

JUSAIGE MARSSING ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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ACCESS LIVING

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Established in 1980, Access Living is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that enables Chicagoans with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Nationally recognized as a leading force in the disability advocacy community, Access Living challenges stereotypes, protects civil rights and champions social reform.



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Board, staff, and supporters at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1964, Martin Luther King delivered a sermon at the commencement exercises for Wesleyan University in Connecticut. In closing, King used a quote attributed to an abolitionist named Theodore Parker. King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

This year, communities across the country recognized the progress of the arc toward justice by celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, marking the significance of the law, reflecting on the impact of the law, and identifying work still to be done by the law. I had the honor of speaking at an event in Chicago that commemorated the anniversary. The event gave me the opportunity to reflect on my transformation from a person with a disability who saw curbs or stairs or inaccessible buses and bathrooms as a problem I had to navigate around, to a person who saw barriers as examples of societal discrimination. For me, this transformation changed me from the inside out, and I understood my experience as part of the broader Civil Rights struggle that had surrounded me during my youth. I felt a deep sense of personal responsibility to get involved.

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The Civil Rights celebrations in 2014 set the stage for another significant milestone, next year's 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This year, starting in Houston, Texas, the ADA Legacy Tour Bus began a year-long trip across the United States. The tour will stop in communities from coast to coast, sharing the message and the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The final leg of the tour will end in Washington, DC, on July 26, 2015, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. While it took another 26 years to recognize, the Americans with Disabilities Act, like many laws protecting the civil

rights of other marginalized populations, was built upon the foundation of the Civil Rights Act.

Though the laws have covered tremendous ground, disparities still exist, in particular for minorities with disabilities. For example, the percentage of people with disabilities not working is close to 70%. Among minorities with disabilities, the unemployment rate for African Americans and Hispanics is higher than it is among Caucasians.* Within Illinois, a report from 2012 found that suspension rates were near 25% for African American students and 42% for disabled African American students. "The gap in Illinois between the suspension of African-American and White Students was more than 21%, the largest racial gap in the country."** To address this issue, Access Living's Advance Youth Leadership Power has been part of the citywide "High Hopes" Coalition, which campaigns for the implementation of Restorative Justice, rather than zero tolerance practices. Restorative Justice seeks to treat behavioral issues rather than punish behavior. As a result, suspensions are down more than 10 percent.

On a national level, groups around the country have built coalitions around immigration reform. Ideas put forward often excluded issues unique to immigrants with disabilities. Locally and nationally, Cambiando Vidas, Access Living's Community Organizing Group for Latinos with Disabilities, built partnerships and advocated for a seat at the table in order to include people with disabilities in the





dialogue around immigration reform.

Internally, Access Living has equipped itself with the awareness, skills and knowledge to support a broad and diverse community. Over the past few years, we have undergone a cultural assessment and a variety of cultural trainings, and we have modified human resource policies to continue the process to make Access Living a truly inclusive environment.

Every day, people at Access Living do their part to bridge the gap between the disability community and the promise of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Through our programs and supports, hundreds of people within the Access Living network empower themselves and others with disabilities with a foundation to live fulfilling lives based upon independence and inclusion. The work is never easy, and the job will never be done, but each day, the efforts of staff, board, consumers, volunteers and supporters bends the arc a bit closer toward justice.

Marca Bristo, President & CEO **Access Living**

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In 2014, like every other year, Access Living hosted a "Lead On!" Gala. The gala is a critical source of support for Access Living. Just as important, the gala is a wonderful opportunity to share Access Living's goals and successes with Chicago's professional community, and to celebrate the work of individuals and groups that are empowering the disability community. This year, we gave "Lead On!" awards to a diverse group. We honored Walgreens for its leadership to hire people with disabilities. King Harris was recognized for his initiative to integrate disability into civic issues impacting Chicago, and we celebrated Karen Meyer of ABC 7 for giving voice in the media to disability issues for more than 20 years.

I am now in my second full year as chair of the Access Living Board. As Board Chair, I have the privilege of participating in the gala. At this year's gala, I stood on stage at Navy Pier and spoke about Access Living's Health Care Policy Team. The team is working with groups across Chicago to identify and address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from seeking out and receiving quality health care. Already, the team is having an impact. This spring, after five years of planning, the Mile Square Health Center opened in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood. Access Living played an active role in advocating for the architectural space, accessible medical equipment, and communication aids that assure that consumers with disabilities can be accommodated.

Mile Square Health Center is just one example of how support for Access Living can make a difference. In 2014, Access Living launched a new five-year strategic plan, laying the groundwork for making a deeper impact on Chicago's disability community and on the broader Chicago community. Among many other items, the new plan includes programmatic



Marca Bristo, President & CEO, with Board Chair Ben Lumicao.

goals that call on Access Living to be an influential voice to promote person centered health care for people with disabilities, to become a leader in promoting employment for people with disabilities, to increase support for people with psychiatric disabilities, and to increase our capacity to engage in international disability work.

As I continue my term as Board Chair, I look forward to working with Access Living and partnering with the Chicago community to implement these goals. Working together, we can all do our part to impact a more accessible Chicago, and to ensure that all people with disabilities have the tools to pursue equal opportunities, and to live independent and fulfilling lives.

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Ben Lumicao, Jr. Board Chair

WHAT WE DO

Access Living programs are divided into Independent Living, Advocacy, and Legal Departments. The departments position staff to deliver programs and services that equip people with disabilities to advocate for themselves, live independently, and create an inclusive community.

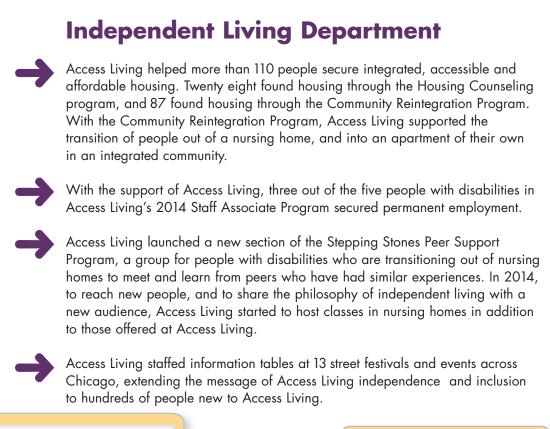
all of Access Living's direct services to individuals geared to support people living in their own homes. Services include Community and Economic Support Services, Community Reintegration Services, Housing Search Services, Personal Assistant Services and Youth and Education Services.

The Independent Living Department includes

The Advocacy Department includes Access Living's community organizing, under the banner "Power to the People," and policy work, and addresses issues from youth empowerment, housing and education, to employment, health care and Latinos with disabilities. The Advocacy Department also houses Access Living's Arts & Culture Project, designed to raise awareness around disability arts, community and culture. Just this year, Advocacy launched the Ombudsman Program. The program gives people with disabilities who live in the community support on issues related to health care providers and plans, home services programs, benefits and rights.

The Legal Department includes the enforcement of laws enacted to ensure the right of people with disabilities to live the lives they envision in communities of their choice. Access Living works to resolve individual complaints, most often related to fair housing, and pursues class-action litigation designed to impact system-wide policy change.

2014 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



This year, 87 people transitioned out of nursing homes into the community. Pictured here are people who have moved into their own apartments through the Community Reintegration Program.

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Stepping Stones group with hands on computer training at Access Living.



Members of DRACH building

Advocacy Department

Access Living launched the Home and Community Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman are advocates who assist individuals with disabilities address matters related to health care providers and plans, home services programs, benefits and rights. Already, since the program began, advocates have helped people get their benefits reinstated, retrieve security deposits from landlords, and secure in-home services to prevent nursing home placement.

The Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing launched the Equal Access Across Chicago Campaign, reaching out to Chicago Aldermen to better coordinate opportunities for affordable, accessible, integrated housing.

Cambiando Vidas, Access Living's Latinos with disabilities organizing group, surveyed 100 businesses in Latino areas of Chicago to raise awareness about and promote Americans with Disabilities Act access.

The Empowered Fe Fes hosted a successful International Women's Day event, attracting a diverse group of more than 100 women to discuss issues affecting women with disabilities.

Legal Department

- Fair Housing staff at Access Living serve as a resource and a legal tool for individuals who may have faced housing discrimination based upon disability. Access Living handled a total of 52 Fair Housing Cases in FY 2014, including 28 new cases.
- In one fair housing case, Access Living assisted a couple who live in a building with an inaccessible common area stairway. The husband, who uses a wheelchair, was trapped in his unit for several months because of the inaccessible common area. When he had to leave the unit for medical appointments, the Chicago Fire Department carried him in and out of the building. After several months of negotiation with the building, follow-up correspondence to the unit owners, and our recruitment of a law firm to cocounsel the matter, a chair lift was successfully installed.

Legal staff continued to protect the Home Services of individuals with disabilities, including representing a woman who had her services completely cut off. Through Access Living's legal support, the decision to remove the woman's services was reversed and the woman was found eligible for Home Services.

Access Living reached hundreds of people through fair housing trainings. This included a new collaboration with the Stepping Stones group at Access Living Through this collaboration, legal staff taught people who have recently transitioned out of nursing homes about their housing rights as people with disabilities.



BENDING TOWARD JUSTICE



Ira Perry (second from left back room) and Kimbery Martin (second from left front row), along with many others, graduated this year from the Financial Literacy program. Throughout history, Presidents, Civil Rights Leaders, and abolitionists have used the quote, "the Arc of the Moral Universe is long, but it bends toward justice." The quote is used as a rallying cry, urging people to engage around issues of civil rights, and do their part to move history closer to justice. Within the disability movement, many people have responded, doing their part to realize the rights of people with disabilities. Below are a few examples of individuals within the Access Living community and directly connected to the Access Living community who do all they can to bend the arc toward justice.

Independence Now

Ira Perry and Kimberly Martin met at a nursing home. Prior to meeting, both Perry and Martinwho are now a couple-were seriously injured on separate occasions. Both were also left with longterm disabilities. They both had to contend with the lengthy battles of getting themselves out of nursing homes and back into the community-a goal they eventually achieved with some help from advocacy organizations including Access Living. Access Living's Stepping Stones classes offered Perry and Martin training to readjust to independent living, peer mentor sessions to get advice from other people who had been through similar experiences, and a network of advocates to ensure that all of the proper steps were being followed. They also took financial literacy

classes at Access Living to manage their finances. Today they are living successfully in the community and continue to build their resources by taking classes. They also became peer mentors for other people transitioning from nursing homes in order to give back the support they had received when they were adjusting to life after the nursing home. Talking about her experiences, Martin said, **"If you want something, go for it. Make the effort and you will be surprised where that will take you."**

BENDING TOWARD JUSTICE

The Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

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All year long, the disability community battled fiercely to build support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Disability Treaty is modeled after the Americans with Disabilities Act and is designed to protect the human rights of people with disabilities worldwide. More than 140 countries around the world have ratified the treaty. A coalition of more than 800 organizations across the country has been advocating for the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty. At Access Living, advocates helped build and lead a strong coalition of treaty supporters, coordinating hundreds of calls, emails, and visits to Senators to build support for ratification. Despite strong bipartisan Senate support, the treaty came under fire and has not yet been ratified. But the community continues to organize to ratify the treaty. Within the Senate, there is no stronger champion than Senator Tom Harkin. Harkin continues to crusade for the treaty and disability rights, proclaiming, "Since the passage of the ADA, we have led the way in integrating people with disabilities into every aspect of our society... Disability advocates will not give up this fight, and neither will I."

Fair Housing

Access Living played an integral role in gathering data for two national disability-centered housing discrimination studies for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The studies, directed by the Urban Institute in Washington D.C., utilized fair housing testing to measure and estimate discrimination against home seekers with disabilities. One study, the first national study of its kind, focused on people who are deaf or extremely hard of hearing, and the other study focused on people who use wheelchairs. HUD expects to release its findings and a report in 2015.



Access Living staff and leaders in Washington, DC to raise support for CRPD.



Access Living staff who worked on the Housing Discrimination Studies.



"Since the passage of the ADA, we have led the way in integrating people with disabilities into every aspect of our society...Disability advocates will not give up this fight, and neither will I." —Senator Tom Harkin

WHO WE SERVE

Access Living serves and advocates on behalf of people with physical, developmental, intellectual, psychiatric and sensory disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2014, Access Living provided individual services to 1631 people. Access Living serves people with disabilities from communities all around Chicago. The majority of our consumers are low-income and people of color.

Through advocacy, independent living services, peer support and information and referral, Access Living impacts issues related to:

- civil rights enforcement
- community reintegration
- education

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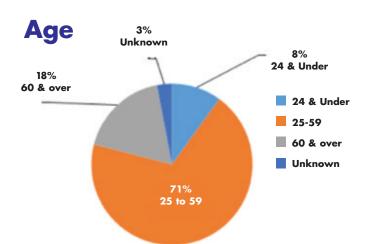
- employment
- fair housing
- financial literacy
- health care
- housing
- transportation



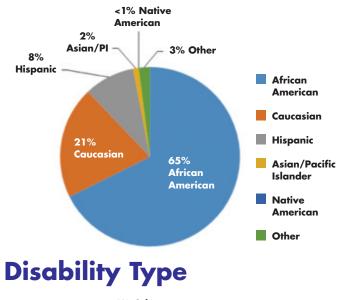
In 2014, Access Living again made consistent trips to Springfield to raise awareness about state programs that support the independence of people with disabilities. This included 35 people attending the Governor's Budget Address.

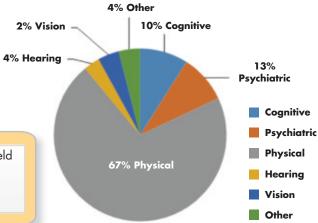
Consumer Demographics

The following charts are a demographic breakdown of Access Living consumers for the fiscal year 2014.



Race/Ethnicity





PLANNED GVING

Access Living Legacy Society

In 2013, Access Living launched Anonymous our planned giving program. Mr. & Mrs. Garland and Through planned giving, donors **Heather Armstrong** can provide support that benefits Mrs. Lucy Ascoli Mr. Henry T. Chandler both Access Living and their Mr. Henry T. Chandler, Jr. loved ones. By joining the Access Ms. Courtney Graham Donnell **Mr. Maurice Fantus** Living Legacy Society, donors Mr. William French ensure that Access Living can Mr. & Mrs. Andres and **Donna Gallegos** continue to empower people with Mrs. Beatrice C. Mayer disabilities to live independently Ms. Susan R. Nussbaum for years to come. Ms. Amy Osler Ms. Pamela Ransom **Mrs. Jennifer Thomas**

For those who are interested in learning more about planned giving, please visit Access Living's planned giving website for helpful information and useful tools at http://www.accessliving.plannedgiving.org.

You can also contact Bianca Barr, Planned Giving Manager, at bbarr@accessliving.org or at (312) 640-2113 to get more information or schedule an appointment.

Many thanks to the generous members of Access Living's Planned Giving Legacy Society that have already made this commitment:

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OUR DONORS

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Rehab Services Administration Centers for Independent Living Empowerment Zone U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Fair Housing Initiatives Program Housing Counseling Program

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\$50,000 and above

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Marca Bristo with "Lead On!" Honoree King Harris and his wife Caryn Harris.

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Marca Bristo, with Glenn Tilton, Chairman of the Midwest for JPMorgan Chase, and Neil Hartigan.

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In Honor of King Harris Mr. & Mrs. Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan

In Honor of Beverly Huckman Mr. & Mrs. William and Ethel Gofen

In Honor of Kevin Irvine Ms. Maya Bordeaux

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In Honor of Dr. Kristi Kirschner Dr. Wayne Lerner and Ms. Sandra Jacobson Lerner

In Honor of Brad Markham Mr. & Mrs. Randall and Sally Doubet-King Mr. Tim Markham



"Lead On!" Honoree Karen Meyer with Gala MC Theresa Gutierrez. After distinguished careers, Meyer and Gutierrez both retired from ABC 7 this year.



Access Living reaching out to the community during the Summer Festival Season in Chicago.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Marjorie Alschuler Ms. Marilyn Martin Ms. Judy Panko Reis Mr. Michael Stark

In Memory of Reba Law Anderson Ms. Barbara L. Kornblau

In Memory of Harry Chandler, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Ralph and Sarah Bogan Ms. Gail Gaston Mr. & Mrs. Scott W. Turner

In Memory of Roger Ebert Ms. Regan Burke

In Memory of Joe Pincus Mrs. Beatrice Cummings Mayer

In Memory of Stephen Seliger Ms. Hillary Coustan

In Memory of Patrick Smock Ms. Marilyn J. Martin Mr. Sheldon Reis & Ms. Judy Panko Reis Mr. Thomas J. Wilson

In Honor of Marilyn Martin Ms. Eve Moran

In Honor of Dr. Jason Mathias Carol Lavin Bernick Family Foundation

In Honor of Beatrice Cummings Mayer

Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation Ms. Danielle Durchslag Ms. Rachel Durchslag Mrs. Ruth Durchslag Ms. Jennifer Mayer Mr. & Mrs. Hap Phinney and Jaimie Mayer Phinney

In Honor of Andrew Murray Mr. Michael Murray

In Honor of Lance Rainge and Family Mr. and Mrs. John Baran

In Honor of Carrie, Gregory and **Audrey Sandahl** Mr. Jordan B. Rifis

In Honor of Larry Stark and Mimi Alschuler David & Cindy Pogrund Charities Ltd

In Honor of Roxanne Wallace Ms. Jean Lewis Wallace

In Honor of Jamie Wichman Mr. Bryan Wichman & Ms. Sarah Mirocha

In Honor of Jeffry Wineman Ms. Susan S. Adler

Annual Report_v3_Layout 1 11/19/14 2:53 PM Page 20

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year ended June 30, 2014

Operating Revenues Fees and grants from governmental agencies General public, corporate and foundation support United Way of Chicago Special events Interest and dividend income Net realized and unrealized gains Other Net assets released from restriction Total operating revenues	\$	Unrestricted 2,884,834 968,833 122,626 754,310 1,693 386,883 29,151 1,322,860 6,471,190	\$ Temporarily Restricted 	\$	Total 2,884,834 1,150,789 122,626 754,310 1,693 386,883 29,151 -
Operating Expenses					
Program services					
Community organizing		1,056,650	-		1,056,650
Policy analysis		429,354	-		429,354
Community support		1,172,150	-		1,172,150
Civil rights		914,227	-		914,227
Long term care		1,227,004	-		1,227,004
Art		151,378	-		151,378
Total program services		4,950,763	-		4,950,763
Supporting services		272 207			272 207
Management and general		373,397	-		373,397
Development		504,450	-	-	504,450
Total supporting services		877,847	-		877,847
Total operating expenses, includes depreciation					
and amortization expenses of \$492,677		5,828,610	-		5,828,610
		2,020,010			0,020,010
Operating revenue in excess of (less than) expense	s	642,580	(1,140,904)		(498,324)
Capital Campaign Expenses					
Bad debt expense		29,079	-		29,079
Total capital campaign expense		29,079	-		29,079
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS		613,501	(1,140,904)	-	(527,403)
Net assets, beginning of year		13,020,376	3,849,631	-	16,870,007
Net assets, end of year	\$	13,633,877	\$ 2,708,727	\$	16,342,604

ASSETS		2014		2013
	-	2014	-	2015
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	2,002,317	\$	1,673,905
Cash and cash equivalents restricted for:	+	_,,	-	-,,
Accessibility grant program		165		165
Investments designated for:				
Endowment, building and other reserve funds		4,267,033		3,746,947
Cost incurred recoverable under grants		770,837		638,370
Other receivables		89,144		375,931
Unconditional promises to give, net		584,704		1,300,786
Prepaid expenses and other assets		2,701		15,624
Property and equipment, net		9,054,678		9,518,142
Art collection		59,461		59,461
	\$_	16,831,040	\$	17,329,331
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	\$	95,048	\$	84,751
Deferred revenue from advance fees		8,585		4,246
Accrued compensation	_	384,803		370,327
	-	100 101	-	
Total liabilities	-	488,436		459,324
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted		13,633,877		13,020,376
Temporarily restricted		2,708,727		3,849,631
Temporarity restricted	-	2,700,727		5,049,051
Total net assets	-	16,342,604		16,870,007
	\$	16,831,040	\$	17,329,331
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Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2014 and 2013

WAYS TO SUPPORT ACCESS LIVING

Become a member of The Access Living Advocates, the giving society of donors of \$1000 or more each year.

Donate to Access Living online at www.accessliving.org

Provide for Access Living by making a legacy gift through your will or trust, or by naming Access Living as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan. Visit the Planned Giving site at http://accessliving.plannedgiving.org/

Make a donation of appreciated stocks, providing a substantial gift to us and a tax break for you.

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Come to our Annual Gala. Gather friends or colleagues to purchase a table or individual tickets to our annual celebration of our vital work.

Host a fundraiser for Access Living at your home, office or at our building.

Ask friends to make a donation to Access Living in lieu of a gift for a special occasion.



Members of the Young Professionals Council and others at the "Lead On!"

Support the Marathon Team. Each year, Access Living fields a team in the Chicago Marathon. Access Living team members raise awareness and funds for Access Living. You can help by supporting a runner.

Join the Young Professionals Council, group of young professionals committed to supporting inclusion and independence for people with disabilities.

If you want more information, please contact the Development Office at Access Living. 312-640-2198 (voice), 312-640-2102 (TTY).











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Access Living staff



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www.accessliving.org

This report is available in alternate format upon request.

