



PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

Erika Barren-Tucker, Hodgkins Public Library



“An organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities through individualized employment services.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chairperson: Bryan Gay, Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation

Vice-Chairperson: Candice Adams, DuPage County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Treasurer: Gina Strafford-Ahmed, DuPage County Department of Community Services

Secretary: Laura Myers, Myers Disability Law

Board Members:

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- Justin Capp, Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Care Service Corporation
- Kyle Latus, Marmic Fire & Safety
- Gregory Moss, JP Morgan Chase
- Jim Pincenti, Zebra Technologies
- Rosalie Scrivo, Parent Representative
- Tricia Swanstrom, Wheaton Public Library

PAEP TEAM

Executive Director: Kristen A. Sheffield

Associate Director: Roger Joseph B. Cave

Finance Director: Brian Suste

Hailey Mankivsky
Kiersten Lira
Miriam Henrikson
Taylor Selesky
Adriana Jimenez
Chloe Suter
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Hope Stoetzel
Cassidy Garland

Khushbu Dalvi
Kathy Konczak
Damar Reed
Shannon Ciezadlo
Brett Morgan
Vicki Kirkpatrick
Samantha Fitz
Ellen Shannon-Ball
Taylor Cogdell

FOUNDER OF PAEP, MARJORIE SULLIVAN LEE HONORED BY THE VILLAGE OF GLEN ELLYN



The Village of Glen Ellyn Board recently paid tribute to Marjorie Sullivan Lee, a venerable figure and founder of the Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP). At 102 years old, Marjorie's lifelong commitment to disability advocacy is both remarkable and inspiring. Her pioneering efforts have significantly advanced the inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, leaving an indelible mark on Glen Ellyn and surrounding communities. The recognition is a fitting tribute to Marjorie's decades of service and unwavering passion for creating a more inclusive society. As quoted by one of closest colleagues, "Marge Lee was the most impressive parent advocate I ever met. She was never afraid to challenge an accepted idea about people with disabilities, and worked tirelessly in DuPage County to improve special education services, adult employment alternatives to sheltered workshops, and other basic inclusion needs."

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Established in 2022, the Business Advisory Committee is comprised of local business partners that are committed to promoting the mission of PAEP through active engagement. These members contribute significantly by offering professional presentations, mock interviews, resume reviews, job site tours, job shadowing, internships, and hiring individuals with disabilities. Together, PAEP staff and business representatives from the BAC share resources and develop best practices to increase and expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. PAEP welcomes additional businesses to join the BAC to continue expanding this valuable network.



MEASUREMENT OF PAEP EXPERIENCES



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Increased independence, confidence and self-sufficiency. Individuals served through PAEP are proud to receive a paycheck.



FAMILY SUPPORT

Recognized capabilities never thought possible. PAEP provides a lifeline of supports after high school years.



TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

A proud sponsor of Ride DuPage, PAEP assists individuals get to and from work independently.



SELF-ADVOCACY

Making choices that align with personal strengths and aspirations

114

Individuals placed into new employment

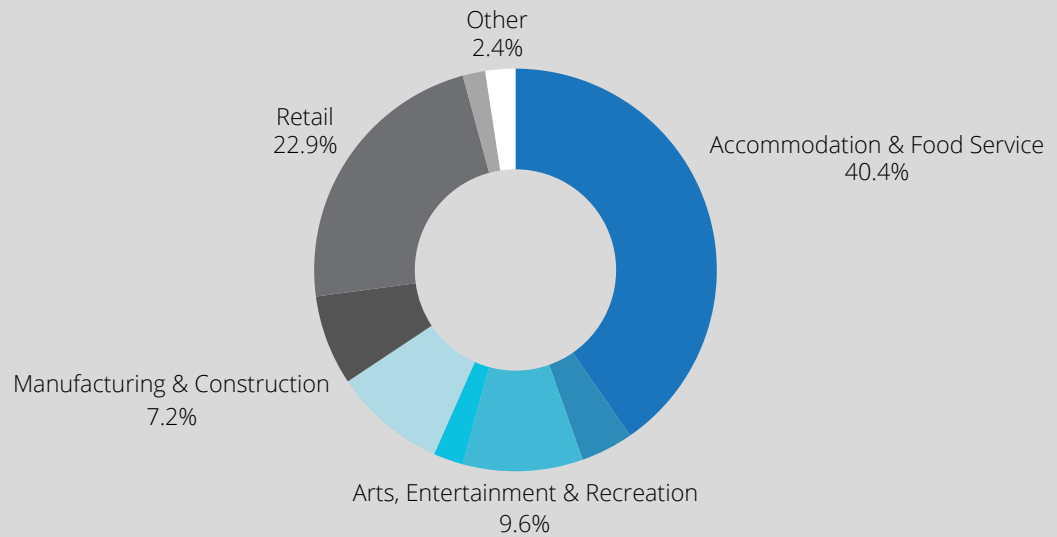
273

Individuals served through PAEP services

98%

Job Retention for at least 1 year post services

INDUSTRIES



Estevan Branscum, CDM, CFPP, Director, South Region Food & Nutrition Services at Endeavor Health formerly Edward Hospital in Naperville

“In 2021, at Edward Hospital we received a few applicants that were working with PAEP. The manager at the time interviewed the candidates and thought they would be a good fit for the department. It wasn’t until after they were hired that I looked further into PAEP and found all the amazing work they do to help support those with disabilities join the workforce.

Since then, Endeavor Health Edward and Elmhurst hospitals have over 9 individuals who play key roles in supporting our Food Service program. Everyone covers a different area within the department whether it be working the tray line assembling trays for patients, delivering tray foods, or working the café serving our staff and guests.

There are no limits to what anyone can do, and we find a role where there is the most comfort and the most anticipated success. The joy that everyone brings to the department and how our values are brought to life is something I am most proud of. The staff feel their purpose in each of their job duties while they are completing every task with a smile. I am forever grateful for the work PAEP continues to do to encourage young adults with disabilities to be ready to join the workforce and provide consistent support and success to our entire team.”

Project SEARCH at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Project SEARCH at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital (CDH) was started back in 2014. Project SEARCH at CDH is built on a collaboration with Parents Alliance Employment Project, The School Association for Special Education in DuPage County, Northwestern Medicine, Division of Rehabilitation Services, WorkNet DuPage, School District 200, School District 96, and Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH at CDH was the second Project SEARCH to come to Illinois and the first Project SEARCH program within Northwestern Medicine Hospitals. Due to the success at CDH, PAEP has become the supportive employment agency to run a total of 3 Project SEARCH programs within NM Hospitals including Northwestern Medicine Delnor and Huntley Hospitals.

This year, PS CDH celebrates hosting its 10th program class with 11 interns. The 10th program class at CDH marks a decade of making a significant difference in the lives of many individuals, helping them gain confidence, build skills, and find meaningful employment.



118
INTERNS SERVED
WITHIN THE
PROGRAM

23
INTERNSHIPS
THROUGHOUT CDH

90%
PLACEMENT
SUCCESS RATE



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PARENTS ALLIANCE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

 www.parents-alliance.org

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