



Community Connections

2017 Donor Impact Report



Friends of MSS



Thank you for reading our 2017 Annual Report with our theme “Community Connections”. For the past 68 years MSS has been making Community Connections come alive for people with disabilities. Many of the connections we help make are employment related, but we do much more than just that. We help the people we serve make connections through their artistic abilities, self-advocacy efforts, and a host of other interests. We have been making these connections with the help of a dedicated staff who understand how important these connections are to

living a full life.

This is an interesting time for me personally as I retired this year. This is my last Annual Report message and I want everyone to know how much working at MSS has meant to me and my family. I started at MSS in 1979 and have enjoyed every day working with the people we serve, our dedicated staff, our Board of Directors and the community at large. It has been wonderful, and I will miss it, but it is time for new leadership to lead MSS into its bright future. Julie Johnson will do a magnificent job as the next President/CEO of MSS. Please continue to support MSS and the people we serve and help us to help them make quality Community Connections.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyth Hartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lyth Hartz, President

Our Mission:

The mission of MSS is to support people with disabilities as vital and contributing members of our community.

Our Vision:

Through the advocacy and person-centered services provided by MSS, the people we support will be regarded as full, vital, and contributing members of society.

Our Values:

- * Partnerships and collaborations
- * Choice
- * Embracing diversity and celebrating individuality
- * Innovation
- * Taking a Position of Possibility

Community Connections

“I love getting out into the community.
It makes me happy. I get to make new
friends, go to work and make money,
and go visit fun places around the city.
It is so much fun!”

- *Gabby Lee; Oakdale*

We listen to the people we support

When we ask the people at MSS what they want from our services, engagement with the community is high on the list. We continually adapt our programming to increase the frequency and quality of opportunities offered to answer this call.

In 2017, we received a 97% satisfaction rating by the people we support on the following statement: *“I am satisfied with the variety and quality of the opportunities in the community provided to me by MSS.”*

We invest great time and energy into providing the people at MSS access to resources and opportunities in their local communities. This includes employment and volunteer opportunities as well as engagement in performances and other community events.

In addition, bringing the larger community into our centers is especially important for those individuals who find it difficult being away from the center for long periods of time due to medical or behavioral issues. So we make a point to hold classes, host musicians, and schedule other events at the centers.

In 2017, MSS provided an incredible 24,900 hours of community engagement!





Volunteering

At MSS we're able to provide programs and services to the people we support that help them achieve their personal goals. This includes teaching computer skills, ceramics & pottery making, screen printing, or simply being active in our local community.

None of this would be possible if not for the incredible volunteers we're able to work with. Two people in particular embody the spirit of being an MSS volunteer: Roy and Teri Bell.

Roy and Teri have been dedicated MSS volunteers for the past six years, each averaging about 12 hours per week at our Eagan center. "When we discovered MSS, we wanted to explore the opportunity for volunteering," Roy said. "Once we came to know MSS better, we realized we could service both the staff, who work so very hard, as well as the participants."

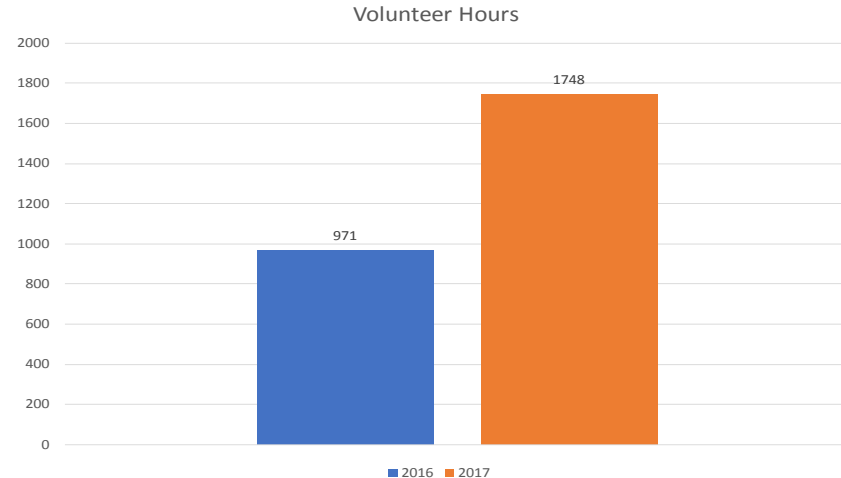
With the help of the Bells, volunteerism at MSS is on a sharp increase. During the 2017 calendar year, volunteer hours increased 67 percent from the year before.

As our industry continues to evolve, we see an ever increasing need for volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at our six locations, please contact our main line at 651-778-1000, or email MSS Volunteer Coordinator, Jodi Meerovich, at jmeerovich@mwsservices.org.

"The time we spend volunteering allows additional participants to go into the community more often. It has also given us the chance to see more of our community and what it has to offer."

-- Roy and Teri Bell

MSS Volunteers



Creative Opportunities

Your incredible support allowed us to expand our creative opportunities in 2017 as we began focusing more on the textile arts. After several years of weaving with simple hand looms, and a generous donation of a larger floor loom, participants were able to expand their interest in textiles by using more sophisticated cricket looms and learning how to spin their own artisanal yarn with Art Coordinator Chloe Russell. Having just transformed our production area at our St. Paul location into a new and innovative Community Hub, providing a makerspace in the Hub for fabric arts was a perfect match.

From there, our fabric arts opportunities have expanded to more locations, providing the people we support another avenue to self-expression. And, as it turns out, another way to make a community connection.

MSS was a sponsor of the Saint Paul Cozy project, a community-sourced art project that wrapped 165 lampposts in St. Paul in handmade cozies. The cozies were made by 160 Minnesota residents who volunteered their time and talent to knit, crochet, weave, and quilt the unique lamppost covers. Our very own MSS artists showed off their ability for the project, working on two of the cozies that were displayed along a 12-block stretch in downtown St. Paul. “I enjoyed working on the cozy project,” said MSS artist Peggy Ramey. “We were able to get together with other people (not from MSS) who were making them and it was nice to get out and meet these new people.”

“I really like doing the weaving. It helps me relax and I can do it whenever I want to. Before I started coming to MSS, I didn’t have this opportunity.”

-- Peggy Ramey

MSS St. Paul

The cozies that Peggy and the rest of the volunteer artists created were displayed in St. Paul for three months, keeping the lampposts slightly warmer during the cold Minnesota winter.

The fabric arts have quickly become an extremely popular activity at MSS. It is made possible by the generosity of those who support our mission and want to continue to expand the opportunities we are able to provide.





Community Hub

In 2016, we made the decision to convert the production space at our St. Paul center, into a vibrant Community Hub. We felt this was in the best interests of the people we support because it would allow us to provide opportunities for training, employment, conducting classes, and increasing our engagement with the community.

In 2017, we watched as the Community Hub transformed into the kind of space we had envisioned. Making community connections with local businesses is a priority and in 2017 we found our first local business to operate out of the Community Hub, PCs for People.

Our partnership with PCs for People has provided many paid working positions for people from MSS at minimum wage or higher. We consider this a big success! This connection has also been well received externally, as PCs for People was recognized by the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) with its inaugural Outstanding Disability Employer Award.

We are excited about what the future holds for our Community Hub and the vast number of opportunities it will bring to the people we support!

To learn more about our Community Hub and how you can become an MSS partner, please call us at 651-778-1000 or email Beth Palm at bpalm@mwsservices.org.

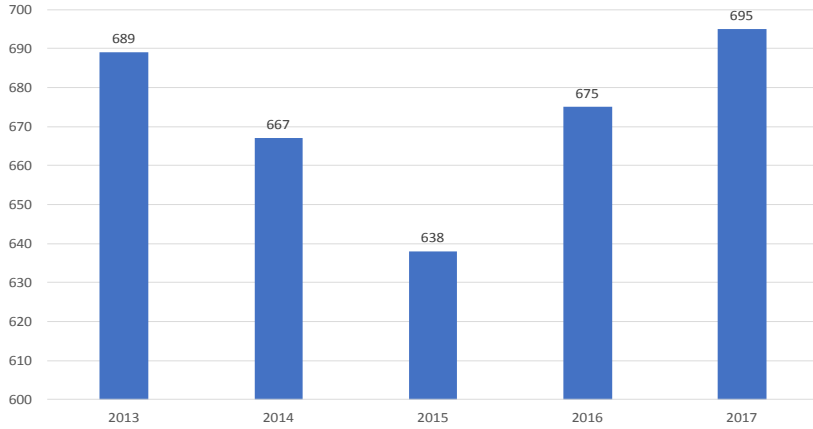


“When I go into the Community Hub area, I know that I can be involved in a fun activity. I really like this.”

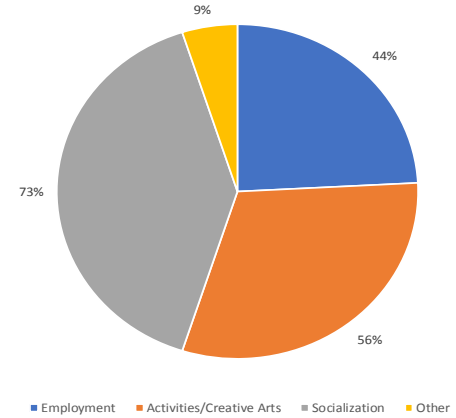
- Brian Rossi; St. Paul

This is who we support!

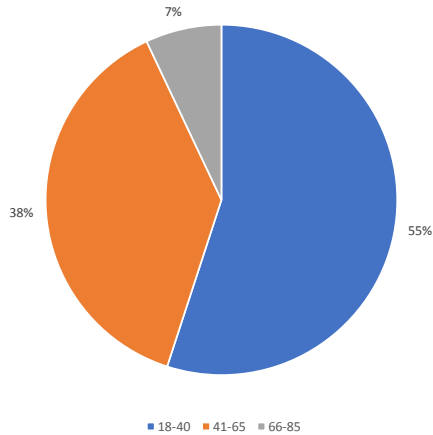
Persons Served



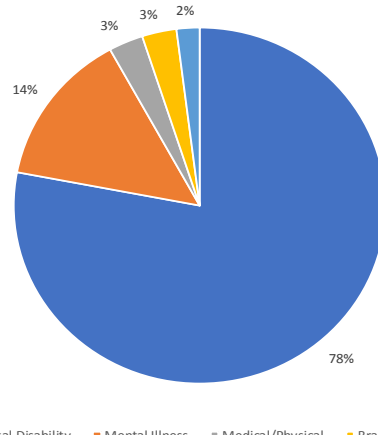
Primary interest for Receiving Services at MSS



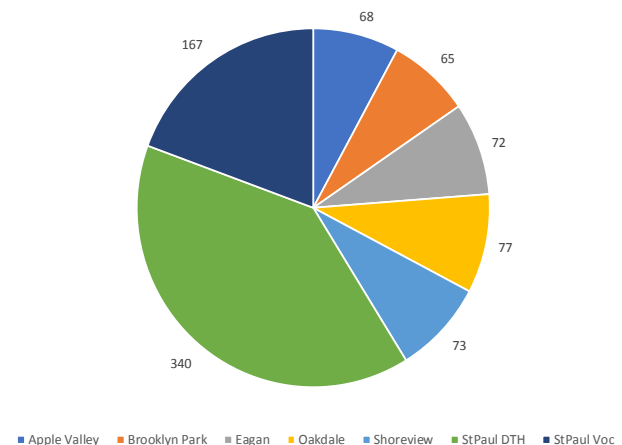
Age Range



Primary Disability



Persons Served by Center/Program







Jessica Williams is one of many individuals from MSS whose goal is to secure employment. In this picture, Jessica is sitting at her state Senator's desk during a lobby at the State Capitol to improve funding for programs like MSS.

Employment

At MSS we ensure that everyone who receives our services has the chance to work. We ask people what is important to them and then match employment opportunities to their interests, strengths, and goals. We then provide information, training, and support so they can make informed decisions about working.

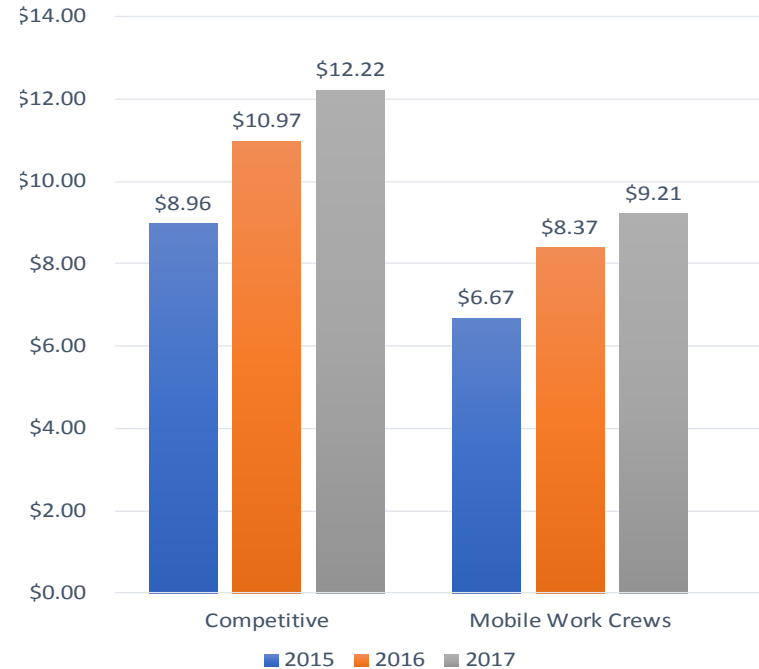
In 2017, the employment landscape for our industry changed as the Minnesota Department of Human Services introduced new employment services, which will provide additional opportunities for education and experiences related to paid work. These new services will have a substantial impact on our operation, as well as our funding, and we encourage your continued support as we navigate these changes.

MSS provides employment services to meet a person wherever they are in their employment journey. These services focus on work evaluation, pre-vocational education and skills training, supported employment, job placement, and job retention.

“I like to go to MSS because they help me be able to go out on work sites and have their support there with me.”

- Jessica Williams; Oakdale

Wages by Placement Type

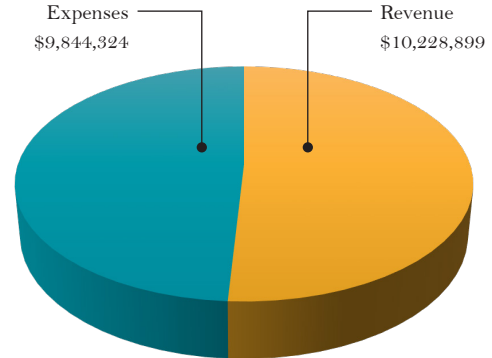


2017 Financial Highlights

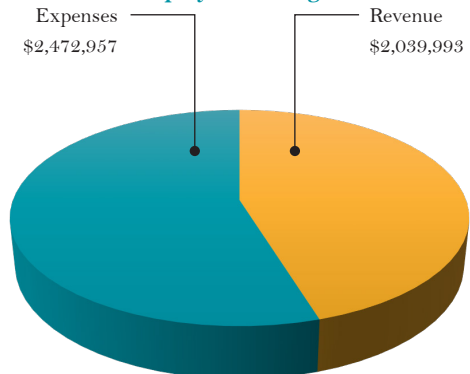
Statement of Financial Position Year ending December 31, 2017

Assets	2017
Cash & Investments	\$ 945,141
Accounts Receivable & Prepaid Expenses	1,137,247
Land, Building & Equipment, Net of Depreciation	2,185,895
Intangible Assets	206,879
O'Neil Endowment Fund	1,236,987
Total assets	\$ 5,712,149
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 779,523
Long-Term Liabilities	155,317
Total Liabilities	\$ 934,840
Net Assets	
Unrestricted: Undesignated	\$ 3,150,335
Board designated for O'Neil Endowment Fund	—
Temporarily Restricted	813,340
Permanently Restricted	813,634
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,777,309
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 5,712,149

Day Training & Habilitation (DT&H) Program



Employment Program



Statement of Unrestricted Activities

Year ending December 31, 2017

Revenue	Employment Program	DT&H Program	2017 Agency
Training fees, county	\$ 700,267	\$ 9,784,101	\$ 10,484,368
Mobile Work Crew/Subcontract Sales	298,811	97,338	396,149
RSB Extended Employment & Case Service	373,130		373,130
United Way Contributions	55,866		55,866
Other Contributions & Investment Income	205,817	45,967	251,784
Released from Restriction	117,793	99,946	217,739
Interest & Miscellaneous Income	21,022	77,227	98,249
Total Revenue	\$ 1,772,706	\$ 10,104,579	\$ 11,877,285
Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 1,070,039	\$ 4,802,950	\$ 5,872,989
Participant Wages, Taxes & Benefits	259,988	130,927	390,915
Transportation	90,843	1,529,263	1,620,106
Operating Expenses	251,616	699,650	951,266
Management & General	221,105	1,269,815	1,490,920
Other Program Expenses	127,713	1,462,425	1,590,138
Total Expenses	\$ 2,021,304	\$ 9,895,030	\$ 11,916,334
Net Operating	\$ (248,598)	\$ 209,549	\$ (39,049)
Unrestricted – Non-Operating			
Impairment of Asset Held for Investment			-
Other Contributions (Special Event)			52,176
Trust & Endowment Investment Income (Loss)			27,242
Net Non-Operating			79,418

2017 Donors

MSS would like to thank everyone — the people we support, staff, volunteers, donors, and business partners — who contributed to our success in 2016.

10,000+

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We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions in our list of donors and funders. Please call 651.793.4126 with any corrections.

MSS in the Community

MSS would like to thank of a few of our community partners that we collaborate with on programs, volunteering, and community engagement.

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THANK YOU for your continued support of our Mission and for making the **dreams** of so many people come true. Together we will find the **possibility** in every person we support and help them reach their **goals!**

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