever - servicing nearly twice the number of consumers from 2016.

Our community education program conducted 117 community presentations and trainings for over 5,000 people on disability related topics including assistive technology, employment, health care, community supports, and relocation. 52 community outreach seminars reached over 1,300 people from underserved populations. Our Information and Referral team provided over 4,000 individual services. The Nursing Facility Transition program successfully transitioned 40 people out of nursing homes while also leading the state-wide effort to train other service providers how to effectively run a NFT program.

In May, we held our annual fundraiser. After 10 years of hosting Piano Palooza, we felt the time was right to re-design the event. We decided to incorporate a Roaring 20s / Great Gatsby theme for the fundraiser, complete with art deco décor, live jazz, and casino gaming. Nearly 200 people joined our Honorary Chairs Birgit and Peter Holicki for *Feathers and Fedoras* at the Midland Country Club for a wonderful evening. It was one of our most successful fundraisers to-date - raising over $60,000 for the STAGES youth transition program.

Toward the end of 2017, we were approached by representatives of the Great Lakes Loons about a new opportunity. We are pleased to announce that for the 2018 season, Disability Network of Mid-Michigan will be the sponsoring partner of accessible services at Dow Diamond. This mutually beneficial agreement builds upon the existing partnership we’ve had with the Loons organization since the initial plans for Dow Diamond were being drawn. As we prepare for the upcoming season, we applaud the Loons for their commitment to making Dow Diamond accessible and inclusive for everyone.

As we look to 2018 and beyond, we realize much of our success is due to the unwavering support we receive from community agencies, businesses, and individuals. Our staff, our board, and our community partners remain dedicated to our mission of promoting independence and accessibility for all. Thank you for your continued support.

Steven Locke, Executive Director

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A Life-Changing, Life-Saving Transition

Numerous health issues and complications resulted in Marion, a resident of Alpena, being in a nursing facility for over six months. During her time there, her financial situation deteriorated to the point where she lost her home, her belongings, and her savings.

When her health began to improve, Medicaid informed her she could no longer stay in the nursing facility, despite a need for ongoing dialysis treatments. The nursing facility informed her they were transferring her to a homeless shelter. Marion literally feared for her life upon hearing this news as she would have no access to treatment or her medications.

Outreach coordinators at Disability Network learned of Marion's situation and provided her with an option for a more independent living arrangement. On November 2, 2017, Marion successfully transitioned into her own apartment in an independent community complex.

DNMM provided her with furniture and household items and set up transportation to her dialysis treatments and to the pharmacy to pick up medications. Marion is "just oh so happy" living on her own again. "I can't thank you enough," said Marion. "This transition program is wonderful. It has changed, no, saved, my life."

We believe people faced with decisions about long-term care should know their options. Disability Network of Mid-Michigan provides individuals, regardless of their ability, an opportunity to choose community-based living as a viable alternative to nursing facility residency. The program is open to anyone who resides in a nursing facility, receives Medicaid, and requests to return to their own home or to a more independent living environment. Each situation is based on individual needs and preferences.

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**Services and Experts**

Nursing Facility Transition

This program provides individuals - regardless of their ability - an opportunity to choose community-based living as a viable alternative to nursing facility residency. Our team of experts help people throughout the planning process - whether it is finding affordable housing or identifying modification options if barriers are found. We also connect people with a variety of services such as food assistance, prescription coverage, lift chairs, emergency caller units, and support groups.

Mary Martin

Mary Martin worked in the retail field until 2009 before enrolling in Saginaw Valley State University’s Social Work program. While in school, Mary worked part time with adults with physical and developmental disabilities. She completed an internship at an adult day program for seniors with dementia-related disorders. Mary earned a bachelor’s degree in Social Work in 2013. She then joined Disability Network as a Nursing Facility Transition specialist. She has served as the program leader for the past three years and she has played an integral role on the committee tasked with designing a state-wide policy plan for transition services. Mary enjoys the outdoors, bowling, pool, darts, cooking, and spending time with her husband and their two dogs.

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**Crystal's STAGES Transition Story**

When Crystal started middle school, she was enrolled in special education classes full-time. Having had little interaction with students in general education classes, she faced many social hardships. She had difficulty making friends and she struggled with confidence in herself and her abilities.

Crystal began working with Lara Beth from DNMM's STAGES program. And while those first months were slow, Crystal trusted Lara Beth enough to participate in the Summer STAGES program before her Freshman year. And Crystal believes it was the best decision she ever made. That summer, she met lifelong friends, she gained work experience, and she found her confidence. Things like obtaining a drivers license, which she had previously felt beyond her reach, now seemed attainable. And Crystal was determined to do so.

Crystal remained active in the STAGES program over the next several years. She became a Peer Mentor for younger girls with similar social anxieties. She enrolled in full general education as a sophomore. And Crystal she did well, graduating from high school with a full diploma.

Since graduation, she has obtained certification as a nurse's assistant and she is currently working in that capacity at a nursing facility. She also got married and bought a house with her husband. However, somewhat amusingly, one of the many accomplishments about which Crystal is most proud, is that she finally got her driver’s license.

"Getting a license and finding a career are why I’m independent now," said Crystal. "Working with Lara Beth and everyone in the STAGES program helped give me the confidence to know I can do whatever I set my mind to."

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Services and Experts - **Skill Building**

Our youth services program is called S.T.A.G.E.S, which stands for **S**tudents in **T**ransition **A**chieving their **G**oals **E**mpowered and **S**elf-Confident.  Through S.T.A.G.E.S., our desire is to assist students to set and accomplish goals that are key to their ability to live independently.   The program includes individual skill building in both independent living and the skills of employment as well as a work-readiness assessment, a job readiness classes, job shadowing and post-secondary employment training. These activities, offered at the right time to a young person, are pieces of the puzzle preparing the student for transitioning from a school environment to life.

2017 saw DNMM extend youth skill building services to Roscommon, Ogemaw, Clare, Isabella, Gratiot, and Gladwin counties, while working with more and more schools in Midland, Bay, and Saginaw counties. In 2017, we have served students in students in 20 schools in nine counties, an expansion of over 300% from two years ago.

Lara Beth Sullivan

Lara Beth Sullivan has been with Disability Network for 19 years, initially as a Community Living Support specialist, then 14 years as a Youth Transition Specialist, and the last two years as our Peer Support Lead Specialist. Lara Beth enjoys her work with teens as it gives her an opportunity to mentor them and give them a little extra push and advocacy as they navigate the road to independence. The variety of experiences have given her a well-rounded expertise in issues related to people with disabilities.  Lara Beth also assists young adults with disabilities outside of work, providing needy teens a temporary shelter and becoming a foster parent. She is also the adoptive mother of a child with a disability.

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**2017 Highlights/Accomplishments**

* Reached 31,100 people through 3,639 hours of community engagement.
* Conducted 117 community presentations and trainings on disability related topics for 1,047 people.
* Participated in 52 community outreach events reaching 1,340 people from underserved/unserved populations.
* Provided 4,033 Information and Referral Services.
* Transitioned 40 people out of nursing homes.
* Educated 75 community organizations on DNMM’s nursing home transition services.
* Grew Employment Navigator program and Pre-Employment Transition Services program resulting in youth services provided to twenty schools in nine counties.
* Signed agreement with Great Lakes Loons to be Sponsoring Partner of Accessible Services at Dow Diamond

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**Statement of Financial Position**

ASSETS

Current Assets:  
Cash and Cash Equivalents – In 2017 was $615,089.   
Accounts Receivable – In 2017 was $583,112.   
Unconditional Promises to Give – In 2017 was $7,833.   
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets – In 2017 was $32,828.   
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS – In 2017 was $1,238,862.

Beneficial Interest in Trust – In 2017 was $5,496.   
Property & Equipment, net – In 2017 was $195,627.   
Investment in condominium association – In 2017 was $77,684.   
Cash Held for Clients – In 2017 was $67,157.

TOTAL ASSETS – In 2017 was $1,584,826.

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:  
Accounts Payable – In 2017 was $140,542.   
Accrued Expenses – In 2017 was $94,090.

Total Current Liabilities – In 2017 was $234,632.

Cash Held for Clients – In 2017 was $67,157.

Total Liabilities – In 2017 was $301,789.

Net Assets:

Unrestricted:  
Undesignated – In 2017 was $976,546.   
Board Designated – In 2017 was $275,499.  
Property and Equipment (net) – in 2017 was $195,627.   
Total Unrestricted – In 2017 was $1,252,045.   
Temporarily Restricted – In 2017 was $30,258.   
Permanently Restricted – In 2017 was $734.

Total Net Assets – In 2017 was $1,283,037.

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – In 2017 was $1,584,826.

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**2017 Donors**

CORPORATE

AA Amusements & Vending, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Asian Noodle, AT&T, Athena Salon, Big Boy – Midland, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices, Cintas, Comerica Bank, Coyer Candle, Crystal Mountain Resort, Dan Dan the Mattress Man, Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers, The Dow Chemical Company, Eastman Party Store, ESPN 100.9 FM, Exchange Club Of Midland, Fabiano Brothers, Inc., Firekeeper’s Casino & Hotel, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grace Hospice, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grape Beginnings Winery, LLC., Greater Midland Community Centers, Greater Midland Tennis Center, G’s Pizzeria & Deli, Hammer Restoration, Heather ‘n Holly, Herter Music Center, The H Hotel, Ike’s Mobile Kayak Rentals, ITH Staffing, Dr. Nicholas Ivan Memorial Fund, Patricia and David Kepler Foundation, Kroger, Loch Coffee Company, Members First Credit Union, Midland DDA, Midland Noon Rotary Club, MiFloat Midland, Muchmore Harrington Smalley, Northwood Gallery, Northwood University, Old City Hall Restaurant, Otsego Club & Resort, Pizza Sam’s, Quality 10 GDX Theaters, Quick Reliable Printing,Radio Wasteland, Reder Landscaping, Rodnick Chiropractic Consultants, P.C., Servinski Sod Service, Southwest Airlines, SPACE, Inc., Sweet Boutique, Treetops Resort, Tri-City Brewing Company, Tri-City Motor Speedway, Turnberry Isle Resort, United Way Of Midland County, Uno Pizzeria & Grill, Ware-Smith-Woolever, Warner Photography, Ways To Wellness, Wines For Humanity, Wolverine Bank, and Women Of St. John’s.

INDIVIDUAL

Ross Ahlich, Veronica Albin, Lissa and Brian Ames, Stacey and Scott Bemis, Jim Brennan, Kathleen and Matt Davis, Carlo De Smet, & Esther Vermazeren, Janet and Paul Dean, Heather Deogracia, Todd Dodick, Maureen and Norm Donker, Sandra and Diego Donoso, Mary and Todd Draves, Sofia and Ronald Edmonds, Wanda and Donald Ferguson, Kim and Matt Fewkes, Jim Fitterling & Alex Lee, Jodi and Eric Friedman, Deanna and Todd Gambrell, Barbara Gibson & Keith Potter, Karen Glenn, Alison and Mark Goethe, Shauna and John Grantham, Roger Hauck, Mary Beth and Douglas Heydrick, Birgit and Peter Holicki, Sarah Hubble, Femke and Jan Huisman, Tammy Hynes, Matt Ivan, Lori Ivan, Karen Ivan, Bill Ivan, Sandie and Dick Ivan, Holly and Greg Jozwiak, Anne Jurek, Erica Kemp, Patti and Dave Kepler, II, Ted Knight & Kristin Olbertson, Mary LaForet, Adeline LaForet, Ronna Lamblin, Jan Lampman, Harry Leaver & Brenda Guest, Cathy and Bill Leikhim, Steven Locke & Tony Green, Julene and Roger Locke, Lynn and Larry Looby, Dana and Jim Mahoney, Marta Manning, Nicolette and Ken Martin, Nora Maza, Nena and Mike Meath, Kassie Miller, Bonnie and Doug Miller, Jennifer Page, Lindsey and Randy Peck, Kelly and Sam PeLong, Nancy and Jim Pollack, Christy and Jerry Pritchett, Corinne and Tom Provoast, Mary and Jim Reif, Ginny and John Reifel, Val Rossman, Cynthia and Bill Schuette, Andrea Sneller & Jeremy Courier, Bridget and Malcolm Sparrow, Bob Spears, Marsha and Jim Stamas, Kathryn and Duncan Stuart, Andrea Studders, LaraBeth and Brad Sullivan, Ashleigh and Jordan Summers, Sage Tomlinson, Tabbetha and Tim Troy, Michael Turik, Lisa and Howard Ungerleider, Michelle and Mark Ursuy, Jos Van Den Brink, & Annemiek van Hove, Margo and Josh Willey, Carol and David Williams, and Laurie and Mike Witt.