



independence<sup>INC</sup>



**From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary**  
Independence, Inc. 2020 Annual Report



# Impact

2020 – a year unlike any that most of us have ever seen before. A year that stirs emotions, causes pause and reflection. A year that conjures up images, moments and memories across a broad spectrum of lived experience, from pain, loss and isolation to joy, recovery, reconnection and progress. This spectrum of experiences has been woven into every aspect of life this past year – family, relationships, physical and mental health, recreation, sports, politics, race relations, social constructs, employment, education, health care systems, finances, resources, transportation, travel – virtually every facet of life and our wellbeing within it, has been tested and put under trial.

Through great loss, unprecedented uncertainty and ongoing trial, a myriad of triumphs happening at community levels, stand out as beacons of hope, encouragement and healing – some at large scale and others at small scale. But all with impact.

**Impact 2020, the Independence, Inc. 2020 Annual Report**, has been created to reflect both the everyday continuation of service delivery as our staff remained at work through every pandemic adjustment and fluctuation, as well as the unprecedented and palpable changes in our lives, our communities and society as a whole that pushed our work from the ordinary to the extraordinary, highlighting the spirit of the common good – to assess needs, take action, innovate programs and services and ultimately find solutions. This is 2020. This is provision and restoration. This is impact.



## IMPACT: SAFETY

When a pandemic sweeps the nation, the first concern is safety. It's the starting point by which all else will follow. Independence, Inc. immediately responded to the health crisis with COVID protocol, including all of the CDC recommendations, and adjusted with every change at the federal, state and local levels.

Above and beyond the imperative safety protocol standards of social distancing, wearing masks, limiting the number of people in our building and ongoing monitoring of individual symptoms, our organization put CARES Act funding to swift use and designed and constructed a fully enclosed safety barrier in our common entry space including a glass and steel enclosure, sliding windows, locked doors with a buzz-in system and new safety dividers in our computer lab. Though our building remains locked and we only allow limited visitation by appointment, we remain hard at work in our individual offices and look forward to fully utilizing this safe built environment when our communities open back up.

*A big thank you to our fabulous contractor, **John Kearney Construction** and their crew (inset) for the dedicated work on this project!*



## IMPACT: ACCESSIBILITY

The ability to safely enter and exit one's home is essential. During a pandemic, the great need of people with disabilities to be able to leave their home to access health care, COVID testing and just getting outside for fresh air during quarantine is critical.

Thanks to **CARES Act funding**, Independence, Inc. was able to assist in the building of a ramp for a consumer who was experiencing decreasing mobility and COVID-related job loss. She needed immediate access to COVID testing sites, healthcare and employment opportunities. All of these needs hinged on the ability to safely and quickly enter and exit her home.

Independence, Inc. was able to quickly respond and fill this need by utilizing CARES Act funding and the expertise of **Accessibility Solutions, LLC** - a licensed contractor that does exclusively ADA compliant, accessibility projects (inset) - to build a fully accessible entry ramp. This consumer can now use her walker to safely and fully navigate her home.



## IMPACT: FOOD DELIVERY

| 5 drivers | 295 boxed food deliveries |

Community partnerships and collaboration are some of the most effective means of filling gaps in service. When Independence, Inc. staff heard of the challenge of getting food to the doorsteps of all of those in need, we jumped at the chance to help. We partnered with **Just Food** – the primary food bank of Douglas County, supplying 29+ partner agencies – and began daily deliveries of provisions to the community.

The Independence, Inc. Transportation Department began loading boxes and scheduling deliveries with our accessible vans, which, because of COVID, were being under utilized. Our drivers (pictured above) worked hard to load and deliver boxes of food including fresh produce, dairy items, bread, meat and boxed and canned pantry staples to 295 consumers who found themselves food insecure during the pandemic.



## IMPACT: PPE DISTRIBUTION

| **325 total PPE packets** distributed |

Observe. Listen. Respond. This was, and continues to be, the process by which we are making an impact in our organization and our communities. When a gap in services in the form of availability and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) was identified in the Spring of 2020, Independence, Inc. staff worked to meet the need. Through Cares Act funding and working with Managed Care Organizations, we ordered, received, organized, packaged and distributed **325 PPE packets** including hand sanitizer, masks, soap, gloves and more.

PPE packets have gone out to those receiving home health care, their personal care attendants and other consumers and community members. We are continuing to package and distribute PPE care packs through 2021 as long as the need remains and supplies last.



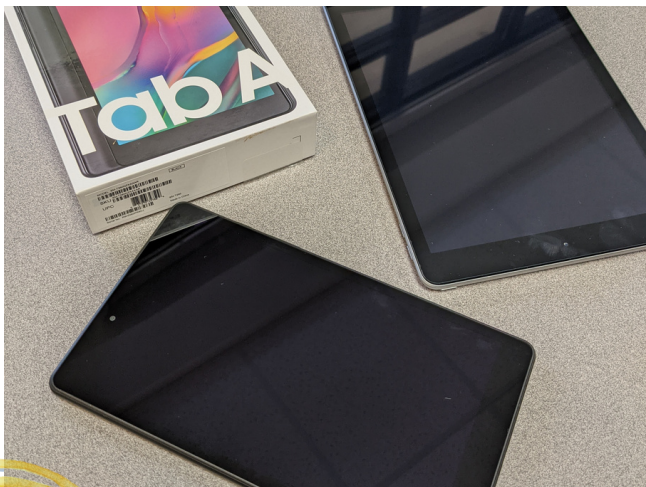


## IMPACT: DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

### | 3 transitions from nursing homes to community |

Transition, or deinstitutionalization, is a core service of every Center for Independent Living. Through transition services, we assist consumers who choose to do so, make the move from an institutional setting back to independent living in the community.

A consumer (above) on the IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disability) waiver, desired to transition from an institution into a group home specifically for those with IDD. Working with **Aetna Managed Care**, one of our staff was able to successfully assist this person with support services and the acquisition of necessary home goods and supplies. One item this consumer requested was a bicycle to help keep him in shape and offer a safe and reliable means of transportation. With the help of CARES Act funding, a bicycle was made possible during this important transition and the consumer now lives with greater dignity and independence in the community!



# IMPACT: TECHNOLOGY

| 12 iPads | 1 Samsung tablet | 1 Kindle distributed |

When community members with disabilities – those among the most vulnerable and susceptible to COVID and associated complications – found themselves isolating at home to stay safely out of harms way, the great need for telehealth, zoom conferences, and virtual connections to family and friends became paramount.

Independence, Inc. responded with utilizing CARES Act funding to put a new tablet in the hands of a consumer with spinal cord cancer so he could stay safely at home for much of his healthcare visits and interact with his specialists virtually. While still having to go in for treatment, the tablet allowed a sense of security and connection with checkups and general sessions being conducted online.

We also received iPads and Samsung Tablets from the **Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services** and **Sunflower Healthcare** and distributed 13 of these tablets to consumers who needed them.





Independence, Inc. expanded programming and capacity in January 2020 with the **Kansas Working Healthy/WORK** (Working Opportunities Reward Kansans) program and brought on a fabulous team of experienced Independent Living Counselors to bring it to life.

The WORK program is part of a Medicaid Buy-In program that helps ensure people with disabilities who want to work are able to do so. Our WORK Independent Living Counselors offer various supports that help participants make the most of employment opportunities and career goals. We served 130 participants in 2020 amongst our 4 Independent Living Counselors!

| 4 ILC | 130 participants | 22,184 hours logged |



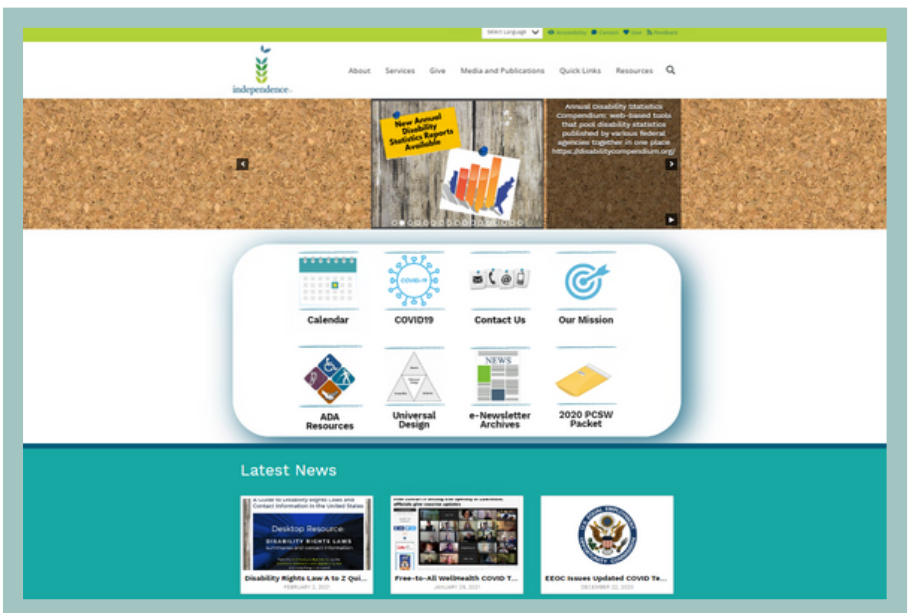
*Jennifer Moore, Lead ILC and Zackary Terhune, ILC, collaborate on their work load in early 2020 (prior to the onset of the COVID Pandemic and masks/social distancing guidelines).*



# New Website launched!

Funded through a grant from the **Kansas Health Foundation** and following a year of researching, planning, designing and building, our new website has launched! Users will find a dynamic accessibility menu with customizable settings, and a back-end accessibility build that make this site fully WCAG compliant and user-friendly. Included in the design are features like a new calendar layout, instant chat box, simplified menus, an easy-to-navigate quick link panel, a running newsfeed and more. And we are certain you will love our new look! This is a great place to start when searching for information, community resources, disability-related events, advocacy opportunities and of course, all of our programs and services.

| **7,600 users** | **9,900 sessions** | **24,560 pageviews** |

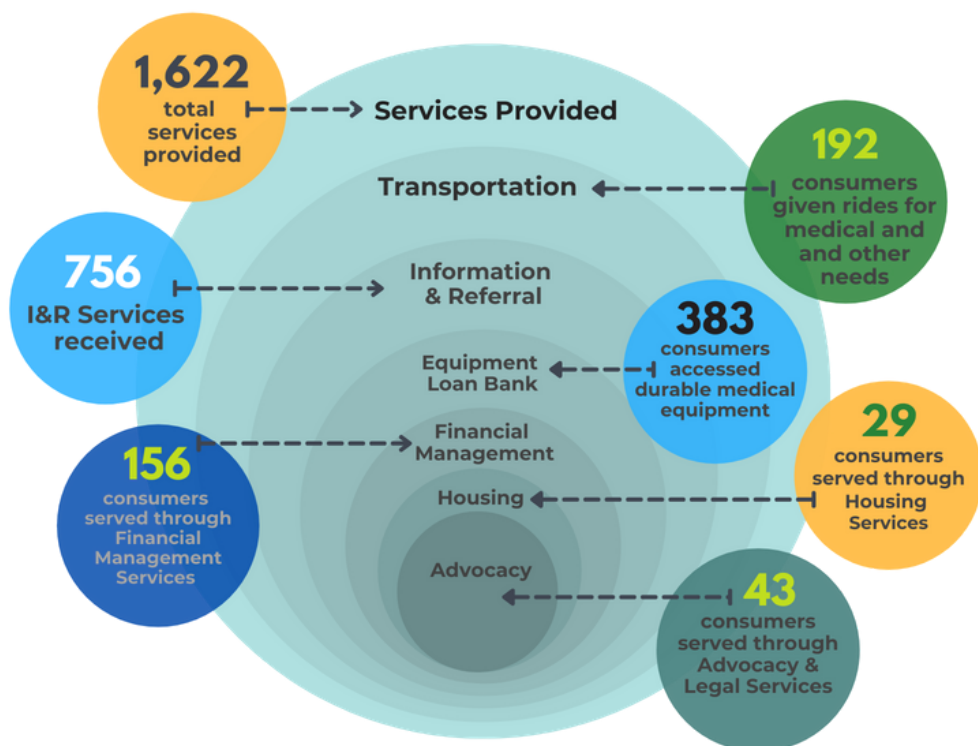


*In 2020, our website served over 7,600 users with a total of nearly 10,000 sessions. That translates into a lot of information getting into the hands of those that need it!*



# by-the-numbers

Programming and service delivery offered by Independence, Inc. is a unique combination of a methodical, "by-the-numbers" approach to planning and processing, mixed with innovative adapting and adjusting to human experience and needs through person-first support. This relationship between systems and needs is critical to the work we do. Each number represents both a service and a personal story that together, translate into increased independence, changed lives and better, stronger communities.



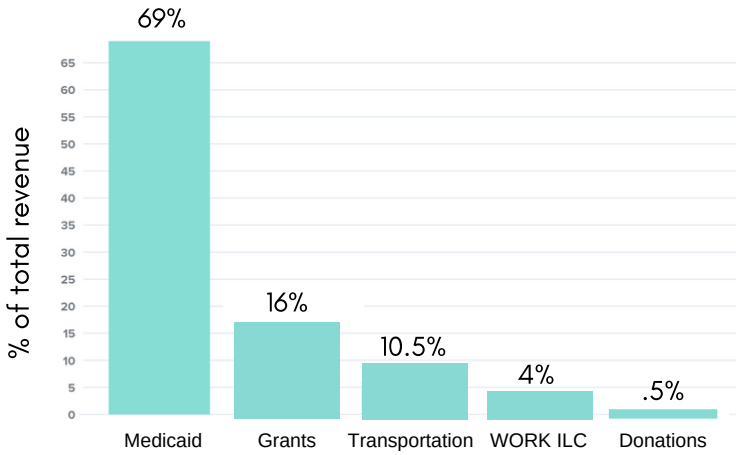


# Financial Statement



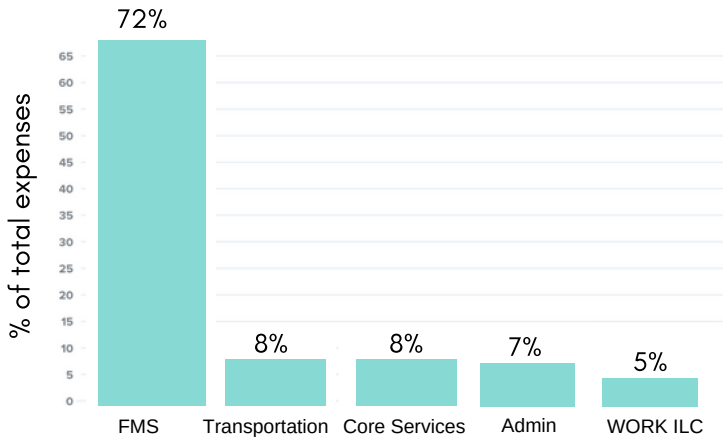
## Sources of Revenue FY 2020

Total operating revenue: \$4,082,172



## Operating Expenses FY 2020

Total operating expenses: \$3,772,851





# Meet the Board



## **Board Officers**

Angela Motsinger | President/Treasurer  
Robert Hutchison | Vice President  
Terry Manies | Secretary

## **Board Members:**

Boog Highberger  
Athena Johnson  
Dustin Stumblingbear  
Craig Weinaug  
Matthew Gabel



## A Note from the Director

This has been an unprecedented year to say the least. Independence, Inc. staff and consumers adapted, partnered, and innovated to meet the needs of our community. We demonstrated true impact and capacity to put individuals with disabilities in our community at the center of our mission during COVID 19. While so much has happened since the end of last year our progress in 2020 is even more amazing considering the adversities that our communities have faced. Your generosity was more significant than we could have anticipated because it assisted us in laying the foundation to quickly respond to the crises that emerged in 2020. The events of 2020 have strengthened and led to new partnerships with local and national government, non-profits, and businesses to continue our important work. –Jill Dudley, Executive Director







# Thank You to our Donors!

Amy Ballinger  
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Karl Altman and Sarah Haavik  
Ken & Annette Wertzberger  
Kenneth Rowen  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Larry Irick

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**| 58 individual and corporate donors | \$16,318 raised |**

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# Community Support

We need YOU as we work to support and advocate for the independent living needs of people with disabilities in our communities. Barriers to independent living are real, they can be complex and they are everywhere. It takes a team to rally for the civil rights of those in our communities and ensure that every body is able to experience inclusion and independence. If you believe in our mission and have yet to financially support it, won't you join us?



## Visit our Website & Give online

Whether it's for a one-time gift or setting up recurring gifts, visit us at [independenceinc.org/donate/](http://independenceinc.org/donate/) for safe and secure online giving. And of course, we love getting your checks of support in the mail! Make checks payable to Independence, Inc. | 2001 Haskell Ave. | Lawrence, KS | 66046



## Planned Giving

Leave a legacy and show your lifelong support of disability rights and advocacy by contributing to our mission through a planned gift. Find out how, including the financial benefits to YOU by contacting Chip Blaser, Executive Director, Douglas county Community Foundation. [chipblaser@dccfoundation.org](mailto:chipblaser@dccfoundation.org) or 785-843-8727 and ask about giving to Independence, Inc.



## Check us out on Social Media

Visit our FB page for an onsite "donate" button. While you're there, sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter at [www.facebook.com/independenceincCIL/](http://www.facebook.com/independenceincCIL/). You can also follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/independenceinc](https://twitter.com/independenceinc)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/independenceinlawrence/](https://instagram.com/independenceinlawrence/))



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