

2018
2019
ANNUAL
REPORT



Serving children and adults with Down syndrome,
autism and other developmental disabilities

ABOUT ACDS

MISSION AND VISION

ACDS is dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities and their families. ACDS seeks to be widely recognized as a leader in the field of Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities by its commitment to quality, innovation and empowerment.

5 CORE VALUES

ACDS embodies five core values, as follows:

FOCUS:

To empower all individuals with Down syndrome and developmental disabilities to achieve their greatest potential; to treat our consumers and their families with respect, understanding and compassion; and to build collaboration, teamwork and trust throughout our organization.

EXCELLENCE:

To pursue excellence passionately; to be sure that quality is a concern in every activity; and to be flexible and willing to try new things.

INTEGRITY:

To act professionally and honestly at all times; to demonstrate truthfulness and reliability in everything we do; and to adhere without exception to this statement of values.

OUTREACH:

To be highly visible as a leadership organization in the field of Down syndrome and related developmental disabilities; to have local, regional and national reputation for the quality, sensitivity and innovation of our programs and activities; and to advocate effectively and continuously for full integration and inclusion in society of all individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

COMMUNITY:

To be an exemplary member of the larger community of individuals and organizations interested in, and concerned about, the field of Down syndrome and related developmental disabilities; to work cooperatively and collegially with other organizations in this field; and to contribute positively to the local communities in which we work.



Front Cover Photo by Greg Anderson, father of Connor (class of 2018) and Logan (class of 2020).

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

As highlighted throughout this Annual Report, we opened a Merlin's Magic Space, with great fanfare at our Westchester site on February 1.

We opened ACDS Westchester in September 2016, with two classes and 12 students. Today we have 15 classes and 150 students, and draw children from over 20 school districts throughout Westchester County. Yet we are still getting known, still establishing ourselves as a provider of services to children with special needs. The opening of Merlin's Magic Space, with the publicity it engendered, and with representation from multiple public figures, is helping to put ACDS on the map in Westchester.

The philosophy of ACDS, as articulated by our Board of Directors, is to go where we can do the most good, and to respond to community needs. The growth of our new school shows that our assessment of the need was right on target and that we have been well received by the community. Likewise, for the third consecutive year, we are adding a new class at our Plainview location, again responding to the needs of the community and requested from local officials. As well, we are in the process of looking for a second site in Nassau County for our Day Habilitation "Program Without Walls." Our Plainview site, about five miles from our school, which we opened in 2011, is now full and we continue to attract new participants, many of whom were students of ours 15-20 years ago. Again, our families and our community have spoken and ACDS has responded.

It is an exciting time at ACDS. We thank you all for being part of our family and supporting our work. It often surprises people to learn that we are responsible for raising \$1,000,000 a year to keep our programs going. It is our daily work, and that of our development team and Board of Directors, to fill a growing gap in government funding. Your generosity ensures that we as an agency can continue to respond to growing community need.

Gene Kirley
Board President

Michael M. Smith
Executive Director



■ ACDS: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Since our founding more than 50 years ago, ACDS has grown and transformed in ways our founding families could scarcely have believed. They would, however, be proud to note that the vision, compassion, and innovation they brought to our founding persist through more than five decades of remarkable growth.

Below is a look at our growth, through the numbers:

- 635 children, teens and adults receiving self-directed and fiscal intermediary services
- 250 children receiving Early Intervention, pre-school special education and related services on Long Island
- 250 children, teens and adults served through 5+ respite and recreation
- 150 children receiving pre-school special education and after school related services in Westchester
- 98 young adults participating in Day Habilitation

Our program offerings have also grown in scope, sophistication, and geography. Here is a look at our growth programmatically:

Westchester

- In response to steady demand from Westchester, we are exploring opportunities for expansion. Our Yonkers Pre-School currently has 15 classes and there is a significant need regionally for early childhood special education and related services.
 - We are expanding our breadth of services in Westchester to include early intervention home based services for babies from birth to age 3. Families will be able to transition their children from early intervention to our special needs pre-school if the need for services persists.
 - Demand for services in Westchester has expanded



beyond the school day, leading to the development of a robust schedule of after school related services. Children have the opportunity to receive ABA instruction as well as physical, occupational and speech therapy.

- 2019 also saw the launch of Westchester's first integrated classroom, with typically developing Universal Pre-K students from the Yonkers school district learning alongside their peers in CPSE. We are delighted to create this inclusive learning opportunity and appreciate ongoing support from the Yonkers School District.



Adult Services

- The adult services team at ACDS is working to identify and develop a second site for our Day Habilitation "Program without Walls." The program was initiated in September 2010 with 6 participants and has grown rapidly. With over 90 participants currently enrolled it was time to identify a new site so that we can continue to provide meaningful community integration activities for young men and women who have completed their schooling.

- ACDS continues to be at the forefront of helping families manage the transition to managed care. In addition our adult services experts are overseeing the growth of our fiscal intermediary and self-directed services. ACDS has received praise as one of the top agencies on the island in providing strategies and support to help families manage this shifting and complicated landscape for their loved ones with special needs.

- We are working on a variety of strategies to address the needs of people with Down syndrome as they age. Our commitment to lifetime services necessitates working to ensure our residents have the support they need into late adulthood.

Long Island Pre-School

- ACDS unveiled a beautiful new Early Intervention playground at our Plainview headquarters. Utilized extensively by the Early Intervention and Kids Connection Day Care program, the playground boasts colorful, adaptive, sensory friendly equipment, and spring foam surfacing ideal for little ones just beginning to be mobile.

- ACDS launched a new class of eight students in



Spring 2019. This class will allow ACDS to continue to meet the extensive need locally for our services.



- In accordance with guidance from the board of directors, ACDS launched a comprehensive strategic plan to govern and guide our growth. As part of this plan, Cecilia Barry, M.S., P.D., SBL/SDL assumed the new role of Director of Educational Strategy and Support. Judy Anderson, M.S. Ed., SBL, became Principal. As Director of Educational Strategy and Supports, Cecilia will lead ACDS's agency-wide strategic planning process, focusing on education growth and change plans. Cecilia will guide the agency in examining the feasibility of further expansion at ACDS's two schools – on Long Island and in Westchester – and will consider developing more after school programs.

- Also as part of our strategic plan, ACDS welcomed Michael DeGrottolo as its first ever Associate Executive Director. Michael has spent 30 + years in the field of developmental disabilities, specializing in the treatment of children and adults with autism. His responsibilities will include oversight of some priority areas of the strategic plan.

■ ACDS WESTCHESTER

A MAGICAL PLACE WITH A MERLIN'S MAGICAL SPACE!

ACDS is pleased to announce the opening of a brand new Merlin's Magic Spaces project at our special needs pre-school in Yonkers, NY. This installation is the result of an incredible partnership between Merlin's Magic Wand USA, LEGOLAND Discovery Center Westchester (LDCW), and ACDS. LDCW worked in partnership with ACDS and Merlin's Magic Wand to conceive of and design this magical space within the school. Construction was managed by John Rigores with kind donations from local vendors Rose Press, JRS Construction, EA&S Construction and Lakeshore Furniture. Deepest thanks go to Chris Mines, Tracie Hogencamp, John Rigores, Sandra Hazel, and Evelin Martinez for their commitment to this project.

The LEGOLAND Discovery Center room features a DUPLO® theme, with a train track floor graphic, windmill, farm animals and more, where children will receive occupational and other forms of therapy. The Magic Space will provide children served by ACDS with the opportunity to experience the awesome world of LEGO as included in the room are mountains of DUPLO bricks to aid in the development of fine motor skills.

In addition to the Merlin's Magical Space installation, LDCW hosted ACDS students from Westchester and Long Island for three fun-filled Magical Days Out where students and their families had exclusive access to the ultimate indoor LEGO playground with 2 rides, 10 LEGO build & play zones, a 4D cinema and much more.

We are deeply grateful for our partnership with Merlin's Magic Wand USA, LEGOLAND Discovery Center Westchester and are excited to watch our students experience the magic of Lego in their new Merlin's Magic Space!





DONOR REPORT

INCLUDES GIFTS FROM JULY 1, 2017-FEBRUARY 1, 2019



\$5,000-\$9,999

Edward Adler
Allianz Global Investors
Coach Real Estate
Crest Electric
Robert & Toni Bader Foundation
Birds Nest Foundation
Donna DiAgostino
Marisa & Thomas DeMaggio
Michael Farrell
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Hicksville Middle School National Honor Society
Monica Aliaga-Laud & Dr. Ketan Laud
Barbara Lehrer/The Beacon Group
The Martin-Lehrer Foundation
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Mazda
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Jane & Barry Shimkin
 Beth and Steven Solferino/Onyx Packaging Corp.
 Special Needs Autism Program
 United Way of Long Island
 United Way of Philadelphia
 Catia & Anthony Villa

\$10,000-\$24,999

ACDS PTO
 Alexander's Angels
 Jeanne Cummings-Bice & William Bice
 Elizabeth Lawlor Campbell & Christopher Campbell
 Forever Young Foundation
 Marybeth & Barry Giarraputo/Antares Capital
 Global Down Syndrome Foundation
 Greenberg Traurig
 William B. Ife
 John's Crazy Sock's
 Tracy & Gene Kirley
 Dr. Leonard Krilov
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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 Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation
 Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation
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 Legoland Discovery Center
 Westchester
 Merlin's Magic Wand USA
 Helaine & Harvey Rosen Family Fund of the Bank
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ACDS Circle of Honor \$50,000 and Up

Donations in Memory of Maureen Michel
 Richard J. O'Brien Foundation
 Mid Hudson Sporting Clays LLC
 Lamb Financial



■ ACDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

ACDS is governed by an energetic and committed board of directors. Their stewardship of our agency is crucial to our status as a leader in our field. Led by board chair Gene Kirley, the 15 member board has carefully and thoughtfully piloted our strategic growth and ensured our fiscal and programmatic integrity.

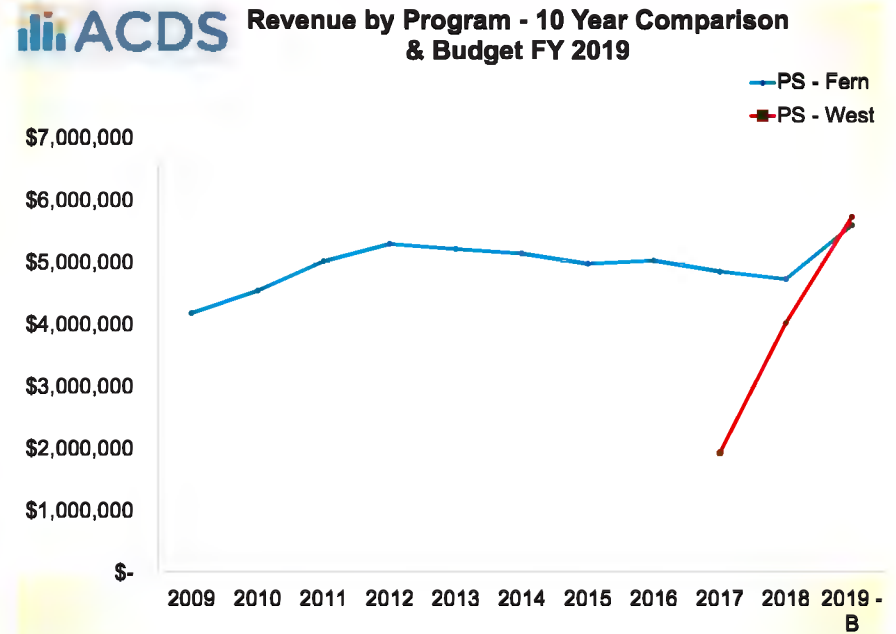
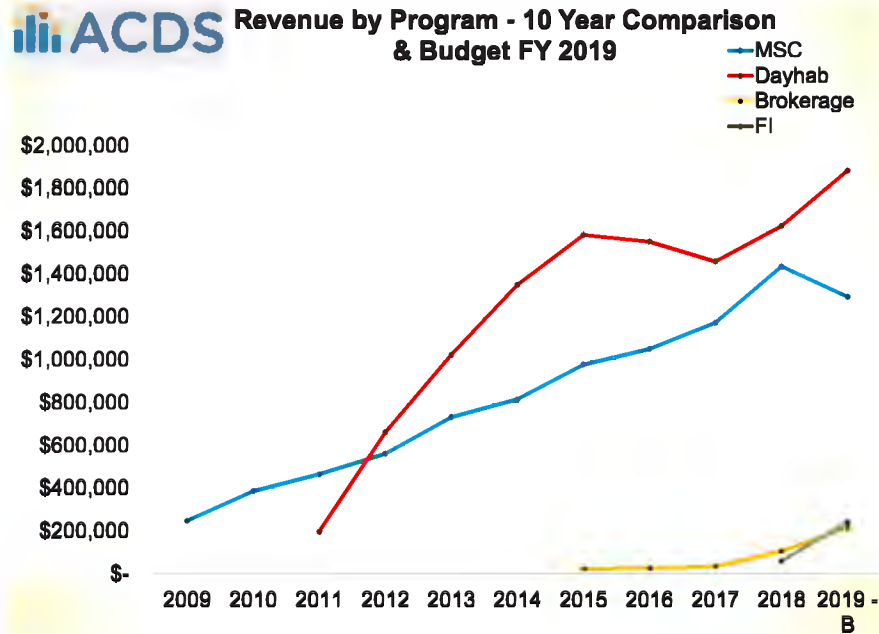
The board in 2019 experienced a number of changes. Long time members Mary Kay Barket and Dr. Joe Mazzie recently concluded their terms of service. We are deeply grateful to them for their many years of wise counsel. We welcomed to the board Michael Farrell and Colonel Brian O'Leary. Michael Farrell, Major Account Manager at LDI Color Toolbox, has been a dedicated supporter of ACDS for several years. In addition to serving as the honoree at our 2018 Golf Classic, Michael has been instrumental in helping us identify and engage new sources of fundraising support. Colonel O'Leary is a Regional Manager at Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC and achieved the rank of Colonel in the Marine Corps over nearly three decades of service to our country. He has been a steadfast supporter of ACDS and is a valued addition to the board.

There is a common perception that government funding streams are responsible for covering ACDS programs and services. The reality is that we struggle to make up a \$1 million gap each year between the cost of running our programs to the high level of quality and innovation our families deserve and our level of federal, state and local reimbursement. Special events, major gifts, foundation and corporate support, community fundraisers, all are important components to ACDS's overall fiscal stability. Our donors and event attendees are directly responsible for helping people with disabilities be educated, integrated and empowered members of society!

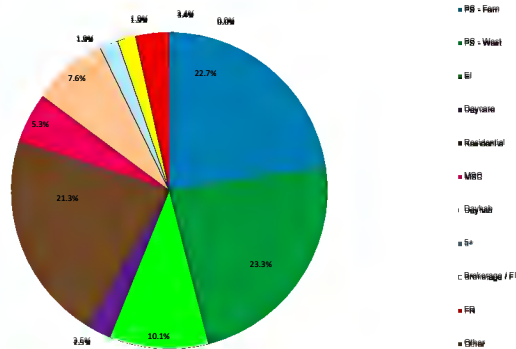
To learn more about how to support our programs and events, please contact Laurie Schaefer, Director of Donor Engagement and Special Events at 516-933-4700 x 124 or email her at lschaefer@acds.org.



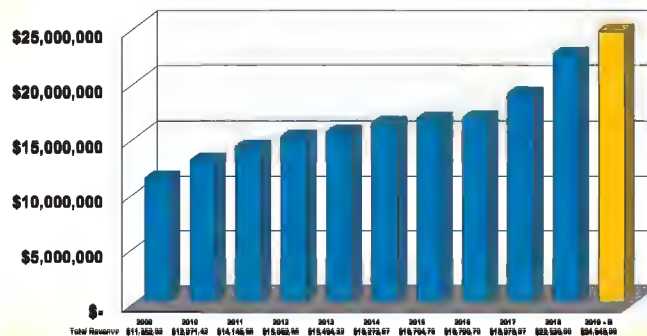
FINANCIAL GROWTH AND STRATEGIC PLANNING



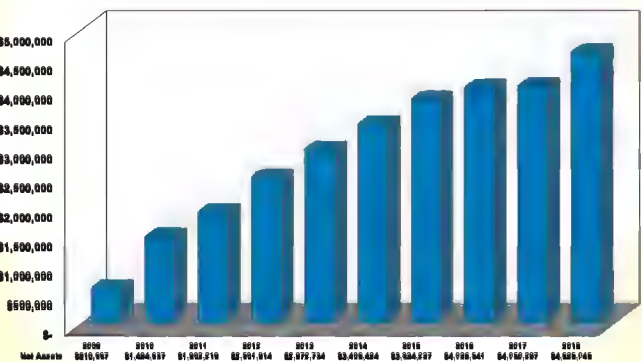
2019 Budgeted Revenue Percentage by Program



ACDS Total Revenue - 10 Year Comparison & Budget FY 2019



ACDS Total Net Assets - 10 Year Comparison





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A publication of the
Association for Children with Down syndrome

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