



# 2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Aspire,

Thank you for an incredible year! This year marks our 63rd year of supporting adults with intellectual disabilities. Our services in 2023 look much different than 63 years ago! Just like in 1960, we support people with employment goals. But today, every person who earns a paycheck receives no less than minimum wage for the work they perform. These opportunities would not be possible without the tremendous support of local businesses who understand the benefits of having a diverse workforce!

Over the years, we've watched our participants enjoy the benefits of employment, and also the satisfaction of being able to retire. Keeping busy to have a meaningful life outside of work is so important. Our adult Day Services program is offered weekdays. Participants have a menu of community and facility-based activities to choose from to fit their unique interests. Interested in sharing your hobby with others? Give us a call. We'd love to have you!

When you live in a great place like Aberdeen, SD, there is an abundance of activities to partake in on evenings and weekends. Our Residential staff work hard to help people take advantage of what our community has to offer. We are also fortunate to have a network of medical services to meet most of our participant's healthcare needs. Our fleet of over 20 vehicles provides both recreational and medical transportation throughout the week.

Nearly all of Aspire participants utilize our Residential Services. Aspire is the proud owner of six residential homes and one apartment complex for people who need onsite staff support 24-hours/day. It takes a lot of (non-Medicaid) resources to maintain and upgrade our residential properties to meet certification standards. For people who want more privacy and independence in a home that they own or rent from other property owners, we offer in-home support at a frequency appropriate for each person. This service helps to ensure our participants learn to be good tenants and neighbors.

We are constantly striving to build a team of dedicated professionals. We recently improved our competitive wage and benefits package, and now offer attractive schedules to help our staff have a better work/life balance. We know that when we take care of our employees, they in turn are better able to meet the needs of our participants!

After a couple hard years of being separated, we are fully embracing life with family, friends, and community. We are so grateful to live in a wonderful, supportive, inclusive community. You mean the world to us!

Thank you!

Jennifer Gray  
Executive Director-Aspire



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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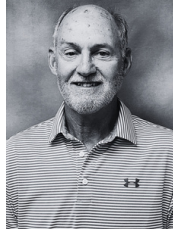
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**Cate Diede**



**Ryan Schimke**



Our agency is led by a dynamic volunteer group of local professionals, community business owners, and advocates who believe in our mission and aspire to give of their time and energy to make a direct impact on what we do and who we are.

## FOUNDATION BOARD



There are two boards that support Aspire's mission: the operating board and the Foundation Board.



**Duane Sutton**  
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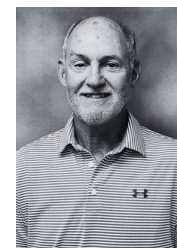
**George Casanova**



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## COLLIN'S STORY

Collin's hometown is Herreid, SD, just 7 miles off the North Dakota/South Dakota border in central SD... a town of about 500 people. As a young man, Collin

received educational services first at Herreid School and then educational and residential services for two years at Children's Care hospital and School (now Lifescape) in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation,

**"It's hard to get the complex services that Collin needs in a small town."**

he moved to his current home with Aspire in Aberdeen, SD. "Collin likes to go home to Herreid, but when it's time to go back to Aberdeen, Collin is ready to go to "his house", said Renee Rieker, Collin's mom.

"It's hard to get the complex services that Collin needs in such a small town", Renee says. Collin's family was glad to move Collin

closer to their home. Travel is now only 100 miles, which allows them opportunity to visit Collin more often. Providing for a son who requires 24-hour care and access to medical services is difficult for parents who work full-time, so Aspire fills those needs.



Collin has multiple diagnoses, both physical and mental health, that can present at times as challenging behaviors. "Behavior changes are like a light switch going on and off", says Renee. "It can be hard for Collin to express what is bothering him and that can lead to challenging behaviors." While there are medications that can help, they can also affect his mental health or physical health which can affect his behaviors in general.

Aspire offers services to help Collin handle his environment when he's feeling a sensory overload. Aspire has a sensory area and activities to do when he gets overwhelmed. Collin's cruiser

stroller makes moving around easier and is very calming. "It's really a god send; he seems to have much better days," says Renee.

## IMPACT ON FAMILY

Collin has grown so much over the last 12 years with Aspire as he becomes a more active part of his community. He is more receptive to connecting with people and is definitely more social, wanting to go out for walks on the nature trails or to get some dinner. There are still moments that are challenging but Collin's team, his family, Aspire staff, and medical professionals work together to find the best possible supports for him to live his best life.

**"Aspire is like our second family because of the care they give our son."**

The Rieker's have a special bond with Aspire. Renee shared, "Aspire is like our second family because of the care they give our son. It helps to know that as we get older, there will always be someone with Collin to ensure he is thriving. We encourage others who are in situations like ours to check into services at Aspire!"



# THANKS TO YOU

**175** People with disabilities were supported by Aspire in 2023

## Income

Support Service Fees: \$7,453,905

Investments: \$66,777

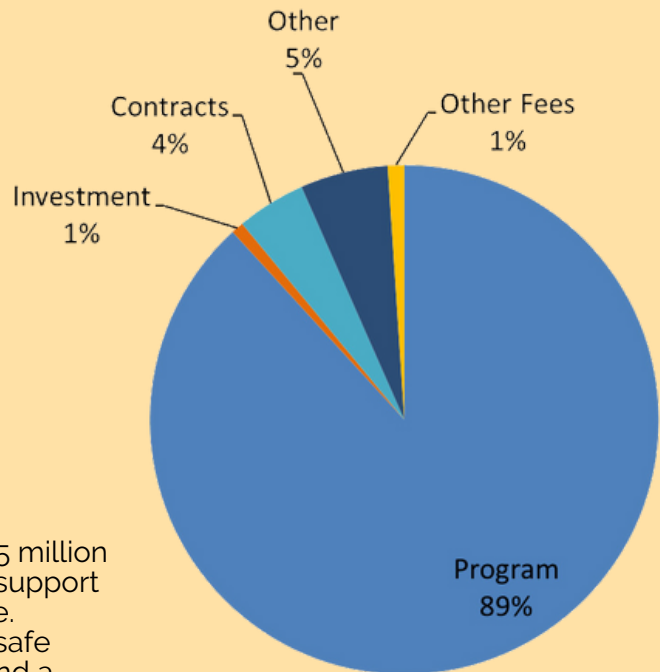
Contracts: \$370,488

Other: \$471,406

Other Fees \$88,476

Total Income: \$8,451,052

In 2022, Aspire also continued to benefit from over \$2.5 million in one-time CARES Act received in 2021 for our direct support staff who are on the front lines providing essential care. Investments for future needs, such as accessible and safe housing, were made to ensure a strong start to 2023 and a bright future!



## Expenses

Staff Payroll & Benefits: \$7,904,124

Building & Utilities: \$396,486

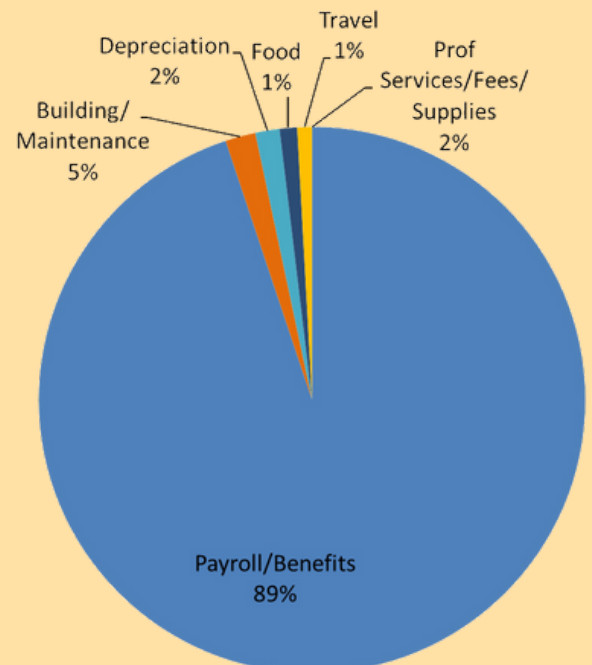
Depreciation: \$163,869

Food: \$128,708

Travel: \$90,727

Professional Services, fees, supplies \$225,876

Total Expenses: \$8,909,809





# WE CAN DO MORE

Dear Friends/Family of Aspire,

The Aspire Foundation actively seeks and manages charitable contributions to empower adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. This is our mission and we are able to achieve it thanks to all of the generous donations of your time, talents, and treasure!! We are so blessed and grateful for your generosity.



This year, family, and friends of Aspire have donated nearly \$150,000 in annual contributions, event sponsorships and attendance, in-kind donations, raffle tickets, and memorial gifts. Over the years, Foundation funds have helped Aspire purchase lift vans, make home improvements, and provide financial assistance for Aspire participants having difficulty paying rent or purchasing necessary home supplies. This support was made possible because of YOU!

Aspire currently serves an aging population (over 50% is age 50+). Many of our homes are now accessible and equipped with specialized lifts and equipment to support mobility needs. As we look to the future, we anticipate there will be an increased need for housing and services for young adults, including those with autism. Smaller homes and sensory equipment that meet this specialized need will be beneficial. Medicaid funding does not cover the cost of purchasing or renovating residential facilities. Your financial help TODAY could help us meet the needs for TOMORROW.



Be watching your mail for our annual letter requesting your support. You can also see our website ([aspresd.org](http://aspresd.org)) for information on legacy gifts or other ways to contribute.

Possibilities are endless for people with disabilities. Because of you, dreams will come true!! THANK YOU!!



With gratitude,  
Janae Hamilton  
Development Director



## ALLEN'S STORY

Allen moved to Aberdeen from Hoven 34 years ago. He rented an apartment for years, but in 2010 he made a life-changing move that many people with intellectual disabilities never get to experience...purchasing a home!



**"I wanted to own something. I didn't want to rent anymore."**

Cory Carlson, Allen's financial support staff, helped connect him with Homes Are Possible Inc. (HAPI) (a local non-profit that sells first-generation, move-in ready homes throughout the Aberdeen Community) and USDA Rural Development to finance the home purchase.

"I wanted to own something, I didn't want to rent anymore" was Allen's response when asked why he wanted to purchase a house. Having a home gives Allen the space to host Super Bowl parties where he can invite coworkers and friends from the Red Rooster. When he rented, "it was easier to call the landlord when something was wrong, but now I have to call someone to come in (for repairs)." Allen appreciates the assistance he receives from his direct support staff. "People from Aspire help me with that. That is what they do, they make sure help is available", said Allen. Allen is proud of the upgrades he has planned.



Allen with his new home in 2010

"I'm getting my house painted (interior) and new carpet! I picked out the colors for the paint and the carpet. After 13 years it needs it."

Projects like this require homeowners to be around. "I have to take off work. I will have to pack/unpack everything!"



## IMPACT OF EMPLOYMENT

Allen works at Kessler's Food & Grocery Store 5 days a week. Allen has been a valued member of the Kessler's team for 12 years! You will often see Allen in the parking lot pushing carts from the cart corral back inside the store. He said his favorite part of his job is "to make sure the carts are available and in the right places."

**"We do a lot of good things for the community."**

In his free time, Allen keeps busy as an active member of the Knights of Columbus (a Catholic men's group) in Aberdeen. He said "I attend meetings once a month on Tuesdays. I call one of the members and they pick me up and take me to the meeting. We do a lot of good things for the community. I've been a member for a very long time."

Allen is very proud of his accomplishments and the life he has created!! He is grateful for the support he receives from Aspire and members of the community.

Allen is a great example of what it means to lead a fulfilling life. Aspire is proud of Allen and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of his story!



# 2022 DONORS

**Our work is possible because of your support. We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations and businesses who supported our work in 2022. Thank you for your contributions!**

A-1 Sanitation  
Aberdeen Chrysler Center  
Ashley Twiss-Bennett AFLAC  
Area Federal Credit Union  
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Ladner Electric  
Lager's  
Lake City Lutheran Women  
Bob and Bonnie Lamont  
Lang's TV & Appliance  
Dale & Bonnie Larson  
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Ray & Cyndy Larson  
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If we have left our name off this list, please accept our apologies and let us know by calling us at 605.229.0263 or emailing [jhamilton@aspiresd.org](mailto:jhamilton@aspiresd.org)





607 N 4th Street  
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

## **WE ARE SO GRATEFUL**

Thank you for being an important partner in our work to help people of all abilities lead a life of purpose. We hope you are as inspired as we are by the stories. We couldn't do it without YOU!

