







REAL Services, Inc. 2019 Annual Report

Truly Making A Difference

"Mary" is blind and needs to stay in the familiar surroundings of her own home. She was born in Mississippi in 1925 and moved to South Bend in 1979. She lost sight in her right eye at age 20 and eventually became totally blind.

She has a son who lives locally and calls her daily, but she lives as independently as possible in her own small apartment. She could not do that without the help of Meals on Wheels.

Recently there was a power outage in Mary's apartment building. Her son pleaded with her to come stay with him. Mary wouldn't have it, she wouldn't be able to get around in his house like she can her own place.

Her son finally agreed with his mom's decision knowing she would have her daily Meals on Wheels delivery, and the REAL Services volunteer could look in on her.

Mary and her son realize Meals on Wheels is so much more than a hot nutritious meal, it's socialization, comfort, and independence.

* 60% of Meals on Wheels clients report that REAL Services volunteer is the only person they see each day.

REAL Services fights for the **Independence**, **Dignity**, and the **Strength** of our community.



Believing in the dignity of all people, the objective of REAL Services is to assist in establishing a community in which those we serve can maintain their independence to the maximum degree possible and find meaning and satisfaction throughout their lives.

Independence. Dignity. Strength.

These three powerful words mean so much to the more than 30,000 individuals touched by REAL Services in 2019. The ability to provide programs and resources to families and individuals was indeed a group effort.

The unwavering commitment of our 200 + employees throughout 12 counties allowed so many in the region to benefit from our programs and services. Thank you to the more than 4,310 volunteers who so freely gave their time to rake a senior's yard, make the holidays brighter for an elder, or delivered food to those who are unable to cook for themselves.

REAL Services is fortunate to have a Board of Directors who are engaged and lead the organization to be better and stronger in the communities we serve. Our community partners and mission-driven donors allow us to expand our programs, helping even more who need it the most.

All of you truly make a difference in the lives of others.

Becky Zaseck President/CEO

"Our job is to serve those we are privileged to serve."

OF ST. 105

In 1966 REAL Services opened its' doors.

Les Fox, the founder, director, and chief executive officer wanted to help those people who had lost their jobs three years earlier, when South Bend's largest employer, Studebaker, stopped automotive production in St. Joseph County. This closing put many loyal and older employees out of work.

REAL Services, which stands for Resources for Enriching Adult Living, was started to serve the senior population and has now evolved into a variety of support services for not only the elderly but also low-income households throughout 12 northern Indiana counties.

Today, Mr. Fox's legacy remains as strong as it was more than five decades ago. REAL Services continues to support the individuals and families who are determined to be as independent as possible.

REAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Spike Abernethy Retired, Consultant

Edward Baer Retired, Financial Consultant

Ryan Brennan Director of Prospect Management, University of Notre Dame

Dr. JoAnn Burke Retired, Consultant

Ms. Margaret (Peggy) Cuggino Retired Marketing and Sales Executive

William Cushwa Retired, Businessman

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John Pendarvis Non-Profit Organizational Leader

Mary Jane Stanley Retired Teacher Community Advocate & Volunteer

Michelle Stesiak CPA and Analyst, 1st Source Bank

Steven Watts Regional President, Centier Bank

Colette Wolfson Retired, Educator and Administrator

Here are the Steps We Took to Carry Out the REAL Services' Mission in 2019





Financial education, counseling, and a matching savings program impacted **366 individuals wanting to improve their path to self-sufficiency** through our Community Services Programs.

64 homes were made more safe and energy efficient by the Weatherization Team. On average, clients experienced a \$31.57 a month savings on their utility bill after REAL Services provided weatherization

The Energy Assistance Program helped 10,600 households remain warm during the harsh Midwest winter.

Our Transportation Department provided **12,394 trips** helping older adults in the community get to their doctors' appointments, grocery stores, and banks.





69 vulnerable seniors are protected because of the **Guardianship Program,** which stands in as family, when no family is available.

DIGNITY

4,130 volunteers donated their time and kindness to our clients, equating to **21,073 hours of helping others**.

2,461 frail and disabled individuals were able to live in the community with the support of Care Management and In-Home Services, 95% of clients reported that they remain at home because of this help.



257,549 nutritious meals were made, delivered, and enjoyed by individuals who are unable to cook for themselves in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties, and at nutrition sites throughout the region.

STRENGTH

3,018 caregivers, their friends or neighbors attended monthly support groups to gain insight and education, discuss challenges, and learn about caregiving.

800 professionals were certified in Dementia Care by the Institute for Excellence in Memory Care, a division of Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana.

15,598 families and individuals were provided with information and resources to strengthen their lives through the **Aging & Disability Resource Center.**

Guardianship



Several months ago, two staff members were discussing agency business when they noticed two tiny ladies coming out of an older model Grand Marquis. It appeared as though that they had thrown together their best clothing to visit us even though none of it really matched.

The two sisters met with an options counselor who realized quickly that this was a special situation and ask for assistance. At that point, three staff members met with the sisters in a private office. We learned that the elder sister was the caretaker of the younger sister. The elder sister seemed to be having a challenge taking care of herself let alone her sister. It did not take long to notice that the younger sister appeared to be non-verbal and had a strong smell of urine. They were so endearing in that the elder sister apologized for how the younger sister looked while at the same time opened her own purse with the contents falling out all over the floor. Cash, credit cards, important papers, etc.

We knew these sisters needed far more than help with the eviction that they were facing. Two of the staff members talked to reassure the sisters,

while a third went in search of something for them to eat and returned with protein bars that were quickly consumed. It was evident that they were hungry. The eldest sister stated that they had left their home 2 hours prior driving around looking for our office. They prayed for the Lord to get them to us.

REAL Services contacted Adult Protective Services (APS) and tried to track the sisters as they moved from hotel to hotel. Statements from physicians noted that both sisters had Dementia. APS secured a protective order to place the sisters in assisted living. REAL Services will step in as guardian should the judge determine it appropriate. We are happy to report that at a recent hearing, the sisters are receiving food, medications and assistance, they both seemed clean, calm and happy.

The younger sister, whom we thought was non verbal --- spoke to our staff at the hearing --- and said "thank you."





J. Spike and Carol Abernethy Anonymous (3) Matthew K. Arnold Tom and Peggy Cuggino Mr. and Mrs. William W. Cushwa Arthur J. Decio **Judy Eck** Matthew and Sharon Edmonds **Timothy and Jenny Emerick** Laura Miles-Farthing and Paul Farthing John and Ann Firth **Roger and Joyce Foley** Steve and Lisa Gerber Steve and Maggie Goldberg Thomas and Barbara Gresik Van and Suzanne Gurley Michael and Marcia Hammes George and Christine Hawthorne **Kathy Huffer** Liz Zaseck and Bryce Hughes **Dr. Thomas and Eileen Hughes**

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2019 Les Fox Leadership Circle

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AM General Employees Paula Abraham AHEPA Chapter - 100 Charities, Inc. Always Best Care Michiana Anonymous Frank and Carolyn Antonovitz Matthew K. Arnold Chuck Austin Avalon Springs Health Campus Brett and Maki Bauer David and Deborah Beaverson Cedar Creek Health Campus Cullar & Associates, P.C. Kennth and Margaret DeBoer Korv DeMeulenaere

CHAMPIONS

Aardvark Pest Control Patrick and Judith Adamo Anonymous (2) Eva Arredondo **Barbara and Daniel Badur** Alberta and Michael Barnes Jav Beere Bowker Enterprises/OC Lanes Todd Bruce Centier Bank Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Closurdo Comfort Keepers Joseph and Kathleen Crimmins Frank and Patricia Criniti Alice F. Crowley Tom DeMeester Mike and Mary Donovan Marv Jo Doran Thomas S. Fhlers **Epoch Architecture & Planning** Jan Farron

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C.R. and M.A. McCoy Miller's Senior Community Margaret Morris Moses Caregivers National Catholic Society of Foresters Judy Nye Oaklawn Mona Penn Penn High School Poms Ms. Jill Pyfer Radiology Inc. Foundation Residence at Deer Creek RSM US Foundation Sanctuary at St. Paul's Senior Helpers

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Sprenger Health Care of Mishawaka Patricia Strozewski Ken and Karen Strychalski The Excel Center – South Bend The Salvation Army United Way of St. Joseph County Linda Van Rie Andrew Vargo Walker Resource Wellbrooke of South Bend Joseph Wilkins W. LaMar Williams Mark and Dawn Wobbe Women's Council of Realtors, South Bend Xanatek, Inc. YourCause, LLC Youth Service Bureau

Every dollar makes a difference, and we are grateful for our donors.

2019 FINANCIALS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

(12)

INDEPENDENCE (43.8%)	\$8,518,741
DIGNITY (37.5%)	\$7,254,447
STRENGTH (13.6%)	\$2,652,601
OPERATIONS (4.3%)	
Administration	\$838,716
Fund Development (.8%)	\$171,902

TOTAL (100%) \$19,436,407

Heartwarming Help

from a EAP Weatherization client wishing to remain anonymous

A Clients' Story!

A grandmother and granddaughter in Mishawaka applied for our (EAP) Energy Assistance Program, and were approved. After their application was approved, the EAP staff referred them to our Weatherization Program. After three attempts to schedule an appointment, Adam Combs, Director of Weatherization almost gave up assuming they just didn't want the help. He perservered, and thank God he did.

 $\rm CO_2$ (carbon monoxide) levels were so high in the house, the family, along with the Weatherization staff were immediately evacuated from the home.

After a full audit of the property was conducted, the furnace, water heater, and oven were the culprits. The CO_2 levels were way beyond Federal limits for safety and health.

After receiving a new furnace, water heater, and oven through our Weatherization Program, the grandmother and granddaughter NO LONGER have the headaches, dizziness and nausea symptoms they had before. Beyond that, we may have saved lives.

They can sleep at night now, and God willing will wake to brighter days!





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REAL Services, Inc. 1151 S. Michigan St. South Bend, IN 46601

www.realservices.org

REAL Services, believing in the dignity of all people, will provide services without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran.

