



ELEVATING LIVES, EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES

CEL Annual Impact Report | July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



OUR MISSION

Enriching the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by maximizing their opportunities for personal success, fun & friendship, employment, and community involvement.

OUR VISION

People with developmental disabilities are empowered to realize their greatest potential, thrive within the community, and achieve their hopes and dreams.



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**Hear about CEL
in the words of
our members.**



“YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS
CEL'S TALENTED,
DEDICATED STAFF
TO CREATE THE
ENVIRONMENT WHERE
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE
WITH INTELLECTUAL
AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
TRULY THRIVE.
THANK YOU.”

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

At CEL, we believe people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve full lives filled with friendship, purpose, and belonging. That belief has been the heart of our mission since 1968, and it continues to guide every decision, every program, and every connection you have helped us build.

After nearly three decades in this field, I'm still struck by the same truth: transformation doesn't always happen in sweeping gestures. It happens in small, everyday moments. It happens when a member proudly gets ready for their first day of work. It happens when new members meet each other and quickly become friends. It happens when a family walks through our doors and realizes they don't have to navigate this journey alone. These moments, simple as they may seem, add up to something extraordinary.

This year also marked a new chapter in CEL's story. With the integration of The Nora Project, your impact was extended into classrooms, ensuring that students as young as PreK learn the values of empathy, advocacy, and belonging from an early age. This powerful continuum of inclusion begins in schools and carries through adulthood, into communities, workplaces, and every corner of society.

CEL members remind us every day that inclusion is not an abstract concept; it is a lived

reality when people have opportunities to contribute, grow, and connect. And what encourages me most is the generosity of you, the CEL family. Our staff, volunteers, Board, families, and supporters give their time, energy, and resources to make sure CEL's doors remain open wide for everyone who needs us. Thank you.



This Impact Report is a reflection of the lives changed, the futures built, and the belonging created here at CEL thanks to your generosity.

As you read these pages, I hope you feel the same sense of pride and hope that I do. Together, we are not only enriching lives, but we are also transforming communities. We are proving that when people with disabilities are included, supported, and celebrated, everyone benefits.

With gratitude,

*Herb Washington
Chief Executive Officer, Center for Enriched Living*

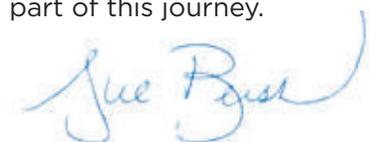
This past year, CEL members took bold steps toward independence, families found support and hope, and our community grew stronger because people like you chose to lean into inclusion.

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

2025 was an incredible year at CEL! Together, we stayed true to our mission by helping members achieve their hopes and dreams - made possible by the passion of our staff, commitment of our Board, support of our members' families, and generosity of our donors. Lives were enriched here every day.

A highlight was integrating The Nora Project, which equips teachers and students with tools to understand and embrace disabilities early in life - expanding our reach and shaping a more inclusive world. We also grew our programs, surpassed goals for donors, grants, events, and our budget, and ended the year stronger than ever thanks to our visionary CEO, dedicated CEL leaders, and extraordinary staff.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises even more growth, as well as empowerment, fun, and friendship for our members. On behalf of the Board, heartfelt thanks to every supporter for being an essential part of this journey.



Sue Bersh

Board President & Volunteer

HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-25 CEL LEADERSHIP

Officers:

Sue Bersh (*President*)
Lane Epstein (*Vice President*)
Mary Greanias (*Secretary*)
Akash Pathak (*Treasurer*)

Members:

Wendy Adams
Mark Bernstein
Fred Blitt
Miriam Campbell
Rob Dorsey
Jeffrey Greenspan
Kristin Malek
Mike Marty
Vaughn Moore
Ray Nair

Mike Noeh
Keren Novak
Owen Shapiro
Mike Suchsland
Paul Sundberg
Kristy Wrigley

Trustees

Douglas Eckrote*
Byron Holden*
David Kalfen*
Gary G. Kash*



“

TOGETHER, WE STAYED TRUE TO OUR MISSION BY HELPING MEMBERS ACHIEVE THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS.

”

Michael Krasny
Richard Worssek*
Robert S. Vihon*
(in memoriam)

Board Emeritus

John Borta
Joan Cannon*
Kristin Coleman
Kim Cysewski
Howard Diamond
Noel Elfant*
Alex Freund*
Shea Hart*
Kenneth A. Hoffman
Sherwin Korey
Greg Moyer
Kathryn A. Nellis*
Kimberly Novak

Daniel Ripes*
Mark S. Robbins*
Michael I. Rothstein
Richard Sheiner
Ira Singer
Stephanie Slatkin

Young Leadership Committee

Danny Bersh
Jamie Miller
Julie Nadig
Jonathan Bersh
Alex DeTrempe
Marielle Epstein
Cori Sloan

**Denotes past board president*





BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ROB DORSEY

Rob's journey from uncertainty to leadership makes him a role model for what it means to give with sincerity, courage, and heart.

When Rob Dorsey first volunteered on CEL's Golf Committee in 2009, it was with a desire to "help those who needed it." Rob felt a personal connection to the cause because he knew families who had children with developmental disabilities, but also admitted he wasn't sure how best to interact. Instead of letting fear hold him back, he showed up with openness and honesty, ready to learn from the people who knew best: CEL members and staff.

The formal training and interaction he experienced through CEL led to incredible growth, understanding, and a shift in his entire perspective. What began as volunteerism soon grew into a position on the Board and a deep personal commitment to CEL's mission and the people it serves.

That transformation has made Rob one of CEL's most dedicated champions. Though he and

his wife Angela live in Kentucky, they regularly travel to Chicago to participate in CEL events, bring new supporters into the fold, and connect with members to renew the sense of joy and purpose that first drew them to CEL. Through his company, BlueStar, Rob has fostered a culture of philanthropy that inspires his colleagues to join him in supporting CEL.

Rob and Angela have seen firsthand how people with disabilities are underserved across the country, but Rob points out that, "Almost nowhere in the country is the funding situation as harsh as it is for people with developmental disabilities in Illinois. Anything I can do to contribute is worth its weight in gold."

Rob's steadfast belief in CEL's mission continues to remind us all that when generosity is guided by heart, it changes lives on both sides of the giving.

IMPACT IN ACTION: CEL MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING

This year, CEL championed:

83
new faces
lighting up with
the joy of
belonging

475
individual members
thriving in CEL
programs

For a membership
increase of
13%
over the
previous year



“CEL is a very special place. We feel the wonderful staff understand him and appreciate the person he is, and we know Kyle feels the same- exactly what every parent hopes for.”

Sari, Parent of CEL Member Kyle

89% of members
returned for more
fun, friendship, and
personal success.





FUNDING PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SMITH TIEKEN FOUNDATION

The Smith Tieken Foundation’s mission, established by Burny Smith and Gail Smith Tieken at its founding, is “to ease the suffering of humans and animals.” Those words guide their giving today through annual donations and grant opportunities that ensure their ongoing viability for their partners like CEL.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of The Smith Tieken Foundation, CEL was able to purchase two brand new, beautiful 15-passenger vans, smartboards for every program room, and 45 new iPads.

John Borta, one of the foundation’s two Directors and CEL Board Emeritus, explained, “The smartboards we bought are a way of helping CEL’s members learn to use the technology, feel good, and help them find some happiness. For us, that seems like the opposite of suffering. It feels like it moves the needle in the right direction.”

The foundation’s other Director, Robert Packard, broadened further the ways in which they hope to mitigate suffering, saying, “Being limited or restricted in your potential comes down to what suffering can be.”

For many of our members, a lack of safe and reliable transportation can significantly limit their potential for connection to the community, friendships, and enriching experiences. This makes the new 15-passenger vans critical to CEL’s mission so members can more fully integrate, appreciate, and participate in the community. And the addition of tools like smartboards and

iPads support and empower our members to communicate, advocate for themselves, and engage in activities in ways that are equitable and accessible to them.



The Smith Tieken Foundation aspires to be a committed partner in creating impact, and that is where they find inspiration. “We don’t do anything near to the involvement of the people doing the hard work at CEL. But, if through our foundation we can make an impact by making resources available, that’s a huge inspiration to us,” Robert said. “Seeing the passion and commitment of the people involved. It’s inspiring seeing good people doing good work so passionately with so much commitment.”





IMPACT IN ACTION: REACH AND CATALYST ADULT DAY PROGRAMS

Catalyst and REACH are CEL's dynamic adult day programs designed to promote lifelong learning, skill development, and community engagement. Through individualized support and real-world experiences, members gain confidence and a sense of accomplishment, experiencing belonging that extends beyond CEL's walls.

126 members developing new skills and actively participating in the community



ELEVATING INCLUSION: CEL'S THE NORA PROJECT

This year, CEL reached another important milestone in our journey to build a more inclusive world: The Nora Project, a nationally recognized leader in disability inclusive education, officially became part of the CEL family.

Founded with a powerful vision to teach empathy, inclusion, and advocacy in schools, The Nora Project has changed the way thousands of students and educators understand disability. By equipping classrooms with the tools to talk openly about difference and belonging and creating spaces where students learn to value their peers with and without disabilities, The Nora Project has planted the seeds of inclusion earlier in life.

By becoming part of CEL, those seeds can now grow into something even greater across a continuum of inclusion that begins in classrooms and extends across a lifetime. Students who experience inclusive programming today enter adulthood already

equipped to build communities where people with disabilities are seen, valued, and fully included. At the same time, CEL's programs ensure that the adults with disabilities we serve find friendship, purpose, and opportunity in those very same communities.

Our shared vision is clear: to reach more educators, engage more students, and empower more teens, adults, and seniors with disabilities to thrive. Thank you for partnering with us for a future where inclusion is not an aspiration but an expectation and where people with disabilities aren't just included - they truly belong.

As we move forward our shared vision is clear: to reach more educators, engage more students, and empower more adults with disabilities to thrive.

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
FROM CEL'S THE NORA
PROJECT REACHED ACROSS**

**8 STATES
AND 1 PROVINCE**

**Illinois
Maryland
Wisconsin
Minnesota
Washington**

**Indiana
Colorado
Conneticut
Quebec**

**IN THE 2024-25
SCHOOL YEAR:**

1,776

**EDUCATORS GAINED
ADVOCACY SKILLS
THROUGH OUR
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING**

1,875

**STUDENTS LEARNED
ABOUT DISABILITY
AND INCLUSION FROM
THE NORA PROJECT
CURRICULA**



“ [The Nora Project] definitely impacted how I view others in our school, especially those with disabilities. I have even more respect for [my classmates with disabilities], and more confidence in their capability to impact the world, our school, and our community. ”

- Student, 5th grade

THANK YOU FOR ELEVATING

CEL'S 2024 GOLF OUTING

CEL's Annual Golf Outing is more than just a beautiful day on the course, it's a show of corporate and community support for people with developmental disabilities. Our Title Sponsor AIT Worldwide Logistics and partner CDW lead the way to making this event a huge success. We are deeply grateful to every sponsor, player, committee member, and volunteer who help turn a day of golf into a lasting impact for CEL members year after year.



OUR AMAZING EVENTS!

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF SPONSORS

Title

AIT Worldwide
Logistics, Inc

Course

Arrow Electronics
Ingram Micro/Fortinet
Microsoft

Snack Oasis

Eaton

Cart

BlueStar
Cisco Security
Climb Channel Solutions
Intel
NetApp/TD SYNEX
Palo Alto Networks

Driving Range

Adobe

Lunch

Poly

Special

ACER
BlueStar
Cloudian/Commvault
Cradlepoint
Dell Technologies
Elo Touch Solutions
HP Inc
HPE/CDW
Juniper Networks
Byron Holden
Lenovo
Lexmark
Liquid PC
Neat
Peerless-AV
Planar Systems Inc
Pure Storage
Qualcomm
Safeware
Samsung Electronics
Schneider Electric
Secureworks
Sophos
TD SYNEX
Wesco & Chatsworth
Zebra Technologies

19th Hole

G3 Construction Group

Hole - Hosted

Hitachi Vantara
Honeywell

Hole

John & Carolyn Borta
CEVA Logistics
The Diamond Family
Kensington
Mosaic Construction
Northbrook Bank & Trust
StarTech.com
Upholdings Supportive
Housing Development

Patron

Sue & Joel Bersh
Brother International
Joan & Bradley Cannon
Chicago Tag & Label
The Epstein Family
Micron
Herb Washington

250 golfers joined us
on the course and raised nearly
\$400,000
for CEL's vital programs and services.



THANK YOU FOR ELEVATING

2025 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN

Thanks to our community of members and their families, volunteers, staff, and supporters like yourself, CEL's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Campaign was a resounding success! From March 12-14, 2025, more than 100 Ambassadors fundraised for CEL and spread awareness about Developmental Disabilities. With a generous \$90,000 in matching dollars and an outpouring of community generosity, you help ensure that no one is turned away due to lack of affordability.

MATCHING SPONSORS

\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Gail & Steve Ross Anonymous	Rob & Nancy Northrip Anonymous (x2)	Ed & Ellen Swartz Anonymous

WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL OF **\$250,000**
BY RAISING AN INCREDIBLE

\$340,000

WE RECEIVED OVER
1,400
DONATIONS

750
DONORS
JOINED OUR MISSION
FOR THE FIRST TIME

OUR AMAZING EVENTS!



DDAM AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: MIKE CANONIGO, FATHER TO CEL MEMBER MILES

Mike's openness to sharing what CEL has meant for Miles and his family was a chance to share their story and inspire others to join. We are so thankful for his inspired leadership, generosity, and infectious spirit that made him so essential to DDAM's success and the CEL community.

"I don't ever want to lose a program like CEL."

That sentiment is what inspired Mike Canonigo, who searched for years to find the right program fit for his son Miles, to set up a fundraising page last March as part of CEL's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month campaign.

Mike created his personal fundraising page then rallied his network support the place that has so positively impacted Miles, who has been a CEL Member since 2015.

"These programs are hard to find—they're few and far between. That's why it's important to advocate, so they continue not just for our loved ones, but for everyone who needs them."

Mike's "easy yes" to returning as an ambassador, along with his wife Joy, turned into a family affair,

his son Kaleb and Kaleb's girlfriend Jackie also reaching out to their networks. Together they raised an incredible \$7,000 from 25 people who wanted to honor Miles!

Beyond his own connections, Mike was a cheerleader in the WhatsApp group of all 100+ DDAM Ambassadors. His enthusiasm and energy created a sense of community that inspired others to increase their goals and step up their efforts as well!

And on the last day of the campaign, Mike stepped up yet again, deciding to "create a win today" and making a second personal donation that triggered a celebration in the CEL offices as his donation pushed the entire campaign past the goal.

As we look ahead to March 2026, Mike's advice for prospective ambassadors on the fence about fundraising is to be bold and "just ask" their networks to contribute.

"It's not about asking for yourself—it's about advocating for something you believe in. If people can't give, they may know someone who can. Be open, share your story, and let others be part of it."

THANK YOU FOR ELEVATING

CHEFS' NIGHT 25TH ANNIVERSARY

More than **600** people gathered to celebrate CEL's 25th Annual Chefs' Night, raising over **\$625,000** to ensure that CEL members have every opportunity to experience all of life's possibilities.



The event is a celebration of food, community, and purpose with a vibrant mix of supporters: more than 100 corporations and family sponsors, 28 Tasting Partners (who donated all the food and drink), longtime donors, CEL families and members, and many new friends.

We were honored to have CEL family Jay and Lisa Marshall share how CEL has impacted their lives - a powerful reminder of how our supporters truly change the lives of our members and their families.

“I've seen my brother grow, find community, find strength, and find a voice that I didn't even know he had. More importantly, I get to learn more and more about my brother, in ways that I didn't know was possible. He's blossoming, and I am incredibly grateful to CEL.”

Lisa Marshall, Sister/Guardian to CEL Member Jay



MISSED CHEFS' NIGHT? WATCH OUR RECAP VIDEO



OUR AMAZING EVENTS!

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS AND SPONSORS

Diamond

Anonymous

Platinum

AbbVie
BlueStar
Cleary Gottlieb
Kim & Tim Cysewski
Lori & Gary Kash
The Slotnick Family
White & Case
William Blair / The Cynthia
Elkins Foundation

Gold

AMLI Residential
Barbara & Steve Anderson
Anonymous
Baker McKenzie
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Blitt & Gaines, PC
Climb Channel Solutions
Elo Touch Solutions
Deb & Byron Holden
Ingram Micro
Lenovo
Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
Morgan Lewis
Northbrook Bank & Trust
Company
Akash Pathak & Molly Joyce
Jim & Patty Shanks
TD SYNEX
TRAKAmerica

Silver

AB Distributing, Inc.
Anonymous
Arrow Electronics
Barilla America, Inc.
Joel & Sue Bersh / AIS

Betis Group, Inc.
Brandt Box
BTX Global Logistics
Joan & Bradley Cannon
Corient
Cozen O'Connor
CrowdStrike
Curion LLC
Deloitte
Steven & Maria Demet
Howard & Cheryl
Diamond
Rob & Angela Dorsey
The Family of
Jacob Epstein
Expeditors
First American Bank
First Bank Chicago
Honeywell
Long Grove
Confectionary
Ma Laboratories Inc.
Mayer Brown
Nadler Financial
Group, Inc.
Ray Nair
Patzik, Frank &
Samotny, Ltd.
Polsinelli
Ryan Specialty Group
Schneider Electric
Jeff & Anne Stewart
Mike & Joyce
Suchsland
Will & Jennifer Tippet
Upholdings
Trek Bikes
Highland Park
The Wagner
Foundation
Wynndalco
Enterprises, LLC

Bronze

AdvaCare Systems
The Baboulas Family
Mark & Amy Bernstein
Susan & Noel Elfant
Lori Fagenholz &
David Multack
Janice & Joel
Goldblatt
Ingram Micro
JAB Produce
Kobayashi Healthcare
International
Lakeside Bank
Liquid PC
The Malek Family
Mosaic Construction
Keren & Jared Novack
OneDigital
Peerless - AV
Harriette & Ted
Perlman
PetWise
Proline Options
Quarles & Brady LLP
The Ripes Family
Savant Wealth
Management
Hal & Cindy Schwartz
Elisabeth Rose &
Owen Shapiro
Stellina Hospitality
Stephanie Slatkin &
Martin Irgang
Sunset Foods
The Swartz Family
TerSera Therapeutics
Melinda & Herb
Washington

Angel

Wendy & Lucien Adams
Advia Credit Union
All Temp Chicagoland
Heating and
Air Conditioning
The Balder Family
BlackHawk Data LLC
The Building Group
Miriam Campbell & Family
Cherry Bekaert
Colliers
C&R Services
Mary & Nicholas Greanias
Jeff & Jayme Greenspan
Gordon & Mary Gruenes
The Hart Family
Law Offices of
Louis F. Cainkar, Ltd.
Pat & John Marshall
The Marty Family
Patzik, Frank &
Samotny Foundation
Ori Shachar
Signature Bank
SLS, LLC
Paul & Lisa Sundberg
UPS
Venture One
Wipfli LLP
Kristy & Rich Wrigley

Photography Sponsor

Mindy Garfinkle
Photography

THANK YOU TO OUR TASTING PARTNERS

CEL Member Chefs
City Barbeque
The Claim Company
Restaurant
Culver's of Buffalo
Grove, Lincolnshire &
Northbrook
Deerfield-Bannockburn
Firehouse
Eddie Merlot

Ema Glenview
Enzo & Lucia Restaurant
FEW Spirits
Grill House
Highland Pop makers of
Slim Kim Popcorn
Hirsch's North Shore
Private Chef & Catering
Lazy Dog Restaurants
Long Grove
Confectionary

North Shore Distillery
Nothing Bundt
Cakes - Deerfield
P.F. Chang's
PRP Wine
International, Inc.
Revolution Brewing
Saranello's
Spears Bourbon
Burgers Beer

Three Embers
Three Tarts Bakery Café
Tighthead Brewing Co.
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Toasty Cheese
Food Trucks
WTB/Fifty50 Events
& Catering
The Wild Roaster

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR LOCAL TOWNSHIPS

We extend our sincere appreciation to our local townships for their steadfast support. Your partnership plays a vital role in sustaining our programs and ensuring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can thrive in our community.

Barrington Township, Ela Township, Elk Grove Township, Libertyville Township, Maine Township, Moraine Township, New Trier Township, Northfield Township, Palatine Township, Schaumburg Township - Mental Health Board, Vernon Township - Mental Health Board, West Deerfield Township, Wheeling Township - Mental Health Board

Nearly
57%
of members
received financial
assistance, ensuring
CEL remained
accessible to all
who needed us.

OUR COMMUNITY SPANS ALL AGES

29% members are 55+

46% members are between the ages of 25 & 54

25% members are under 25.



This video shows our gratitude for the impact you have made on our lives!



CEL members come from all over Chicagoland to be with their friends - 53 different communities!



“

You help transform everyday moments into milestones of growth, and ensure CEL remains a place where every person is seen, supported, and celebrated.

”



ELEVATING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH GENEROSITY THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The individuals, families, corporations, and organizations recognized here have contributed \$5,000 or more between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, helping to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can continue to experience life's possibilities.

These leadership gifts empower CEL members to reach new levels of confidence and independence - whether it's mastering skills that lead to meaningful employment, expressing creativity through art, or strengthening friendships that foster a true sense of belonging.

We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering commitment and trust in our mission.

\$100,000+

**The Smith Tieken
Foundation**

Anonymous

\$50,000+

Illinois Arts Council

The Grainger
Foundation

Lori and Gary Kash

The Reichert
Foundation

ELEVATING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH GENEROSITY

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$25,000+

Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc.
AIT Worldwide Logistics
Anonymous (x3)
Fred and Sally Blitt
BlueStar
Kim and Tim Cysewski
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keiser
Donor Advised Fund
New Trier Township
Steve and Gail Ross
Valerie M. Slotnick
Mary Vihon
Village of Skokie
Ronald J. Woods Charitable Trust

\$15,000+

The Norman and
Susan Abazoris Foundation
The Aigner Foundation
Anonymous (x2)
Arrow Electronics
Climb Channel Solutions
Discover
Elk Grove Township
Adam and Kate Glasser
Ingram Micro
The Edward and
Wanda Jordan Family Foundation
Microsoft
Northfield Township
Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation
TD SYNTEX
Tripp Lite
Wheeling Township Mental Health Board





\$10,000+

AbbVie
 Adobe
 Steve and Barbara Anderson Family Trust
 Anonymous (x4)
 Grace Bersted Foundation,
 Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
 Cisco Systems
 Cleary Gottlieb
 Robert C. and Angela K. Dorsey
 Elo Touch Solutions
 Lane and Emily Epstein
 Fortinet
 Mr. Leonardo Graffi
 The Maurice R. and
 Meta G. Gross Foundation
 John R. Halligan Charitable Fund
 Byron and Deb Holden

Lenovo
 Steve and Joan Lichter
 Daniel H. Lome Foundation
 Robert and Nancy Northrip
 Gerald H Oram Memorial Trust
 Palo Alto Networks
 Planar Systems
 Poly
 Elisabeth Rose and Owen Shapiro
 Samsung Electronics
 Jim and Laura Schallman
 Schaumburg Township Mental Health Board
 Ellen and Edward Swartz
 Daniel and Patricia Ushman
 Janet Winter
 Richard and Lisa Worsek

ELEVATING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH GENEROSITY

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$5,000+

Dr. Robert Aaron and Suzanne Aaron
Abbott Fund Matching Grant Plan

Acer

Ameriprise Financial

Robert and Noel Angerame

Anonymous (x4)

Baker McKenzie LLP

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Bernau Family Foundation

Mark and Amy Bernstein

Susan and Joel Bersh

Steve Brody

Cafaro-Livingston Charitable Trust

Joan and Brad Cannon

Dr. Byung Cheon and Dr. Sung Cheon

The Coffman Foundation

Karen Davis

Dell Technologies

Maria and Steven Demet

Steve Elkins

Ericsson

William and Jennifer Fawcett

Suzanne and Mark Filippi

Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust

Robert U. and Roberta Goldman

Family Foundation

Mary and Nick Greanias

Highland Park Community Foundation

Tamra and Jon Hinkemeyer

HP Inc.

HPE

Barbara Johnson

Juniper Networks

John Kett

Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC

Lexmark

Liquid PC Inc.

Long Grove Confectionery

Karyn Lutz

Diane Mcswain

Moraine Township

Morgan Lewis

Gregory Mutz

Neat

Palatine Township

Akash Pathak and Molly Joyce

Shelley Payne

Peerless-AV

PNC Foundation

Pure Storage

Qualcomm

Ronit and Daniel Ripes

Schneider Electric

Secureworks

Jim and Patty Shanks

Sophos

Joyce and Michael Suchsland

Carolyn and Thomas Sweeney

Thursty Camels League -

Medinah Country Club Chapter

TRAKAmerica

David Trujillo

The Turner Construction

Company Foundation

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Village of Riverwoods

Village of Schaumburg

West Deerfield Township

William Blair

Wintrust Financial Corporation

Zebra Technologies

IMPACT IN ACTION: SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

88

**different programs
were offered,**
from weekend water park
getaways to Friday night
dance parties to creatively
inspired art classes



“ For 42 teens/young adults in CEL Summer Camp, this is where friendships flourish, independence builds, and confidence shines. Seeing that growth is my favorite part, every time. The vibe is happy, supportive, and contagious, and I’m grateful to be a part of it! ”

Veronica Luna, CEL Program Manager



386 people
were living their best lives
dancing, creating, bowling,
and more with friends in
CEL programs



Watch Mark's dream job to become a farmer come true at Elawa Farm!



47 dream jobs
started or continued this year
through CEL's Employment
Opportunities program

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM THANK YOU EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS

ABT Electronics
Amazon Fresh
Amgen
Aramark
AutoZone
Bark University Inc.
Baxter International
Blitt & Gaines, P.C
Boarder Tails Rescue
Brookdale Senior Living
Cafe Zupas
Chicago Public Schools
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Culver's
Elawa Farm Foundation
George's Deep Dish
GiGi's Playhouse
Goodwill in Evanston
Great Wolf Lodge
GREC Architects
Heartland Animal Shelter
Hollman Logistics
Hotel Indigo
Leider Greenhouses & Garden Center

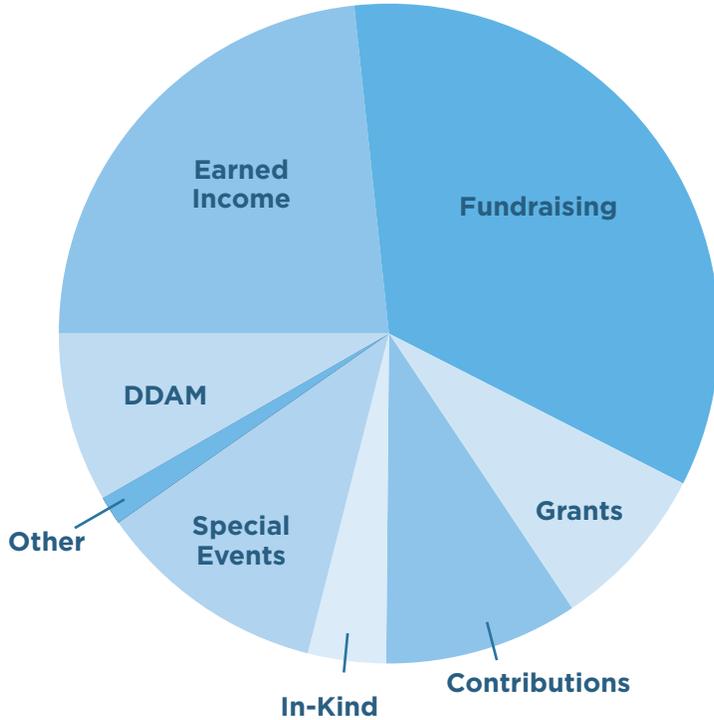
Mariano's
McDonald's
Noggin Builders
Noodles & Company
Old Navy
Park District of Highland Park
PetWise
Pinstripes
Prospect Heights Public Library
Rainbow's for All Children
Rally House
Red Lobster
Rover's Place
Sunrise Senior Living
Thrown Elements Pottery
TJ-Maxx
The Wild Roaster
Walgreens
Walmart
Zebra Technologies

“ *I like the work I get to do. It makes me feel energized and awesome and hardworking.* ”

Christine, CEL Employment Member



FINANCIALS



Fundraising - \$3,099,865
Earned Income - \$2,114,519
Special Events - \$1,027,165
Contributions - \$860,885
Grants - \$737,650
DDAM - \$346,949
In-Kind - \$127,216
Other (Interest, Misc) - \$75,319

Total Income - \$5,289,703





Across all CEL programs,
the average member spent

318 hours

participating,
for a total of

150,931

hours enjoyed at CEL -

a **34% jump**

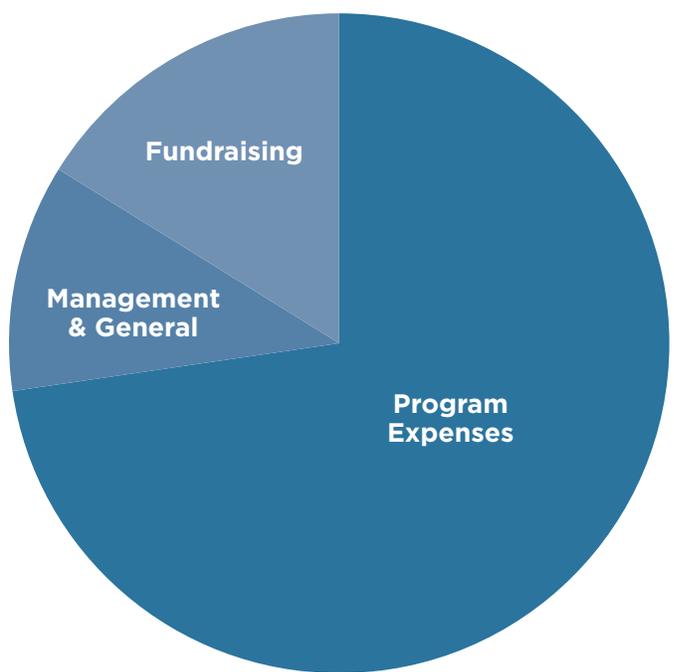
Program Expenses - \$3,896,104

Fundraising - \$866,289

Management & General - \$597,937

Total Expense - \$5,289,703

Ending Net Assets: \$5,612,779





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