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.
LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In my time as Chair, it’s been my pleasure to work with such dedicated and talented Board members, staff, and volunteers, and the consumers Access Living serves.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, my term as Chair of the Access Living Board of Directors will end. It’s been an honor to work on issues that are critical to the empowerment of a community that historically has been marginalized. Issues which, without the leadership of organizations such as Access Living, would be overlooked or even ignored.

Over the past four years, like so many other non-profits in Illinois, Access Living has faced tremendous challenges. In particular, for more than a year Access Living had to navigate a treacherous financial landscape as Springfield remained without a budget. The budget impasse and related conflicts in Illinois have taken a heavy toll statewide, but Access Living always rises to the occasion in order to meet the challenge, fighting for our ability to maintain existing programming while also establishing a strong presence in Springfield, giving voice to disability issues around the state, and building legislative support for programs that empower people with disabilities.

For every challenge Access Living faced, there have also been many successes. Just as I started as Board Chair in 2013, Access Living initiated development of its latest Five-Year Strategic Plan. Access Living’s new READY Program emerged from that plan, designed to help students with disabilities bridge the gap from high school to higher education and ultimately to employment, as did the Disability Inclusion Institute, designed to increase cultural competency about disability issues in corporate, professional and academic environments.

In 2013, I was thrilled to be in the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom for the annual “Lead On!” Gala, which climaxed with the announcement that Access Living successfully completed its $1 Million Challenge, securing donations from more than 150 individual donors who were either new donors, or donors giving more to us than they had before. In 2015, the “Lead On!” Gala broke all previous attendance and fundraising records as Access Living honored President Bill Clinton. My colleagues on the Access Living Board of Directors and I had the privilege to meet that night with President Clinton, the first President with the responsibility of implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sadly, in the time I have served as Board Chair, Access Living lost two Lifetime Board Members, Joanne Crown and Dr. Henry Betts. Without the support and vision of Dr. Betts, Access Living would not be here today, and Joanne Crown and her family have dedicated themselves to building resources for the disability community.

Through the challenges, disappointments, and victories of the past four years, Access Living’s Board and Leadership have stayed focused on the goals of the organization, striving toward our mission of empowering people with disabilities to be independent in communities of their choice. I will miss my role as part of that process. But I am thrilled that I will pass the gavel to Access Living’s Vice Chair, Andres Gallegos, who will take over as Board Chair, and I look forward to continued involvement with Access Living for years to come.

Ben Lumicao, Jr.
Board Chair

Access Living Board Members at the 2015 Annual Meeting
Tragically, many social services organizations in Illinois that provided vital support to marginalized communities were forced to close their doors or reduce services in 2015 and 2016 because of the devastating impact of Illinois’ ongoing budget issues.

As a result, underserved populations across all corners of Illinois are going without the supports they need to be healthy and independent and to pursue opportunities to succeed. The impact of the standoff in Springfield touched Access Living as well. We spent much of the year struggling through the budget impasse, making decisions about resources and programs without knowing what lay around the corner for Illinois.

Though there were significant hurdles and obstacles, the disability community and Access Living moved forward in the 2016 fiscal year, navigating challenges in order to find success. In January, ADA 25 Chicago and the Harris Theater hosted “An Intimate Discussion with Itzhak Perlman.” On stage at the Harris Theater, I had the pleasure of moderating the discussion with Perlman. In front of an audience of 500, Perlman talked about everything from accessibility in the arts to the portrayal of disability in popular culture. As a musician who happens to be disabled, he sent the message that disability is a significant part of who he is but that it doesn’t define him.

Events of ADA 25 Chicago were winding down as the year began, but the organization continues to leverage the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to make systemic change in employment, education, technology and cultural accessibility. Those efforts resulted in ADA Advancing Leadership, a program geared toward disabled professionals, positioning them to pursue leadership opportunities in Chicago’s civic community. Two Access Living staff were part of the inaugural Advancing Leadership Class.

At Access Living, because of your support, in the face of the Illinois budget challenges in 2016, we continued to give voice to disability issues and provide a platform for people with disabilities to advocate for equality and inclusion. Access Living was able to advance its vision for strategic new programming that will reach previously underserved areas of the disability community. In March, Access Living launched the Beatrice C. Mayer READY Program, a new initiative that will give young people with disabilities the tools to be successful as they transition from school to higher education and employment. The following month, Access Living initiated the new Disability Inclusion Institute. Designed to provide consulting and training on disability topics, the institute is poised to enhance disability cultural competency, as well as employment and participation opportunities for people with disabilities in corporate, academic, and non-profit environments.

Access Living serves and advocates on behalf of people with physical, developmental, intellectual, psychiatric and sensory disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2016, Access Living provided individual services to 1,440 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, transition services, and information and referral, Access Living impacts issues related to:

**Housing, civil rights enforcement, community reintegration, education, employment, fair housing, financial literacy, health care, and transportation.**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who We Serve

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

**Housing, civil rights enforcement, community reintegration, education, employment, fair housing, financial literacy, health care, and transportation.**
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, while also Maximizing Human Potential, Building Capacity, and Increasing Civic Engagement.

Through the Community Reintegration program, Access Living transitioned 85 people out of nursing homes and into their own apartments in the community.

Access Living launched the new Buddy Mayer READY Program, to support the transition of students from high school to higher education and employment. The first 10-week Ready Course started in June 2016.

To increase participation and employment opportunities, Access Living initiated the Access Living Disability Inclusion Institute to enhance disability cultural competency in corporate, academic, and non-profit environments.

We provided personal assistant referral services to 400 people with disabilities.

79 people with disabilities graduated from the Access Living Financial Literacy Program, learning vital money management skills.

We provided 139 people with disabilities with Independent Living Training through Stepping Stones Peer Support Program.

Access Living advocates, in coalition with statewide home services allies, blocked the State’s effort to eliminate over 100,000 people with disabilities and seniors from home services by changing the minimum eligibility, known as the Determination of Need Score (DON), for the Home Services and Community Care Program. The Governor committed in writing to preserving the minimum threshold as it stands.

Access Living had significant visibility and advocacy effectiveness through media. We had 101 mentions in news outlets, sent out 204 advocacy emails, and in response our 1,892 advocacy listserv participants sent 36,192 advocacy messages to elected officials this year. Access Living also partnered with the Poynter Institute for a training designed to equip journalists with the tools to better cover disability issues.

Access Living continued hosting international groups, exchanging ideas, presenting information and providing technical assistance in order to equip disability visitors and advocates from other countries with strategies to navigate and address barriers to independence. This year, Access Living hosted visitors from Hungary, Bulgaria, Japan, Russia, Philippines, Guatemala, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

In 2015, Access Living, with the pro bono support of Kirkland & Ellis, filed a “sweep” of five cases in Federal Court to draw attention to the issue of discrimination against home seekers who are Deaf or hard of hearing. In FY 2016, all the Deaf testing cases settled. Each settlement required the housing provider to pay damages and fees and four of the settlements required the housing provider to attend fair housing training and give “first dibs” for available units to people with disabilities.

Access Living collaborated with Rosecrance, a non-profit organization that provides services to young people in recovery from addiction to alcohol or drugs, in support of its effort to build and operate a recovery home.
Access Living and Systems Change

In order to support the self-determination and independence of people with disabilities, systems change and accountability is part of the core work at Access Living. Access Living interacts with a number of civic processes at the same time. While much of the work looks to the State and the General Assembly for systems change, Access Living also engages with the Chicago City Council, the Cook County Commissioners, and members of Congress. At each level, the goal is to make sure that people with disabilities are actively engaged in the decisions that affect our lives.

This year, Access Living systems change priorities included:

- Defending Access Living’s state funding
- Over a million dollars in state funding were at stake in FY 16; to date we have collected all funds owed

- Preserving the Determination of Need eligibility score for home services for over 100,000 people with disabilities and seniors

- Improving the process for securing customized mobility equipment and its repair through Senate Bill 420

- Holding the Chicago Public Schools accountable for cuts in funding to special education

- Ensuring full access for people with all types of disabilities in the development of a report about Permanent Supportive Housing in collaboration with the Illinois Housing Development Authority and other stakeholders

- Increasing the number of accessible taxi cabs, improving paratransit services, monitoring mainline public transportation access and service, and requiring rideshare companies to provide equivalent service.

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- Increasing the number of accessible taxi cabs, improving paratransit services, monitoring mainline public transportation access and service, and requiring rideshare companies to provide equivalent service.

Access Living and Chicago Advocates participated in the annual “Going Home” Rally in Springfield, which calls for the closure of State Operated Developmental Centers.
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Access Living’s Advocacy Department, Independent Living Department and Legal Department collaborate together to create real options and freedom for self-determination for people with all kinds of disabilities. Our work creates systemic and community opportunities to protect and exercise our human rights. You are invited and encouraged to get involved. Lend your voice and effort to initiatives that will support choice and independence for people with disabilities. There are a number of ways to participate.

Get Involved with Access Living’s Advocacy Works: Our Advocacy Department works to create real options and freedom for self-determination of people with all kinds of disabilities.

Join one of Access Living’s community organizing groups. Each group works around a specific issue and develops and implements campaigns in order to open up opportunities for people with disabilities. Contact Access Living’s Manager of Community Organizing and Policy to learn more, (Aballard@accessliving.org).

Sign up for Access Living Action Alerts. Stay informed about what is happening in the community and receive action alerts that allow you to send direct messages to policy makers.

Volunteer with Access Living: Access Living often has volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in promoting the mission of Access Living.

Become a member of Access Living: As a member you’ll receive our newsletter, attend our annual meeting and receive updates about issues concerning the disability community.

For more information, contact Access Living at 312-640-2199 or 312-640-2102 TTY or SNance@accessliving.org.

CIRCLE OF ALLIES—MONTHLY GIVING

Launched in 2014, the Circles of Allies is a society of donors who make monthly recurring gifts to sustain Access Living’s programs and services. Thanks to an anonymous donor, new members are eligible to have their gift matched 1:1 as long as their annual contribution is greater than their annual contribution in previous years. We would like to recognize the following people for their commitment to the Circle of Allies:

- Ms. Mary Lee Ahern
- Ms. Bianca Barr
- Ms. Teresa Bredahl
- Ms. Marca Bristo
- Mr. Timothy Bridgman
- Ms. Lawrence Broughton
- Dr. Raymond Curry
- Mr. Doug Dobmeyer
- Ms. Deirdre C. Drake
- Ms. Justine Fedak
- Ms. Elizabeth Fiden
- Mr. Jason X. Gilmore
- Ms. Barbara Grunewald
- Mr. Patrick Hughes
- Ms. Robin A. Jones

For those who are interested in learning more about monthly giving, please visit Access Living’s planned giving website for helpful information and useful tools at 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.

ACCESS LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY

By joining the Access Living Legacy Society, donors ensure that Access Living can continue to empower people with disabilities to live independently for years to come.

Through planned giving, donors can provide support that benefits both Access Living and their loved ones.

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

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Garland and Heather Armstrong
Mrs. Lucy Ascoli
Mr. Henry T. Chandler
Mr. Henry T. Chandler, Jr.
Ms. Courtney Graham Donnell
Mr. Maurice Fantus
Mr. William French
Mr. & Mrs. Andres and Donna Gallegos
Hon. Paddy McNamara
Mrs. Beatrice C. Mayer
Ms. Susan R. Nussbaum
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 www.accessliving.plannedgiving.org.

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Hon. Paddy McNamara
Mrs. Beatrice C. Mayer
Ms. Susan R. Nussbaum
Ms. Amy Osler
Ms. Pamela Ransom
Mrs. Jennifer Thomas

For those who are interested in learning more about monthly giving please contact Demi DeGioia Ddegioia@accessliving.org.
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Mr. Philip Fuentes
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Dr. & Mrs. Michael and Beverly Huxman
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Mrs. Frances Lehman
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Ms. Connie B. Segal
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Dr. James Young
Mr. Cliff Weber and
Ms. Nancy Prusin-Woebner
Mr. Jeffrey Wineman

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Ms. Cameron DeGuere
Mr. Doug Dabney
Ms. Deborah Donovan
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Mr. Dorian Jenkins
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Mr. Patrick Hughes
Ms. Marsha F. Holland
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Ms. Brianna Hill
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Ms. Robyn Hart
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Ms. Margaret Hansbrough
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Ms. Tamara Guterz
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Susan Gordon
Ms. Madeleine Gomez
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and
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Tammara Amsden
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Mr. Joy M. Hammel
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Mr. Patrick Hughes
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Ms. Martha F. Holland
Mr. Patrick Hughes
Ms. Joanna Huffman

$100 – $499
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Mr. Michael Alexia
Ms. Katherine Alliger
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Mr. Patrick Hughes
Ms. Joanne Huffman
Ms. Martha F. Holland
Mr. Patrick Hughes
Ms. Joanna Huffman
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Mr. Robert Graff
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Mrs. Anne Hoffner
In Honor of Andrew Jascocula and
Maureen Meehan
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Ms. Jacqueline E. Kish
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John Colson
Mr. Ron Timor
Ms. Wendy Fassberg
In Honor of Ivan Strauss
Mr. Justin Neagle
In Honor of Brittany Wingo
Ms. Kristin Weaver

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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Mr. Gayle Shines
In Memory of Alice Stark
Mr. Michael Stark
In Memory of Joycelyn Chan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Linacre
In Memory of Sara Ruth Krantz
Mrs. Carol Edelson
In Memory of Rob Mayer
Ms. Alkiva Gross
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Ms. Virginia Long
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Maureen Drumm
Ms. Maura Hunt
Ms. Kathleen Veith
Ms. Wendy Fish
Ms. Angelica Ferris
## Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
#### June 30, 2016 and 2015

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,988,241</td>
<td>$863,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents restricted for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility grant program</td>
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<td>9,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments designated for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment, building and other reserve funds</td>
<td>5,422,339</td>
<td>5,505,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost incurred recoverable under grants, net</td>
<td>828,709</td>
<td>794,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>107,293</td>
<td>16,498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconditional promises to give, net</td>
<td>878,879</td>
<td>570,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>4,977</td>
<td>5,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>8,142,755</td>
<td>8,634,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art collection</td>
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<td>59,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,437,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,511,537</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 93,396</td>
<td>$ 80,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue from advance fees</td>
<td>5,999</td>
<td>6,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued compensation</td>
<td>370,549</td>
<td>164,774</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>469,144</strong></td>
<td><strong>251,381</strong></td>
</tr>
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### NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>13,571,253</td>
<td>13,172,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>3,397,247</td>
<td>3,087,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,437,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,511,537</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

## Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
#### Year ended June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Revenues</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees and grants from governmental agencies</td>
<td>$3,014,737</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$3,014,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General public, corporate and foundation support</td>
<td>2,112,496</td>
<td>820,000</td>
<td>2,932,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Chicago</td>
<td>112,168</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>112,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>819,215</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>819,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividend income</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gains</td>
<td>70,455</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>52,028</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>510,665</td>
<td>(510,665)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,690,811</strong></td>
<td><strong>309,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,000,146</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating Expenses

| Program services | 360,612 | - | 360,612 |
| Community organizing | 448,649 | - | 448,649 |
| Youth Institute | 370,804 | - | 370,804 |
| Policy analysis | 826,724 | - | 826,724 |
| Ombudsman program | 1,226,488 | - | 1,226,488 |
| Community support | 637,259 | - | 637,259 |
| Civil rights | 1,294,129 | - | 1,294,129 |
| Long term care | 146,950 | - | 146,950 |
| Total program services | **5,311,585** | - | **5,311,585** |

### Supporting services

| Management and general | 377,817 | - | 377,817 |
| Development | 604,600 | - | 604,600 |
| **Total supporting services** | **982,417** | - | **982,417** |

Total operating expenses, includes depreciation and amortization expense of $517,960 | 6,294,022 | - | 6,294,022 |

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 399,009 | 309,335 | 708,344 |

### Net assets, beginning of year

| Net assets, beginning of year | 13,172,244 | 3,087,912 | 16,260,156 |

### Net assets, end of year

| Net assets, end of year | 13,571,253 | 3,397,247 | 16,968,500 |
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.

Join Circle of Allies - a society of donors who make monthly recurring gifts to sustain our programs and services. New monthly givers are eligible for a 1:1 match if the annual total is the same or higher than previous gifts to Access Living’s Annual Fund.

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 accessliving.plannedgiving.org.

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

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.

Become a member of Access Living. You’ll receive our newsletter, be able to vote for the Board of Directors, attend our annual meeting and receive updates about issues concerning the disability community.

Join the Young Professionals Council, a 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).