



ENRICHING
PURPOSE



EMPOWERING
INDEPENDENCE



INSPIRING
INCLUSION



2023
Impact Report



EARLY INTERVENTION WINNEBAGO & OUTAGAMIE COUNTIES

Diego was born 2 months early and had a pretty rough start in life. He spent about a month in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and had multiple surgeries very early on. Due to concerns for his development, he was referred to the VPI Early Intervention Birth to 3 Program at 5 months of age.

Initially, visits focused on coaching Diego's parents in promoting his movement milestones of rolling, sitting, crawling, standing and walking. The more Diego wanted to move, the more evident it became that it was hard for him to do. Together, the family and Early Intervention team worked hard on incorporating motor strategies into their everyday activities that would help encourage him to coordinate his movements so he could reach his toys and move around his home. All that hard work eventually paid off when Diego started to walk at about 16 months old!

Diego's struggles with moving his body continued to affect his development as he got older, specifically with coordinating his mouth and tongue movements so he could learn how to talk. Diego's family and early intervention team used cues that incorporated all his senses to help him learn how to make sounds during his play and daily routines.

Once Diego was able to make a variety of sounds, he had to learn how to put the sounds together to form words. After months of practicing these strategies, Diego finally found his voice and started communicating with words and eventually sentences. Diego recently turned three and was evaluated by the area school district to determine if he qualified for special education services, but his skills fell in the typical range for his age, which thrilled his family.



97%

of families believe participating in the program had a positive impact on the way they interact with their child

1,105

children under 3 years of age with developmental delays were supported by the VPI Early Intervention Birth to 3 Program

Our mission is to promote the dignity and worth of individuals who have disabilities or are disadvantaged and to assist them in developing their optimum level of social, vocational and economic independence in the community.



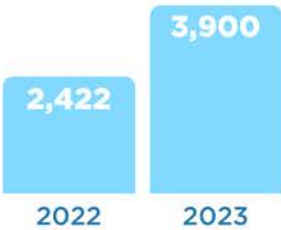
See it in action

The Community Inclusion Initiative is a program that creates, nurtures, and sets the stage for life's most important experiences. During its inaugural year, **818 participants enjoyed 357 events and outings**. Although not on board at first, Lindsay discovered a new store that she liked very much and vowed to return. Shannon said through this initiative, she got her independence back. Amanda said going on outings is her favorite thing to do in the world.



2,030 individuals served across all programs

One way bus rides provided to VPI clients:



1,000+

interactive groups and activities offered at the VPI Community Day Center



SOCIAL ENRICHMENT



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Gracie, a Neenah High School senior lacked confidence, work skills and work experience, and joined VPI's Skills for Work program. Initially shy, Gracie blossomed, becoming confident and competitive at her internship at U.S. Venture. Impressed, her supervisors at U.S. Venture offered her a part-time job with benefits after completing the program. With support from VPI and her family, Gracie secured transportation and a suitable schedule. Nearly 8 months later, she remains an essential team member, showcasing her growth and commitment to her self and her work.



“Even though I was nervous, I was strong and became stronger. I thank you for showing me love, showing me kindness, and believing in me.”



216

individuals assisted in obtaining community employment

219

students served by VPI education programs

133

internships provided to students in VPI education programs

798 skill development & wellness management groups offered through VPI mental health programs

48% IPS (Individual Placement and Support) employment rate, compared to statewide average of 43%

129 individuals in crisis were connected to mental health care through the Mental Health Navigator

MENTAL HEALTH



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Since our doors opened almost 70 years ago, much has changed and evolved at VPI, but our the mission has remained constant – we still exist to promote the dignity and worth of individuals who have disabilities or are disadvantaged and optimize their opportunities in this great community.

In 2023 we drove our mission to new levels by serving 2,030 individuals in our many Community Programs. This number includes internships for high school students, community outings, job coaching hours, and one way rides, just to name a few. On top of all of this, we held our first ever VPI fundraiser, Tossing for Inclusion, and successfully eliminated our 14c license mid-year.

As we look to 2024, it will be another year of growth and change at VPI. We will continue to invest in our much needed Community Programs, and are aggressively working to consolidate our operations in an effort to be more efficient and effective in how we deliver our services to the community.

I want to thank our dedicated and passionate employees, partners, community members, and donors for helping us carry out our mission in 2023. Their time, energy, commitment, expertise, and dollars have all contributed to our success, and I look forward to an even greater impact in the future.

Tim Riebau
President & CEO



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NAVIGATING EVERY CHALLENGE, *together*

VPI's Mental Health Navigator received a call from a local Police Department. On the line was an officer, who had the call on speakerphone, and in the room with him was a man named Eric. Eric was experiencing severe depression at the time, and was in tears on the phone with the Navigator. Eric informed the Navigator that he just lost his job, with no money for health insurance to see a doctor. **He was so depressed that he was finding it hard to get out of bed**, let alone look for work. The Mental Health Navigator reached out to a free clinic in the area and was able to get him an appointment with their psychiatrist. Eric was finally given a formal diagnosis for the mental turmoil he had been experiencing and was prescribed medication to treat his disorder. **Eric was able to get a new job and is slowly putting his life back together on the road to recovery.**



Kensington Production Facility

110 N. Kensington Dr.
Appleton, WI 54915

Roemer Production Facility

2730 N. Roemer Rd.
Appleton, WI 54911

VPI Community Outreach Center

322 N. Appleton St.
Appleton, WI 54911

VPI Community Day Center

3375 W. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54914

LOCATIONS

STAY IN TOUCH!



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