



VALLEYLIFE

Changing Lives. Creating Community.



# VALLEYLIFE

Annual Report | FY 2023

# ***Greetings friends,***

In 2023, we celebrated 76 years of providing premier services to individuals with disabilities in the Valley. Immediately following the celebration of VALLEYLIFE's 75th anniversary in 2022, we've continued to strive for innovative new ways to enhance our Members' quality of life while also paying respect to individuals who have played a key role in getting our organization to where it is today.

Our ongoing achievements are attributed to the unwavering commitment of our phenomenal VALLEYLIFE team and the immense support of our friends, donors, and community partners. This year has been especially eventful for us, as we returned to in-person events. This year, we saw the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, proving VALLEYLIFE not only survived the worst pandemic in 100 years but also thrived. This is a feat only made possible by the unwavering dedication and support of the true heroes of VALLEYLIFE - our staff.

We are proud of all the achievements we've made this fiscal year and as we reflect, we will continue to grow and adapt to best suit the needs and well-being of our Members. Here are a few highlights:

- We held our first in-person Legacy of Love Gala event in October 2022.
- We dedicated our 29th Avenue Day Center to longtime VALLEYLIFE supporters Suzanne and Peter Connolly, renaming it the Suzanne and Peter Connolly Enrichment Center.
- We dedicated and renamed our Tonto group home to the Karen Neilson House in honor of longtime supporter and former board member Karen Neilson.
- The construction of our Healthy Prep Kitchen wrapped, kick-starting a new way to promote healthy eating habits for our Members.
- In August of 2023, we began construction on the remodel of the kitchen within our Estrid group home.

This report covers the period of October 1st, 2022 to September 30th, 2023, and provides an update on each of the different VALLEYLIFE programs. It is with the continued support of our volunteers, donors, and families that we are able to help ensure our Members are living their best lives. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued generosity and support of VALLEYLIFE and our mission - to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Regards,



Steve McKamey  
Chair, Board of Directors



Cletus A. Thiebeau  
President/CEO

## Fast Facts



**425**

Members  
Served



**\$405,030**

Grants and  
Donations Received  
*(Federal COVID funds not included)*



**126**

Community Job  
Placements

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*This report provides information for a 12-month period from  
October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.*

## Stay Connected!



We welcome your feedback! Please submit comments, questions, or suggestions to Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, at (602) 331-2414 or via email at [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org)



# Our Mission:

*To enhance the quality  
of life of people with  
disabilities.*



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# Our Values

## Respect

Provide a healthy environment and treat each other with respect and dignity.

## Integrity

Use integrity as the cornerstone of our business practices.

## Honesty

Build and maintain an honest relationship with each of our stakeholders.

## Responsibility

Recognize that good stewardship is essential for our future success and a responsibility to our Members and funding sources.

## Innovation

Acknowledge and respond to change as an opportunity to innovate and learn.

## Impact

Contribute positively to our community and environment.

## Diversity

Embrace diversity as an essential component in the way we do business.

## Board of Directors

**Steve McKamey**, Chair

**Heather Winters Bull**, Vice Chair

**James Wuensche**, Treasurer

**Amy Coblantz**, Secretary

**Clifford L. Mattice**, Director

**Marc J. Garcia**, Director

**Dr. John V. Woellner**, Director

**Alisa Randall**, Director

**Gena Johnson**, Director

**Cletus Thiebeau**, President/CEO

**Donna Cordova**, CFO

# Leadership Team

**Cletus Thiebeau**  
President & CEO

**Donna Cordova**  
CFO

**Kimberly Salyers**  
CAO (Prior to August 2023)

**Margaret Stephens-Reed**  
Director of Donor Relations

**Jennifer Baier**  
Director of Vocational and Employment Services

**Marsha Ngiruchelbad**  
Senior Program Manager Day Services

**Jim Anderson**  
Senior Program Manager Residential Services

**Pam Schneider**  
Assistant Director of Quality Assurance Residential Services

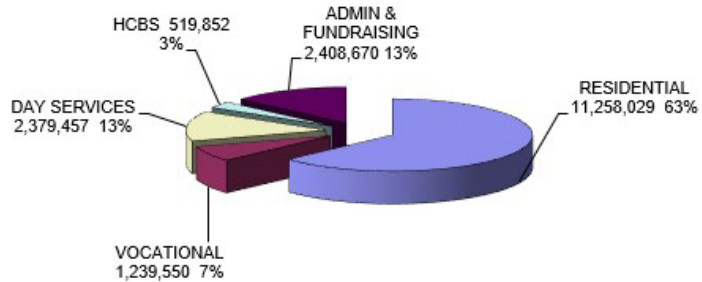
## Financial Information

Administration and Fundraising, which provide vital support to each program area, account for 13% of VALLEYLIFE's expenses.

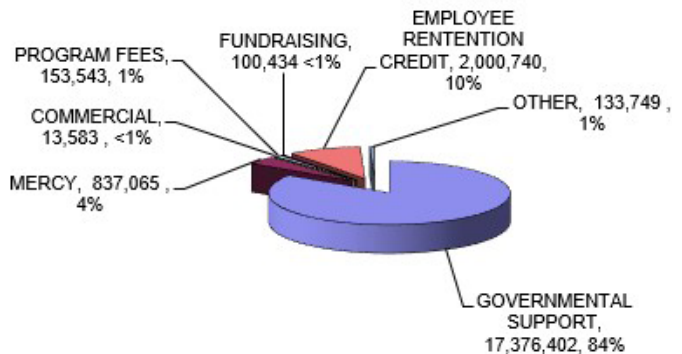
This means 88 cents of every dollar goes directly to the programs serving VALLEYLIFE Members.

With an operating budget of more than \$19.6 million, VALLEYLIFE continues to have lower overhead costs than most similar agencies in Arizona. VALLEYLIFE strives to maximize the Member benefits of each and every donation.

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES 2023



REVENUE SOURCES 2023



### Revenue Sources

The majority of VALLEYLIFE's revenue (84%) comes from state and federal funding sources.

Mercy Care accounts for 4% of our annual revenues. Program fees, commercial contracts and fundraising comprise other sources of revenue.

# Residential Services

VALLEYLIFE group homes provide a safe and healthy home environment for our Members.

These homes function like traditional family homes, with three to six adult residents who, along with staff, prepare and enjoy meals together, go on outings, attend events, host engagements and support each other. Our caring and dedicated staff assists residents with all activities of daily living, such as transporting them to medical appointments and other vital services, habilitation, community involvement, training and achieving personal goals.

VALLEYLIFE operates 27 licensed group homes located in communities throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. In Fiscal Year 2023, we served 97 Members.

Our homes offer varying levels of independence and skill levels from intensive, highly structured programs to programs promoting increased independence. VALLEYLIFE housing is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Programs (AZDHS) and is monitored by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

Our homes are staffed 24/7 with professional, highly trained employees who support the organization's ongoing effort to encourage independence, improve social interactions and monitor complex medical needs

# Day Services

VALLEYLIFE offers multiple Day Services locations with 11 adult day programs based on varying independence and skill levels. Members are assigned to program sites based on physical, sensory, cognitive impairment and intellectual challenges, mental illness and/or various types of chronic disease. The program will be chosen based on what best meets the needs and interests of the Member.

Day programs are designed to improve independent living, social and recreational skills. They encourage intellectual and social growth as well as increased opportunities for community involvement. The core areas of the program include independent living and continuing education, communication and socialization, recreation and leisure, and community integration.

In Fiscal Year 2023, Day Services served 89 Members across our 11 adult day programs. VALLEYLIFE Members participate in Zumba classes, Dance Troupe, Glee club, nutrition, outings and events. In addition, Members participate in physical therapy, speech classes, music, art and Special Olympics.

# Home and Community Based Services

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provide valuable support to children and adults with disabilities in the convenience, safety and comfort of their own home. Services give much needed relief for the primary caregivers and are essential in ensuring that Members are able to remain in the home setting in lieu of being moved to a long-term care facility.

Employees delivering care receive extensive classroom instruction and hands-on training in a living situation, in addition to Member specific training prior to placement in the family home. The customized services are determined by the Member's needs and include habilitation, attendant care and respite care.

## Vocational Services

Vocational Services works to maximize independence and job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This program supports those who are seeking employment. Services include job search and placement, short and long-term job coaching and support, work adjustment/paid work training, ongoing job readiness training, resume building, interviewing skills and benefits counseling.

VALLEYLIFE offers Members the support and training needed to gain employment in the community and the ongoing support to ensure continued successful employment. We are committed to assisting individuals with disabilities in our community by providing comprehensive, on-the-job support services to employees and employers. This creates a successful and productive employment relationship.

In Fiscal Year 2023, our Job Development and Retention program served 322 Members. Of those served, 126 were placed into community employment. The average starting wage was \$16.47 per hour. Our paid work training programs provided supported work opportunities for over 63 Members in community-based settings. Individuals in paid work training have an opportunity to acquire soft and hard work skills in a supported setting while also receiving structured job readiness training to promote progressive moves toward integrated employment in the community.

VALLEYLIFE continued its partnership with Quality Connections where Members deliver office supplies in the Phoenix metro area. VALLEYLIFE remains committed to partnering with community employers to provide real-world work experiences for our Members through mutually beneficial partnership relationships.

VALLEYLIFE continued as an Employment Network through Social Security's Ticket to Work program, providing job development and placement services to individuals on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who want to return to work and eliminate their Social Security benefits.





*With your support we were able to:*

- *Provide Speech Therapy, Nutrition Courses and Glee Club activities.*
- *Provide necessary dental services above Members' dental insurance coverage.*

# Thank you for your support!

## Businesses and Foundations

*ATOS Employee Community Fund*

*August Building Company*

*Best Funeral Services*

*Boeing ECF*

*Brown & Brown Insurance*

*Caterpillar Foundation*

*Clipped Wings*

*Ethel & Kemper Marley Foundation*

*GBS Arizona*

*John F. Long Foundation*

*Matson Foundation*

*Mollie Lawson Foundation*

*Season for Sharing*

*Southwest Human Development Inc.*

*Teamster Retirees*

*Thunderbirds Charities*

*Walmart*

*Walmart 2632*

*Zelenda Foundation*

*While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our database, occasionally a name may be misspelled in our system, or regrettably, a donor may have been overlooked. Each and every donation to VALLEYLIFE is so important. If your name should be included in this list and is not, we sincerely apologize for the omission. Corrections to entries can be submitted to Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, via email to [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org), or by phone at (602) 331-2414.*



# Thank you for your support!

## Individuals \$100 or more

*Anonymous*

*Ms. B. Charlene Fisher*

*Mr. Ron Archer*

*Mr. and Mrs. James Ford*

*Mr. George Ball*

*Ms. Marissa Freireich*

*Ms. Cynthia Bennett*

*Mrs. Debbie Gaby*

*Ms. Brenda Blunt*

*Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Grau*

*Mr. Kevin Brown*

*Mrs. Dolores Greene*

*Ms. Elaine Cherney*

*Mr. David Hanner*

*Ms. Heather Winters Bull*

*Ms. Mary Hannon*

*Ms. Elaine Cherney*

*Mrs. Roberta Jackson*

*Mr. Jim Day & Mrs. Ruth Swenson*

*Ms. Carol James*

*Ms. Judy DeJong*

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald S Kidney*

*Mr. Gregg Dufort*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kinnard*

*Dr. and Mrs. John Eckstein*

*Dr. Carolyn Kinney*

*Mr. Bill Barber & Eric Perry*

*Ms. Pinky Kubiak*

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fickes*

*Mr. Joseph Langlois*

*Ms. B. Charlene Fisher*

*Mr. and Mrs. David Laupp*

*Mr. and Mrs. James Ford*

*Mr. Scott Lehmann*

*Ms. Ima J. Day*

*Mr. Scott Leon*

*Ms. Irma DeTour*

*Mr. Charles Martinet*

*Mrs. Marjorie Dougherty*

*Mr. and Mrs. Phil Mastores*

*Ms. Ruby Farias*

*Ms. Jeanne McGraw*

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fickes*

*Mr. Steve McKamey*



# Thank you for your support!

*Mr. Todd Morrow*

*Mr. Charles J. Mullany*

*Ms. Glenda Myers*

*Mr. Les Nesmith, CPA*

*Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Noll*

*Ms. Anna O'Hara*

*Mr. Jones Osborn*

*Ms. Judith Polkabla*

*Mrs. Ann Polunsky*

*Ms. Marquita Porter*

*Mr. John W Prenzno*

*Ms. Helen Purcell*

*Ms. Stephanie Remington*

*Mr. Michael Ringer*

*Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Romme*

*Mr. Calvin Ruiz*

*Mr. Al Schillinger*

*Mr. James Schnur*

*Ms. Stephanie Shink*

*Ms. Rowena Simberg*

*Ms. Carol Smith*

*Mrs. Claire Steigerwald*

*Mr. and Mrs. Norman  
Steinberg*

*Ms. Paula Strano*

*Mr. and Mrs. Cleon  
Streitmatter*

*Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W  
Sullivan*

*Ms. Sandra Tarr*

*Mr. Matthew Todd*

*Mr. Jon C Walker*

*Ms. Roberta Wallace*

*Ms. Lynn Witteveen*

*Mr. Daniel N Wochos*

*Ms. Michelle Wright*

*Mr. James N Wuensche*



# VALLEYLIFE Foundation

VALLEYLIFE Foundation is the sole recipient of funds generated by VALLEYLIFE events and undesignated donations.

Funding from VALLEYLIFE Foundation is used to provide unfunded needs for VALLEYLIFE Members.

While these unfunded needs may not be essential for life, they are essential for ensuring the enhanced quality of life our VALLEYLIFE Members deserve.

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation Board works closely with the specific VALLEYLIFE programs to understand the unique and individual needs of the Members. These needs are funded on an annual basis. Foundation Board Members participate directly in the process to ensure they have a thorough

understanding of Member needs and to develop clear goals and policies to meet those needs.

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation's purpose is to ensure there are funds available for the long term needs of VALLEYLIFE Members.

Members are primarily funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), but these funds have very specific parameters.

Some costs to VALLEYLIFE do not fall into these parameters, but are necessary for the care and well-being of our Members.

## Unfunded Needs

At VALLEYLIFE, unfunded needs vary depending on the programs and locations. Funds from grants and community donations are used to supplement these expenses.

The Vocational Program used grant funds to support Members in their job search and continued successful employment.

Some items that are not covered but are essential for successful job hunting and performance are hygiene supplies, clothing for interviews and bus passes.

Grant funds are used by the Day Services Program to offer classes that may not otherwise be available to our Members, such as music or Glee Club.

The Residential Program utilized donations from the community for daily living supplies. Some of these items may need to be replaced more often than the funding sources allow to ensure the comfort and safety of our Members in their homes. Some of these items include kitchen supplies and furniture.

# Make a Donation

## **Monetary Donations to VALLEYLIFE Foundation**

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that was formed in 1992 to “solely expand, improve and maintain VALLEYLIFE.” The Foundation was started with modest donations from individuals with the purpose of providing long-term financial stability for VALLEYLIFE.

## **Monetary Donations to VALLEYLIFE**

VALLEYLIFE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that qualifies for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit as a charitable organization supporting those in need. Donations can be made for up to \$421 for an individual, or up to \$841 for a couple filing a joint return. If you would like your donation to qualify for the Credit for Donations Made to a Qualifying Charity tax credit, please be sure to note “Charitable Tax Credit” on your payment. Your tax credit donation can provide you with a dollar-for-dollar credit toward your Arizona state tax bill!

You can also donate to a specific program or function of VALLEYLIFE. If you would like your donation used for a specific purpose, you can donate directly to VALLEYLIFE. Be sure to designate where you would like your donation to be applied.

## **Tribute, Memorial and Legacy Gifts**

Send a tribute gift for a special birthday, holiday or congratulations. Make a gift of \$10 or more to VALLEYLIFE Foundation or VALLEYLIFE in the honor of someone special and VALLEYLIFE will send a beautiful personalized card to the recipient on your behalf.

A memorial gift to VALLEYLIFE Foundation or VALLEYLIFE allows you to express your sympathy and condolences in a unique way. Your gift will ensure that a Member of our community will receive the support and care needed. With your donation of \$10 or more, we’ll mail the recipient a personalized greeting card, acknowledging your thoughtful gift in memory of their loved one.

You may also elect to create a legacy by making a bequest to VALLEYLIFE Foundation or VALLEYLIFE in your will. Legacy gifts may include a bequest, charitable lead trust, charitable gift annuity, life insurance policy, retirement plan assets or a gift of property with a retained life estate.

## **How to Make Your Donation**

VALLEYLIFE Foundation and VALLEYLIFE accept cash, checks, all major credit cards, and stock and bond gifts. Monetary donations can be made in person, over the phone at (602) 371-0806, or on our website at [www.valleylifeaz.org](http://www.valleylifeaz.org). To make a tribute, memorial, or legacy gift, or to alert us of future planned gifts, please contact Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, at (602) 331-2414 or via email at [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org).

# Join the Bernice Kussell Society

The Bernice Kussell Society is part of the VALLEYLIFE Foundation, which supports VALLEYLIFE by funding Member needs that are not covered by traditional funding sources.

Annual membership contributions provide undesignated funds to meet unexpected Member needs which are not covered by the organization's budget or by a specific fund. Membership includes invitations to special donor events where Society members have the opportunity to meet with keynote speakers, celebrities and researchers in the field of physical, developmental and mental disabilities.

Join the Bernice Kussell Society today and become a part of this special group of individuals who recognize the urgent need to provide the resources necessary to support community Members with disabilities.

You can make an outright gift of \$1,000 or more, or sign a pledge commitment to make a gift of \$1,000 or more within the fiscal year. Gifts can be made by cash, credit card, corporate matching gifts, and/or securities. Payment plans can also be arranged.

Membership gifts, which are exclusive of other gifts made in support of special events or capital campaigns, are active for one year and are renewable annually.

In addition, a contributor and spouse whose combined annual gift equals \$1,000 or more will be eligible for a joint membership. An individual, living or deceased, may be recognized as a Society member through a qualifying gift made in his or her honor. Corporate contributions qualify for membership.

Join today! Contact Margaret Stephens-Reed at (602) 331-2414 or [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org)

## Show Your Support

### **Tell a friend about VALLEYLIFE**

Tell a friend about us. Bring them by to take a tour of our campus, or show them our website and social media pages.

### **Shop at our VALLEYLIFE store**

We know you are a big fan of VALLEYLIFE, and now you can show it by wearing VALLEYLIFE merchandise! To purchase yours, simply visit the VALLEYLIFE online store. To get there, go to our website and click The VALLEYLIFE Store link on the home page. All proceeds support VALLEYLIFE.

*Dates of upcoming events will be posted on the events page of our website as soon as they are available. [www.valleylifeaz.org/events](http://www.valleylifeaz.org/events)*

### **Register your Fry's VIP Card**

You can support VALLEYLIFE while you shop at Fry's! To get started, visit our website at: [valleylifeaz.org/howtohelp](http://valleylifeaz.org/howtohelp) and click the Fry's link. It is that easy!

### **Events**

VALLEYLIFE's 33rd Annual Golf Tournament - 4/5/2024

VALLEYLIFE's "Legacy of Love" Gala - 10/5/2024



Changing Lives. Creating Community.

An Arizona 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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[www.valleylifeaz.org](http://www.valleylifeaz.org)

TTY 7-1-1

