



Annual Report 2016

Dear Friends



Barbara Salisbury



Michael O'Friel

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being such an important part of our success this year. From Zelina, who experienced the thrill of performing onstage at Extravaganza, to Tim, who loves his job at Trader Joes, to Jane, who learned that vision rehabilitation could help her see pictures of her grandchildren for the first time, your partnership changed lives.

Together we helped more than 1,500 Massachusetts residents with disabilities have choices and opportunities for living the life that they want to live. Some program highlights:

- The **Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired** hosted the first *Solutions in Sight Summit*, bringing together diverse thinkers in the areas of healthcare, technology, active living, and employment.
- The **Ivy Street School** completed a successful fundraising campaign to restore our historic solarium and library, and opened a new program, Skills for Life, to help young adults develop the skills they need to successfully live in the community.
- **MAB Adult Disability Services** launched an ambitious employee Recruitment and Retention initiative to position our staff to be leaders in person-centered planning.

Our vision for success is rooted in partnership. With community employers who work with our students to give them their first taste of job success. With local universities to create training and professional development opportunities so that our direct services staff can provide the highest quality care. With donors and volunteers who help shape new programs and expand our reach. We couldn't do it without your support.

Thank you for making such a difference. We look forward to expanding our partnership.

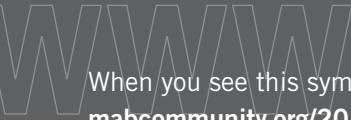
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'm. salisbury'.

Barbara Salisbury
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael F. O'Friel'.

Michael O'Friel
President, Board of Directors

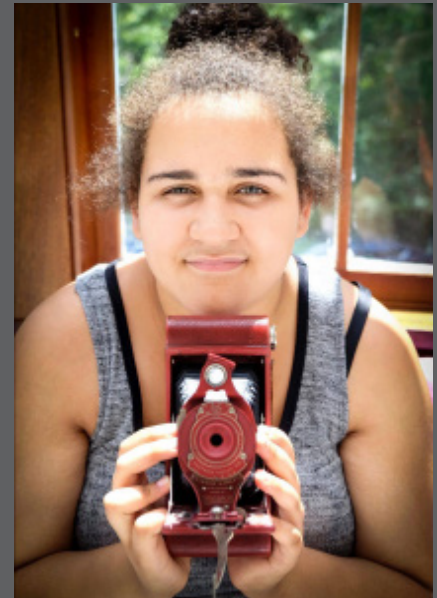
When you see this symbol  visit mabcommunity.org/2016annualreport for the full article or video.


The MAB Community

One of the oldest disability organizations in the country, MAB Community Services has a storied history and more than a century of experience. Helen Keller served on our first advisory board and today our **Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MABVI)** division is one of the leading providers of vision rehabilitation in the state.

The **Ivy Street School** is designed to meet the unique educational and therapeutic needs of teens with brain injuries, autism, or behavioral health challenges. The school serves up to 42 day and residential students who come to us from across the state...and the country. From day one we focus on the skills that each student needs to make a successful transition to adult life.

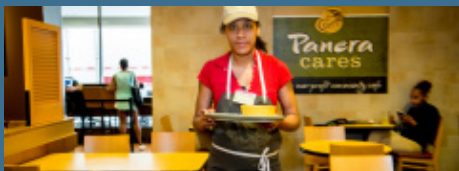
MAB Adult Disability Services was a pioneer in the deinstitutionalization movement, helping some of the first residents of state institutions for individuals with disabilities move into the community. Our person-centered approach combines our experience in the field with a commitment to hiring creative, motivated staff who want to make a difference every day.



When you see this symbol  visit mabcommunity.org/2016annualreport for the full article or video.

Year in Review

MAB Community Services has been creating opportunities for people with disabilities since 1903. In 2016 we served more than 1,500 teens, adults and elders.



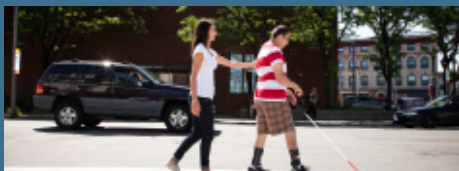
JULY HUB International designates the Ivy Street School as the recipient of \$12,500 in proceeds from its golf tournament and Staples selects the school's Vocational Program for a \$7,500 grant.



AUGUST The Sara Elizabeth O'Brien Trust awards the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired a \$25,000 grant.



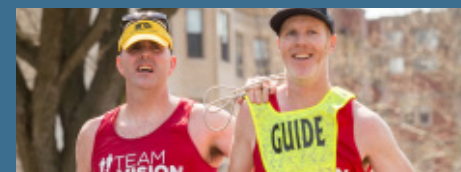
NOVEMBER \$78,000 is raised to launch scholarships for MAB Adult Disability Services staff to attend graduate school as part of our new Recruitment and Retention initiative. Scholarships are announced at the annual meeting in honor of former Board President Craig Pfannenstiehl, disability leader Linda Glenn, and Dominic and Rita Emello.



MARCH MAB's Orientation and Mobility Program expands to help people who are not legally blind learn to travel safely in their homes and communities. [www](#)



DECEMBER The newly renovated Solarium and Library are unveiled, part of the Ivy Street School's new Literacy initiative.

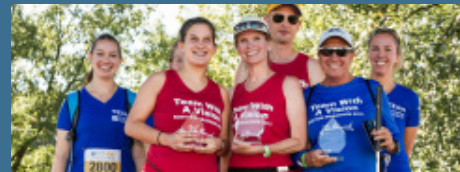


APRIL The Team With A Vision crosses the finish line of the Boston Marathon and raises \$154,000. [www](#) The same weekend, the Blindfold Challenge raises awareness and \$11,000 more for vision rehabilitation and support services. [www](#) Among the people taking the Blindfold Challenge were famed ultramarathoner Mike Wardian and newscasters Bob Halloran and Susan Tran.

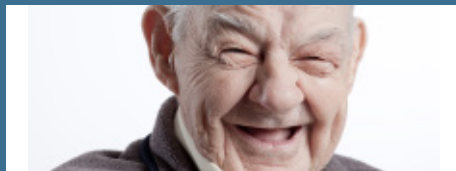
KEY: [www](#) Visit www.mabcommunity.org/2016annualreport for the full article or video



SEPTEMBER Dr. Ross Greene gives the John Pratt Memorial Lecture and more than 175 people attend the Ivy Street Special Education Summit. The event highlights promising research and strategies for innovative teaching.



OCTOBER The Massachusetts Association for the Blind helps organize the first visually impaired division at the Tufts Health Plan 10K for Women.



JANUARY *Our Stories*, our traveling exhibit on the life stories of individuals with intellectual disabilities, is featured at the annual legislative luncheon at the State House. [www](#)



FEBRUARY The Ivy Street School launches Skills for Life, a new program designed to help transition-aged young adults learn skills for living at home and in the community, working 1:1 with Occupational Therapists. [www](#)



MAY Entrepreneur and double-amputee rock-climber Hugh Herr gives the keynote lecture at the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired's first Solutions in Sight Summit, which brought together creative minds to reimagine services for individuals who are blind. [www](#)



JUNE Ivy Street School students perform on stage at the Berklee Performance Center in the fifth annual Extravaganza. Students backed by professional actors and musicians fill the night with songs, dancing, skits, comedy, and magic. [www](#)

MAB ADULT DISABILITY SERVICES

As one of the pioneers of deinstitutionalization, we want to be a leader in quality and innovation. The challenge we are tackling? Identifying the most promising investments we can make in recruitment, training, and retention to build a workforce that is a model for a creative and passionate direct care team.

30 individuals who attended Circus of the Senses, a unique Big Apple Circus performance designed for individuals with disabilities



300
individuals served

18
total residential programs



50 MABWorks and MABHAB participants who attended a talk by State Senator Sal DiDomenico. They learned about the legislative process and were able to voice their concerns about poorly indicated crosswalks and malfunctioning traffic lights in the neighborhood. Within days their concerns were addressed.

1 new house serving adults with brain injuries



12
birdhouses built for our community residences by Robby, a MABWorks participant

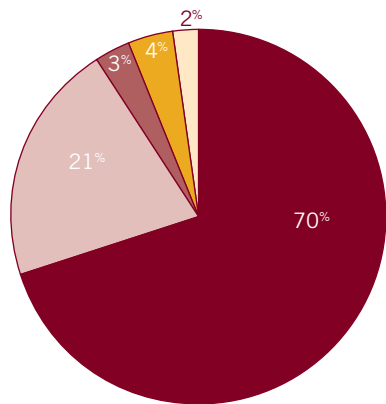


3 exhibits of the *Our Stories* oral history project, at Simmons College, the Brookline Public Library, and the Massachusetts State House www.mass.gov

26 community partners providing volunteer, internship, employment or group participation opportunities



Total Expenses

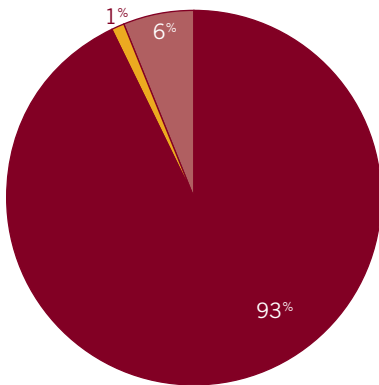


Payroll	70%
Housing/Rent	21%
Vehicle and Equipment Lease	3%
Direct Program Support.....	4%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.....	2%

Total: \$11,828,664*

*excluding Administration and Fundraising

2016 Revenue



Federal Contracts/Reimbursement	6%
State Contracts.....	93%
Contributions	1%

Total: \$12,923,974



IVY STREET SCHOOL

Responding to pressing community need, Ivy Street has expanded to serve a broader range of youth and young adults. Our individualized approach looks at the whole person, from academic goals to mental health to an intense focus on executive functioning skills. This year we invested in literacy, launched new community-based programs, and deepened our commitment to being a transition-focused school.

657

cards sold at
student-run
business Nice Notes



10

MCAS tests passed

54

students served



42,172

student-prepared
meals as part of
Culinary Arts Training



3

students who voted
for the first time on
Super Tuesday

11

graduates, the
biggest graduating
class ever

38

performers on stage for
Extravaganza show-closing
number "We Are Family" [www](#)



20

participants in
equine therapy

577

new books in our
renovated library

14

community vocational partners providing
volunteer, internship, and employment
opportunities to our students



14

pages in the first edition
of new student newsletter,
The Ivy Times [www](#)



\$2.25

average cost of a drink
sold at the student-run
coffee shop

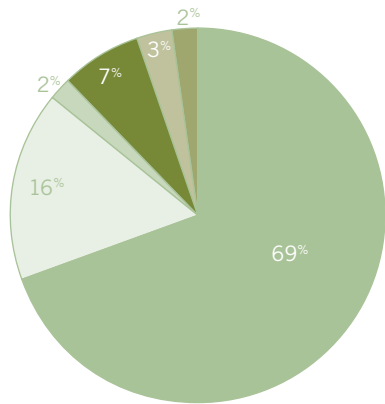
156

panes of glass
in the new
solarium

\$10,000

grant received from
Eastern Bank to launch
the Skills for Life Program

Total Expenses

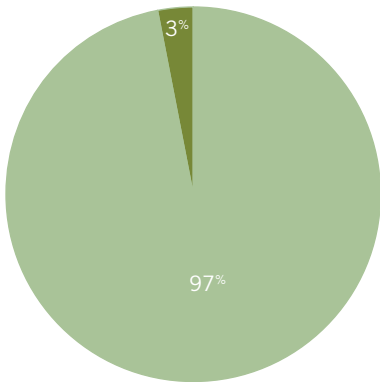


Payroll	69%
Housing/Rent	16%
Vehicle and Equipment Lease	2%
Direct Program Support.....	7%
Professional Fees.....	3%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.....	2%

Total: \$5,768,617*

*excluding Administration and Fundraising

2016 Revenue



Tuition.....	97%
Contributions and Special Events	3%

Total: \$6,717,819

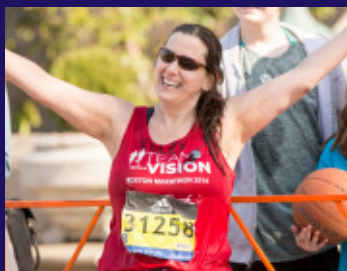


MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
for the
Blind and Visually Impaired

In addition to direct service to more than 1,200 individuals, we are on a mission for change within the healthcare system. Our goals: To lead the field by building a network of low-cost, highly effective vision rehabilitation services throughout Massachusetts. To raise consciousness by convening and partnering with diverse sectors and providers. To increase access to a full life by making youth outreach and mental health and skill-based volunteerism a vital part of the service delivery model.

233 volunteers who donated time valued at \$405,000 to help individuals who are blind, a doubling of our volunteer corps in the last two years [www](http://www.maboston.org)

13 eye doctors and mental health providers at 21 different sites who are formally affiliated with us to provide low vision exams and adjustment to vision loss counseling



40 individuals without insurance coverage who received low vision exams or counseling through our free care fund

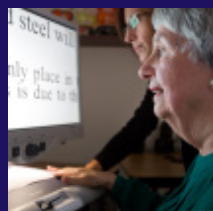
85% of consumers are able to avoid tripping or falls upon discharge from vision rehabilitation, up from 57% on entry



1,229

individuals who received services this year

300 guests at the annual Senior Connection conference for peer support group members



48% increase in consumer ability to read labels after receiving vision rehabilitation



12

family volunteer pairs

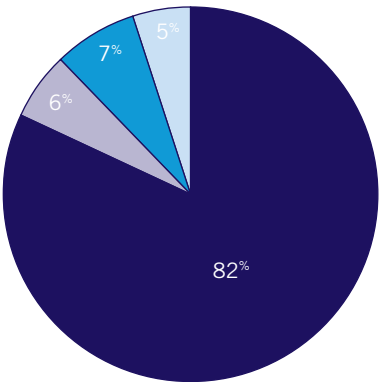
2,307

support group attendances

18 years that Peer Support Group Program Manager Laurie Werle has worked at MAB. In 2016 she was inducted into the Carroll Center for the Blind's Carroll Society, which recognizes outstanding employees who are blind.

1,599 in-home vision rehabilitation sessions conducted

Total Expenses

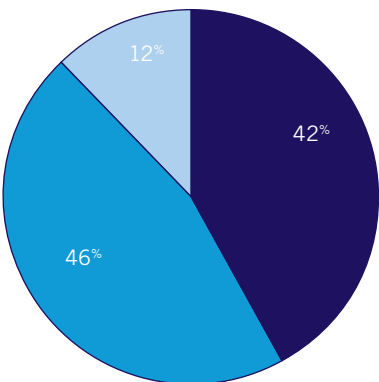


Payroll	82%
Housing/Rent	6%
Direct Program Support.....	7%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.....	5%

Total: \$1,165,766*

*excluding Administration and Fundraising

2016 Revenue



Government/Reimbursement	42%
Contributions	46%
Special Events (Net)	12%

Total: \$1,175,777



The Excellence in Special Education Summit

Workshops and John Pratt Memorial Lecture



Dr. Ross Greene gives the John Pratt Memorial Lecture. He asked “How can caregivers and families collaborate with children to reduce challenging behaviors? If we’re imposing our will on kids rather than communicating and listening, how can we expect them to develop coping skills that work?”

In addition to educating students, the Ivy Street School plays an important role in the special education community of learning. Through a day-long series of workshops and the John Pratt Memorial Lecture, we facilitate the dissemination of best practices and thoughtful conversation about what works in special education.

The John Pratt Memorial Fund and Lecture is dedicated to facilitating the impact of research on practice at the Ivy Street School in order to improve student outcomes. John was a member of the MAB Board of Directors and served as the Associate Director of the Whitehead Institute for twenty five years.

The Summit was co-sponsored by our partners NESCA and the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts.



126

lecture
attendees

73

workshop
participants



Angela M. Currie, Ph.D. leads a workshop on the detrimental effect that anxiety can have on a child’s ability to learn executive functioning skills.

WORKSHOPS

Transition to Adulthood—Strategies for Success

Brain Injury and Behavior—Best Practices

From Our Perspective—Parenting Children with Learning Difference

“I Can’t Think When I’m Stressed!”—Understanding the Relationship Between Anxiety and Executive Function, and How to Help



Ivy Street staff members Anastasia Kanistras and Allison Pennacchio receive professional development grants.



Recruitment and Retention Initiative

MAB Adult Disability Services launched an ambitious plan to tackle one of the most intractable challenges in the human services world: how to recruit and retain talented staff in a field that traditionally offers low pay and limited room for advancement. MAB is investing in its staff at all levels. We're partnering with local colleges and faculty to develop college-incentive and leadership development programs, structured training opportunities, and career advancement ladders. We want our model to serve as an example in the field for the potential to recruit and retain staff who are motivated and trained to facilitate the highest level of person-centered planning for the individuals they serve.



\$78,000 raised to launch a graduate-level scholarship program for outstanding staff



17 staff participants in 6 sessions of Big Picture training on topics such as:

- How occupational therapy, speech therapy and physical therapy can benefit the people you serve
- Basic tenets of social work and behavior management
- Cultural awareness and competency
- Historical treatment of people with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts



2,415
hours of
staff training

15 staff participants receiving formal guidance in their efforts to help residents live the lives they want for themselves, through 8 sessions of Grand Rounds provided by a licensed social worker.

Solutions in Sight: A Summit to Address the Vision Loss Crisis

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
for the
Blind and Visually Impaired



As a major partner in the national movement to expand access to vision rehabilitation services for newly blind individuals, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind (MABVI) has an important role to play as a convener and educator. The Solutions in Sight Summit was an exciting, forward-looking gathering of experts in the fields of blindness, healthcare, technology, mental health, and employment. Authors Ryan Knighton and Rebecca Alexander talked about what active living with blindness would look like if communities were more livable and the public was more blindness-aware. WGBH Innovation Hub's Kara Miller led a spirited discussion on the need to jumpstart innovation in accessibility. Local and national healthcare leaders debated how to improve coordination of services so that vision loss does not present a looming health crisis as the baby boomers age.

In response, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired is creating an action plan for expanded services that we hope will contribute to the national conversation about what it means to be blind or visually impaired in the 21st century.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Transformative Technology: Access, Collaboration, Innovation

Closing Gaps in Our Healthcare System: The Challenge of Healthcare Reform

Access to a Full Life: Addressing Mental Health Barriers and Reimagining Services for Active Living

Employment: Strategies to Eliminate Joblessness

17 conference volunteers from
Netscout and Liberty Mutual
Insurance

"Yesterday's experience was one of my most inspirational in 25 years serving this Field. Thanks so much for your leadership in putting it all together. The Boston Community, and the diverse audience you were responsible for bringing together is very special!"

Frank Gibney, President and CEO,
The Gibney Family Foundation



220
conference
attendees

19
panelists and
moderators

\$25,000 grant from the Memorial Foundation for the Blind to expand access to mental health counseling for individuals adjusting to the life-changing experience of severe vision loss. www.mfab.org

"It was one of the most extraordinary conferences I have ever attended in either my professional or personal life. I was struck by the diversity, depth, and range of ideas, thoughts, suggestions, and possible solutions. But what affected me most deeply was to be in a place with so many intelligent, energetic, professional, thoughtful, and successful individuals from so many different disciplines, a large majority of whom are blind, all working together and all receiving the respect and support from each other and everyone else in the room."

Dean Denniston, retired Civil Rights Director for the
Executive Office of Health and Human Services



Hugh Herr, double amputee and head of the MIT BioMechatronics Lab, gives the keynote address. He proposed that the idea of disability as we know it will be eliminated in the coming decades, as technology and engineering master the challenges faced by today's disability communities. [www](#)



Haben Girma, national disability rights activist and first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School, addresses the lunchtime audience. [www](#)



Bilal Zuberi, Partner at Lux Capital, suggests that as the technology community continues to integrate services, appliances, and mobile devices, the price of accessibility should fall and the ease of creating it should rise. [www](#)

Cost of adult vision loss to our economy each year:

\$51
BILLION



19 focus group participants who helped shape the conference agenda

38 million Americans age 40 and older who are blind, have visual impairments, or have an age-related eye disease

EVENT SPONSORS



MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND

Elaine Ellenbogen

**Michael and Lee Ann O'Friel
and Family**



MASSACHUSETTS

Outreach Sponsor



Special thanks to The Gibney Family Foundation and The Sara Elizabeth O'Brien Trust, Bank of America, N.A., trustee, for their generous support of our programs.



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
for the
Blind and Visually Impaired



5 races that we collaborated with to support or launch their visually impaired divisions

5 participants in the first Visually Impaired Division at the Tufts Health Plan 10K for Women



78 burritos rolled by top Marathon fundraiser Allie Crouse at her Anna's Taqueria fundraiser

The Team With A Vision is a community of athletes who demonstrate that with the right support, anything is possible. The Boston Marathon is our signature event. We also strive to have nationwide impact by collaborating with races and athletes across the country to support new and expanded opportunities for athletes with visual impairments to run competitively or for their own enjoyment and health. Our mission includes education, advocacy, inspiration, and raising funds to support the programs of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

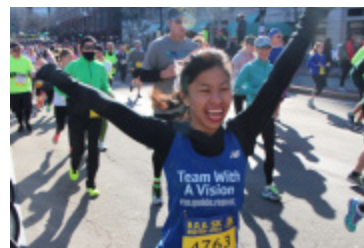
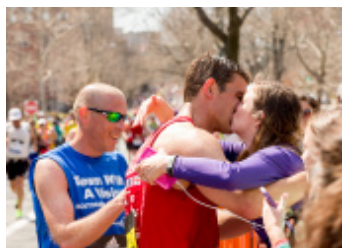


70 Team members who raced at the 120th Boston Marathon



9 Junior Team With A Vision members who participated in our yearlong fitness program for youth who are blind, in collaboration with Our Space Our Place.

1 celebrity sighted guide, the blogger and *Forbes* magazine Most Influential Women in Media recipient Heather Armstrong



1,241 donations to support Team With A Vision Boston Marathon runners

226 hours volunteered by Delta Gamma members over Marathon weekend

United in Stride ([www](http://www.unitedinstride.org)) is a unique matching website that makes it possible for athletes who are blind across North America to be matched with people who are interested in being sighted guides. The site was founded in 2015 by the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and philanthropist/advocate Richard Hunter.



1,256
registered users

6,795 miles traveled by our staff from Boston to Seoul, South Korea to present at the International Guiderunner Conference

"I was contacted on United in Stride by someone who's returning to running and training for a 5k. We went for a three mile run and she killed it! She was nervous at first but I assured her all she had to do was run and I'd make sure she was safe.

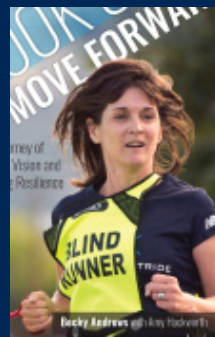
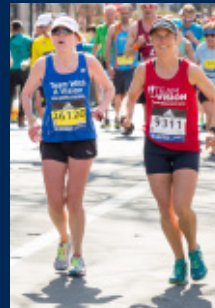
We went through Boston Common and the public garden on a 5k loop with hill repeats. Her goal was to stay in the 10-11 minute mile range and she did that on a path that is harder and with more turns than the course that she'll be racing on. It's fun pushing someone and seeing them achieve goals, and it's so rewarding giving back to a sport that has given me so much!"

Cory Gardner, United in Stride guide



"Last weekend I was visiting Virginia for a family event. I had several hours of free time on Friday and wanted to spend it outdoors, as the weather has been unseasonably gorgeous! I reached out to the United in Stride page and connected with a great guide who picked me up at my hotel and spent four hours hiking and climbing with me and my guide dog Lavender at Great Falls National Park. I would not have had the opportunity to experience this without her. I am very grateful for our connection and the adventure that we shared!"

Dee Char, United in Stride athlete



49 U.S. states and Canadian provinces currently represented in the United in Stride database

Community Partners

People and organizations we recognized this year for their innovation and partnership:



Nat Adamian and Lynne Carvalho Adamian, for their volunteer work as a family for MABVI.



Delta Gamma national women's fraternity and Boston-area DG members and alumnae for their phenomenal volunteer work for the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



Jewish Vocational Services, for providing exceptional vocational training opportunities to Ivy Street students.



Lisa DiBonaventura, for her contributions to the field of Orientation and Mobility and her advocacy on behalf of individuals who have intellectual disabilities and are blind.



AccessSportAmerica, for giving Ivy Street School students unique and adventurous opportunities for physical activity.



Linda Glenn, for her pioneering role in creating a pathway for individuals with intellectual disabilities to live in the community.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh, for his efforts to make Boston a more livable and inclusive city for individuals with disabilities.



Terry Goldzier, for dedicated service as a one-to-one volunteer for individuals who are blind.



The Cottage Farm Neighborhood Association, for their partnership with and support of the Ivy Street School.

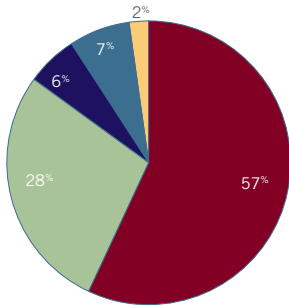


WCVB's Chronicle, for its outstanding commitment to highlighting the work of nonprofit organizations and citizens who contribute to the civic life of our community.



MAB Board Member David Root, for his generous support of technology initiatives at the Ivy Street School.

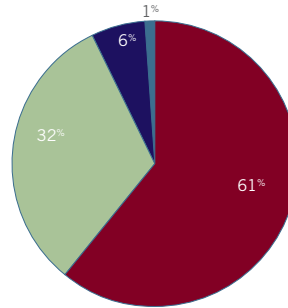
Financials: Year End June 30, 2016



Total Expenses by Program

Adult Disability Services..... 57%
Ivy Street School 28%
Mass Association for the Blind.. 6%
Administration and Marketing... 7%
Fundraising..... 2%

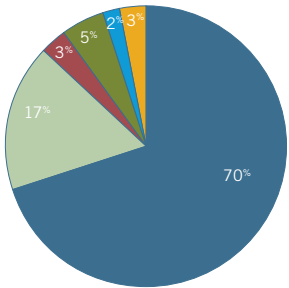
Total: \$20,737,988



Total Revenue by Program

Adult Disability Services..... 61%
Ivy Street School 32%
Mass Association for the Blind.. 6%
Unrestricted 1%

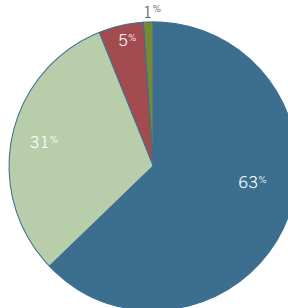
Total: \$21,044,885



Total Expenses by Cost Center

Payroll 70%
Housing/Rent 17%
Vehicle and Equipment Lease ... 3%
Direct Program Support..... 5%
Professional Fees..... 2%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc 3%

Total: \$20,737,988



Total Revenue by Cost Center

Government/Reimbursement... 63%
Tuition 31%
Contributions 5%
Special Events (Net) 1%

Total: \$21,044,885

List of Donors

\$130,000+

Memorial Foundation
for the Blind

\$100,000+

Estate of Arthur
Bourgoin

\$50,000+

The Gibney Family
Foundation
The Highland Street
Foundation

\$45,000+

Christine and
David Root

\$30,000+

Dorothy S. Grant Trust
The Hamilton
Company Charitable
Foundation

\$25,000+

The Emello Family/
Allington LLC
Malcolm E. Kelly
Charitable Remainder
Annuity Trust
S. Elizabeth O'Brien
Trust, Bank of America

\$20,000+

Julie and Michael
Ellenbogen
The Barbara Epstein
Foundation Inc.
Sydney and David
Feldman
MEDITECH
Horace A. Moses
Foundation Trust

Julia and Frederick
Pfannenstiel

\$15,000+

The George E. Curtis
Charitable Trust
Elaine Ellenbogen
HUB International

\$10,000+

Janice and Kenneth
Cunningham
Carla and
Nelson DeMoraes
Eastern Bank
Charitable Foundation
Winifred
Frykberg Trust
Suzanne and
Steven Kaitz
Miss Wallace M.
Leonard Foundation
Liberty Mutual
Insurance Company
Lee Ann and
Michael O'Friel
Judy Paprin and
Richard Anders
Marie Parritt Fund
Karen Quigley and
Russell Hensel
Judy and William
Schawbel

\$5,000+

Bank of America
Charitable Gift Fund
Barbara Mitchell
Fund, Bank of
America, N.A., Trustee
The Baddour Family
Foundation

Sheila and Dan Berlin
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Massachusetts
Foundation

Blue Hills Bank
Charitable Foundation
Boston Evening Clinic
Foundation

Bushrod H. Campbell
and Adah F. Hall
Charity Fund

Catholic Health
Foundation
Cognex Corporation
Evon and Thomas
Cooper

Dayton Foundation
Charitable Accounts,
Inc. recommended by
Sandra Nischwitz

Delta Gamma
Foundation
Foley Family
Irrevocable Trust
Foundation M

Goddard Health
Foundation
Diane and Lloyd
Gordon

Barbara and
Luke Salisbury

Nancy and
Ronald Shaich
Alice Sibley Fund
at the Greater
Worcester Community
Foundation

Staples Foundation
Constance and
Edward Sullivan

Votze Butler Charitable
Fund at the Greater
Lowell Community
Foundation

\$2,500+

Melissa Burkland and
Jeff Branstrom
East Boston
Savings Bank

Education First
Amy Elzemeyer-Mower
The Fuller
Foundation, Inc.

Anita Gajdecki and
Stephen Blyth

Victoria and
Justin Gmelich
Goldman Sachs Gives

Camilla and
George Hertz
Constance and
Tom Kane

Michelle and
Ira Lefkowitz
Andrea Levitt and
Antoine Hatoun

Sharon and
Jonathan Lourie

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O'Friel Family Endowment

Paul G. O'Friel was a MAB Community Services Board member who served from 1957 to 2007, including as President and Chair of the Finance Committee. He cared deeply about the staff at MAB and the quality of the services they provided. To honor his long service, his family created the O'Friel Family Endowment to support professional development initiatives for MAB staff.

With thanks to the

John Hancock

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**David and Sydney Feldman
Volunteer Fund**

Sydney Feldman became a 1:1 MAB volunteer in 1979, when she was paired with Al and Betty Gayzagian. In 1981, Al Gayzagian recruited David Feldman to MAB's Board of Directors, where he served as President and as chair of the Nominating and Development Committees. David is now an Emeritus Director. They provided the seed gift to the Feldman Volunteer Fund in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of MAB's 1:1 Volunteer Program. It has grown as their friends and members of the MAB Community have honored their legacy and made their own commitments to ensuring that the volunteer program is supported in perpetuity.

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MAB Community Services has been working with individuals with disabilities to eliminate barriers and create opportunities since 1903. Our experience allows us to forge strong community partnerships to meet the pressing need for high quality services that transform lives. mabcommunity.org

200 Ivy Street
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