



Thresholds 
Doorways to Opportunity

2022 Community Report

OUR MISSION:

Empowering people with disabilities to lead meaningful, connected lives.

Dear Friends:

Data keeps us focused; stories keep us going.

We often hear well-worn phrases like, “the bottom line” and “it’s all in the numbers”. This year’s Community Report shares not just the numbers, but the stories behind those numbers; stories about real people, stories that inspire us to keep going.

I hope that the data we share and the people they represent encourage you, as they do us. People like Beth, who dared to try a new job and has built a career she loves. And Bobby, who through relationships with our staff learned to trust, and has blossomed into a happy young man. Then there’s our new Hospitality Group, experiencing the rewards of caring for others.

This year held many challenges and growth opportunities for us and for those we support at Thresholds. We remain most thankful to you for standing with us as we continue to empower adults with disabilities to lead meaningful, connected lives.

In partnership,



Jacquie Johnson
President/CEO, Thresholds



Check out our
new website:
thresholdsgr.org



342

individuals served



100%

of individuals successfully maintained their current living arrangement.

5200

hours of respite



82%

community participants learned a new skill

534+

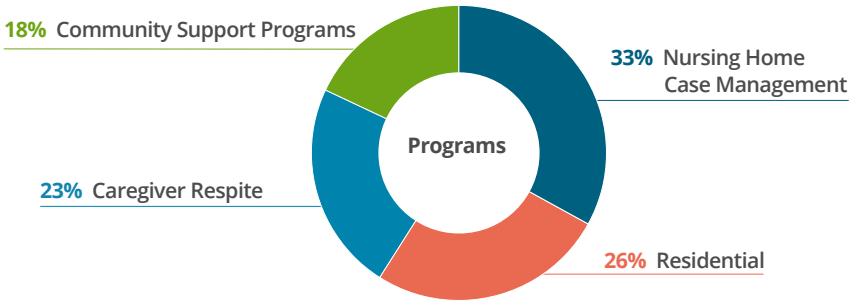
volunteer hours



WHO WE SERVE

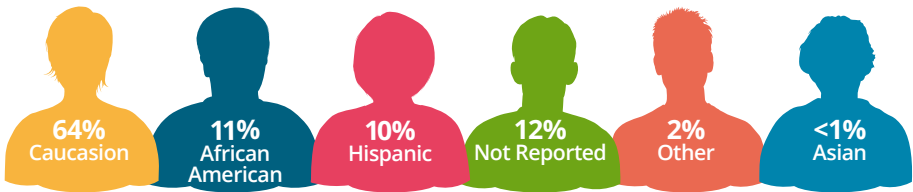
Programs & Individuals Served

Total Number of Individuals Served: 342

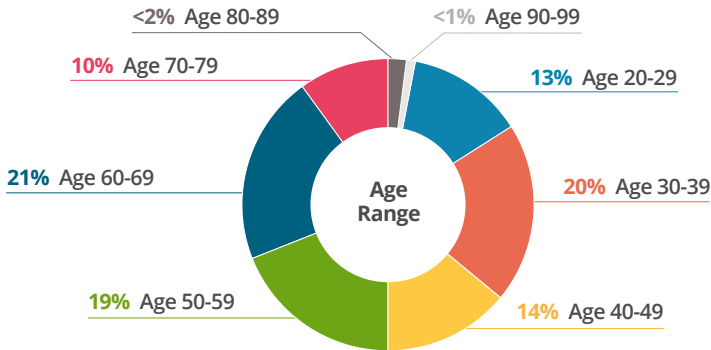


Ethnicity/Race

Some percentages reflect the total number of ethnicities served in Kent County.



Age Range



Gender



OUR NEW OFFICES



New Thresholds Offices!

After selling two office buildings with lots of unused space, Thresholds moved into the Special Olympics Michigan Center for Inclusion (SOMI) at 160 68th St SW, the site of the former South Christian High School. Our renovated office suite was completed in the spring and we celebrated with a joint Open House with our new neighbors Disability Advocates of Kent County.

Our offices are fully accessible and incorporate the principles of Universal Design. The light, open space is peaceful and welcoming, making staff and visitors feel comfortable. We love to host visitors and show them not just our suite but the entire SOMI campus, which is also home to nine other nonprofits. Please stop by for a tour!



SOMI building: 130,000 square foot building, houses 10 nonprofits. It's the only one of it's kind in the world.



Bobby Overcomes Challenges

The first thing you'll notice about Bobby is his beautiful, perpetual smile, and it's what you'll remember most when you hear his story.

Bobby's life was upended in 2011. For many who live with autism, change is challenging, especially changing your home environment. After caring for him for as long as she could, Bobby's mother made the difficult decision that she could no longer meet his needs. Bobby moved into a Thresholds home. His transition was particularly rough and dangerous. Bobby frequently ran away, always heading toward a busy, nearby four-lane road. Sometimes he would become very upset and injure himself, once permanently damaging his eye. But our staff persevered, gaining his trust by showing they were not going to give up on him.

88

**individuals served
in our residential
homes**

Through the relationships he built at Thresholds, Bobby adjusted and is thriving. He enjoys helping with household tasks, like retrieving the mail. Bobby's relationship with his mom also continues to be strong. He happily phones and visits her regularly.

Bobby still struggles managing his behavior, but he also continues to make progress to better control himself and be more independent. He smiles a lot now, a big grin of someone who feels safe and secure. We look forward to what the coming years have in store for Bobby!



Abby Thrives with Respite Care

Abby lives with her mom, Sally, and were it not for Sally's faithful, daily care, Abby would likely live in a group home. Abby and Sally share a special bond which is evident when you meet them. They really enjoy each other's company! Sally ensures that Abby's life is rich and full. But like everyone, Sally needs regular breaks from the daily responsibilities of supporting Abby. This is where Thresholds' Respite program comes in, providing staff to support Abby for a few hours so the two of them can be apart.

79

**families benefitted
from respite in 2022**

While Sally gets a break, Abby does some fun activities with other respite participants, like bowling! Sally says this about the Threshold respite program:

"Respite is a wonderful program. It gives me time to do things I like and need to do for myself. It also gives Abby the opportunity to get out of the house and spend time with someone other than family, which is important for her too. Respite helps both of us."



Beth Dared to Make a Change

After 13 years at a big box home improvement store, Beth knew she wanted to do something more meaningful with her life but was reluctant to try a new field. Her roommate worked for Thresholds in the Individual Community Supports program and convinced her to apply. At first, Beth was afraid of such a huge change. What if she failed? What if she couldn't do the job?

Beth joined the Thresholds team in 2020, and she not only didn't fail, she excelled! She has become a beloved ICLS staff member, working well with everyone, accepting them where they are and showing she believes they can change and grow. Beth's no-nonsense, but people know they can trust her to tell them like it is.

58

**individuals
participated
in Community
Programs**

Reflecting on her anxiety about changing careers, Beth now sees how she's always had a heart for helping others. Many years ago, she cared for her nephew, a young boy with autism who does not speak. "...and I loved it". She developed a special bond with him that clearly impacted them both. Beth's gift for working with people with disabilities is unmistakable.

Beth says she loves working for Thresholds. She appreciates the flexibility in her job and feels supported and cared for as a person. "It's a family here", she says. We're all benefitting from Beth's courage to make a change!

VOLUNTEER STORY



Jeanne Brightens Our Homes

Jeanne Simmons is a cleaning wizard! Though her business is house cleaning, she volunteers at Thresholds on her days off tackling cleaning projects in our homes. Jeanne is an energetic, enthusiastic person who jumps into any project with a broom and bucket! She has very high standards for herself, so her finished products are always perfect.

Jeanne learned about Thresholds when her daughter Amy joined the Thresholds board and learned of the need for volunteers in many areas. When Amy mentioned the cleaning opportunities at Thresholds, Jeanne immediately volunteered. Since she started volunteering, Jeanne has tackled a variety of “to-do” list tasks that our thinly stretched staff are challenged to address. She’s always willing to take on a project and to fit our needs into her schedule.

Jeanne’s volunteering is a bright spot for us!

BOARD MEMBER STORY

Jane Owen has been on the Thresholds board since 2017. She served as Vice-Chair* in 2022, and was elected Chair in 2023.



Jane Owen

Jane is a retired retirement plan consultant with a heart for serving. Her particular passion is enriching the lives of people with disabilities. In fact, Jane and her husband have their own foundation dedicated to giving people with disabilities outdoor recreation opportunities.

In her few years on the board, Jane has been the motivating force in growing our volunteer and fund development programs. And she doesn’t do this alone. She enlists her family members and friends in events, and they all share her enthusiasm for service.

Jane has taken the many changes Thresholds has experienced in stride, always framing them as opportunities for growth. Thresholds benefits from Jane’s energy and leadership in myriad ways!

*Jane was elected board Chair in 2023!



FALL BALL 2022

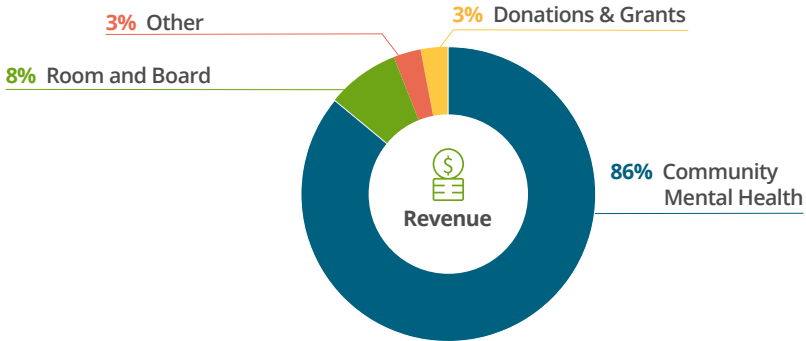
For many years, Thresholds hosted The Fall Ball, a dinner dance for anyone in the community with a disability. Though the pandemic paused this much beloved event for two years, we resumed the party on September 13, 2022. Nearly 300 people filled the SOMI gym to eat a chicken dinner, have fun at photo booths, and dance the night away! The Ball was a great success and many left asking date of the next one.

The dance was only possible with the support of partner agencies, corporate sponsors, and nearly 50 volunteers who filled every role from decorating to cleaning up, serving dinner to escorting participants on the dance floor! If you'd like to sponsor or volunteer at our 2023 Ball, we have a role for you! Contact the dance coordinator Theresa Funk at 616.551.5474.

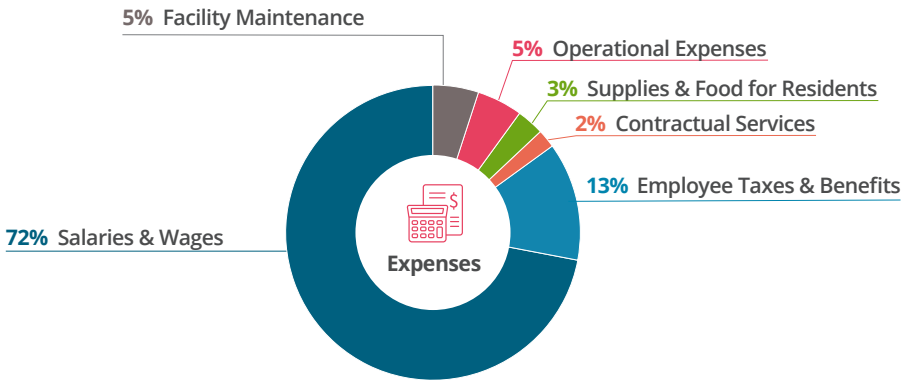


2022 RESOURCES

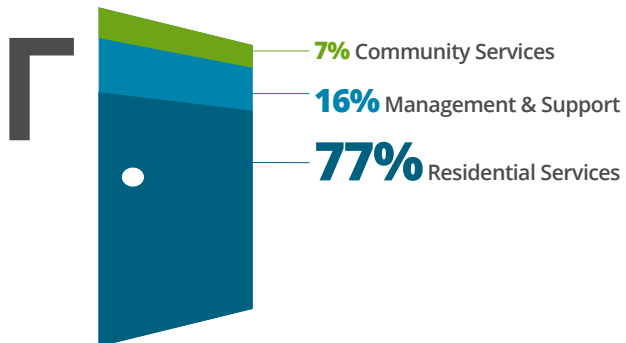
Revenue



Expenses



Program Expense Ratio





Empowering people with disabilities to lead meaningful, connected lives.



Our Hospitality Group

Participants in the Thresholds Life Skills program found a way to experience the joy of giving back when they started an initiative to encourage and care for other Thresholds participants. The Hospitality Group sends a birthday card to every individual in the agency, visits peers who live in the nursing home and serves as hosts for agency promotional events.

The Hospitality Group has truly become a light for Thresholds in our community!