



Annual Report 2016

 CATALICIAN CENTER
Exceptional People. No Exceptions.



A Message from the Executive Director



Cantalian Center for Learning has accomplished great things this year! We kicked off the year by celebrating our past 60 years of service to children and adults with disabilities by telling the stories of people who have had a grave impact on our nonprofit organization through our 60th Anniversary Spotlight Series. The feature stories highlighted the founders of Cantalian Center, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix (the Felician Sisters) who helped build a strong foundation that allows us to continue to carry out our mission of providing meaningful opportunities that promote the independence of people with disabilities of all ages. During our year of celebration, we installed a five panel display at our Academic Campus on George Urban Boulevard in Depew, New York. The panels chronicle our impactful history in Western New York and describe how our organization has continued to be progressive and innovative as we work with people with disabilities. It showcases how we continue to work toward finding better ways to improve the quality of life for the people and families we serve.

Keeping with the organizations' mindset of forward thinking, our Day Habilitation (Day Hab) Services moved out of our Hertel Avenue facility in Buffalo, New York and into the community. People receiving Day Hab Services should be offered the opportunity to be participating members of their community. We now utilize several local community centers as home base for those Day Hab Services. The community hubs serve as a place for people to meet before they begin their day of volunteering and/or exploring the greater Western New York region. Additionally, we also proudly opened the doors to our new Community Life Skills Center located

near our Academic Campus. The building was completely renovated to include accessible ramps, wide hallways, two large multipurpose rooms, a brand new kitchen and custom bathrooms. The facility will provide a space for several people who are working toward improving life skills such as self-care, socialization, independent living and participating in their community. We couldn't be more proud of our individuals and staff who truly believed in the importance of community integration.

In 2015, Diversified Labor Solutions, our employment services division took a big step into the future by moving into Tri-Main Center in Buffalo, New York. Cantalian Center was one of the first organizations in upstate New York to fully transform its employment services into the community. While 2015 was a year for change, 2016 was the year for growth. We not only expanded the job opportunities we offer within the business community, we increased our customer base and the volume of work we have to offer. The employment services team is continually looking for opportunities to partner with the local business community and other agencies to increase options for the people we serve. I am continually amazed at the accomplishments of the people in employment services and their determination to be productive members of the workforce.

The celebrations continued across the organization with the graduation of our preschoolers in our integrated and non-integrated classrooms who spent their time preparing for kindergarten. Some students will now move on to other district schools, where we are sure that they will exude the spirit of Cantalian Center by accepting friends of all abilities, others will continue their academic pursuits in our school. We also graduated six students enrolled in our School Age who we watched make huge strides in learning prevocational skills through internal and external volunteer opportunities and the extracurricular activities we offer such as Adapted Sports, Band, the school musical, SABAH and many more. We believe the experiences these students have had at Cantalian Center will allow them to dive head first into future opportunities. We truly believe that if our students can dream it, they can achieve it. We couldn't have been more proud of both graduating classes and the exemplary staff that prepared them for the world. We ended the year ended on another high note with the success of our Annual Appeal. The fund drive allowed us to raise support for crucial areas of need from sensory equipment that will positively impact our children and adults level of engagement during their daily routines to funds for transportation that will allow our individuals and students to access work and volunteer opportunities in the community. We would like to thank each and every person who contributed our Annual Appeal. We could not have been successful without your selfless generosity and support.

As we look toward the future we do so with the mindset that the future is now. We will continue to innovate and strive for excellence in our advocacy efforts, collaboration with community partners, professional development of staff, events, fundraising and new opportunities all while keeping this goal in mind. It will serve as the driving force behind our mission of providing meaningful opportunities to children and adults with disabilities that we plan to serve for years to come. We look forward to what next year has to bring and welcome you to be our partner in providing exceptional services, no exception.

Best regards,

Executive Director, Cantalian Center for Learning



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School Age and Preschool

Diversity

Cantalian Center for Learning is composed of 290 School Age and Preschool students that come from up to 30 school districts within the tri-county area new Buffalo, New York. Cantalian Center serves 7 different special education classifications through a holistic approach to learning. This level of diversity has created a school community that is flexible, adaptable and able to meet the needs of all students.



290

The number of students enrolled in the School Age and Preschool.

Expertise

Cantalian Center for Learning's instructional staff includes over 80 teachers and therapists and an additional 120 teacher assistant and supplemental classroom aides. Our staff is expert and professional at meeting the educational, social, medical and behavioral needs of our students. All are compassionate, highly dedicated and Mission driven individuals. They bring a vast amount of knowledge and experience to enhance the instruction opportunities for students.

Every staff member continues to improve their professional development through yearly training, both as individuals and as a staff cohort.



30

The number of school districts that our students come from within the Western New York region.

15

The number of different local businesses and organizations that our School Age students volunteer at on a yearly basis.

Authenticity

At our Depew, New York based campus we offer students a safe welcoming atmosphere and provide all the tools and equipment necessary to make our educational activities accessible.

In addition to a functional and academic curriculum, we offer special instruction including art, music, technology and physical education to all students, as well as extracurricular activities. Music was a major focus this year, we had 20 students attending chorus and another 10 participating in a band. We put on a musical production each year that actively engages over 30 students. Sports and physical activity kept our gym hopping with 48 students participating in weekly interscholastic, intramural sports activities and another 15 students participating in cheerleading. We are also active participants in SABAH with 20 students participating in their adaptive skating program and wowing the crowd at the annual performance last spring.

Transition planning and preparation is a major focus for our older students. This year, we had 15 students out and about in the community, volunteering with Meals on Wheels, The Teacher's Desk and more. Many of these same students also participate in vocational training at our employment services division, Diversified Labor Solutions located at Tri-Main Center in Buffalo, New York.

Infants and Toddlers

Daycare and Preschool

Cantalian Center for Learning strives to become partners with parents in providing daycare and education services that promote positive learning experiences, safe and nurturing environments. The staff is dedicated to ensuring a developmentally appropriate and emotionally responsive program.

The Daycare at Cantalian Center is licensed by the New York State Child and Family Services. We maintain systems and policies that adhere to all New York State and local regulatory requirements, as well as best practices related to health, safety, development and nutrition.

47

The number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who attended our Daycare and Preschool.

Early Childhood Community Services

Cantalian Center for Learning's Early Childhood Community Services provides a variety of services to the youngest population in Western New York with potential developmental/medical and other challenges for children ages birth to 5 years of age. The services provided include: multidisciplinary evaluations to determine eligibility for early childhood programs, direct individual and parent-child centered group therapies, as well as educational service provisions in the areas of physical and occupational therapies, behavioral and cognitive, and communication (speech therapy).

51

The number of Early Interventions (EI) we provided to children.

275

The number of evaluations provided for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy combined to preschool students.

209

The number of Psychological Evaluations/ Social Histories provided to preschool students.



Day Habilitation Services

Cantalcian Center for Learning's Day Habilitation (Day Hab) Services includes Certified Day Hab, Day Hab Without Walls and Supplemental Day Hab. The organization's Day Habilitation Services was ahead of the curve in response to the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Transformational Plan to move individuals with developmental disabilities out of their sheltered program settings and into the community. At the beginning of 2016, Day Hab was still located at a segregated building on Hertel Avenue in Buffalo, New York. The facility was set back from the main road, not frequented by people in the community with only a couple vans to go on outings on a rotating basis.

Everything changed on March 1, 2016, when Cantalcian Center officially said goodbye to that building on Hertel Avenue and that way of offering Day Hab. Roughly 82% of the Day Hab converted to Day Hab Without Walls that day, with groups being integrated into the community from the beginning of their day to the end. Due to the hard work from the individuals and staff, four successful Day Hab Without Walls hubs were created and are now thriving. These locations serve as a landing spot for the individuals to start and end their day before going out into the community to volunteer and engage in all that is offered across Western New York.

The other 18% of people who are not enrolled in Day Hab Without Walls also underwent a big change. Instead of being at the large building on Hertel Avenue and having to share the facilities with everyone who was in Day Hab and prevocational services, those 20 individuals moved to the Community Life Skills Center, a completely renovated building which includes a brand new kitchen, accessible bathrooms, and laundry facilities to help work on building and maintaining life skills with the support of staff. They, too, get out as much as possible and are now within walking distance of many area businesses.

It has been a year of great change and opportunity and as we continue to look for ways to grow and improve. We do so with enthusiasm and confidence, knowing that we can handle just about anything.

151

The number of people served through Day Hab Services

14

The number of different local businesses and organizations that our Day Hab participants volunteer on a yearly basis

4,212

The number of meals delivered per year by individuals in Day Hab volunteering at Meals on Wheels



MSC and PCSS

200

The number of people with developmental disabilities served through MSC and PCSS.



Michael Cray

Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) is designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities strive for the highest quality of life. The main focus is to assist each person to achieve his/her own unique goals. Michael Cray has been keeping busy ever since he graduated from high school in 1983. Cray started working at Cantalician Center for Learning's sheltered workshop and continued there through its inception as a community prevocational program. He also participated in Cantalician Center's Day Habilitation Services for a little socializing and extracurricular fun. Cray has been in attendance at these programs for over 30 years.

At 55-years-old, he has decided that it is time to retire and spend his days relaxing at his group home where he has lived since 1991. Cray plans to stay very busy! His group home staff provides him with many outing opportunities and he is also always included in dinner celebrations or parties with his housemates.

Cray really appreciates his MSC at Cantalician Center and those who have helped him advocate for his current wants and needs. He now feels as though he has the freedom to live life as he sees fit. Cray will also remember his past, but has chosen to focus on making his future something special.

Diversified Labor Solutions

A division of CANTALICIAN CENTER
Exceptional People. No Exceptions.

Diversified Labor Solutions (DLS), the employment services division of Cantalician Center for Learning is uniquely designed and was the first program of its type approved by the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). We offer comprehensive, person-centered, vocational training in multiple integrated settings throughout the Western New York region. Our services are designed to provide each individual a wide variety of opportunities while promoting path to working independently with as minimal support necessary.

Community Prevocational Services

Community-based prevocational services (CPV) provides individualized employment support services to assist people in acquiring the skills and work habits needed to become a more successful independent employee. Services offer each individual the opportunity to work in an integrated manufacturing environment alongside workers without disabilities, the majority comprised of Buffalo, New York's refugee population. We are based in the community, at the Tri-Main Center in Buffalo, New York.

Community-based employment opportunities

Community employment opportunities further each of person's vocational development. We create partnerships with multiple local manufacturing companies to provide reliable, integrated labor solutions for such companies as Sonwil Industries, Mentholatum and Starline USA. We are uniquely able to provide competitive wage earning job opportunities for the people we serve in a supportive work setting.

Supported Employment

Our Supported Employment works with each person and their individualized plan for employment, supporting them throughout the process from the beginning of the job search to on-site training and follow along ensuring that each person attains a greater level of independence and is successfully employed.



147

The number of people receiving employment services



125

The number of people employed through DLS

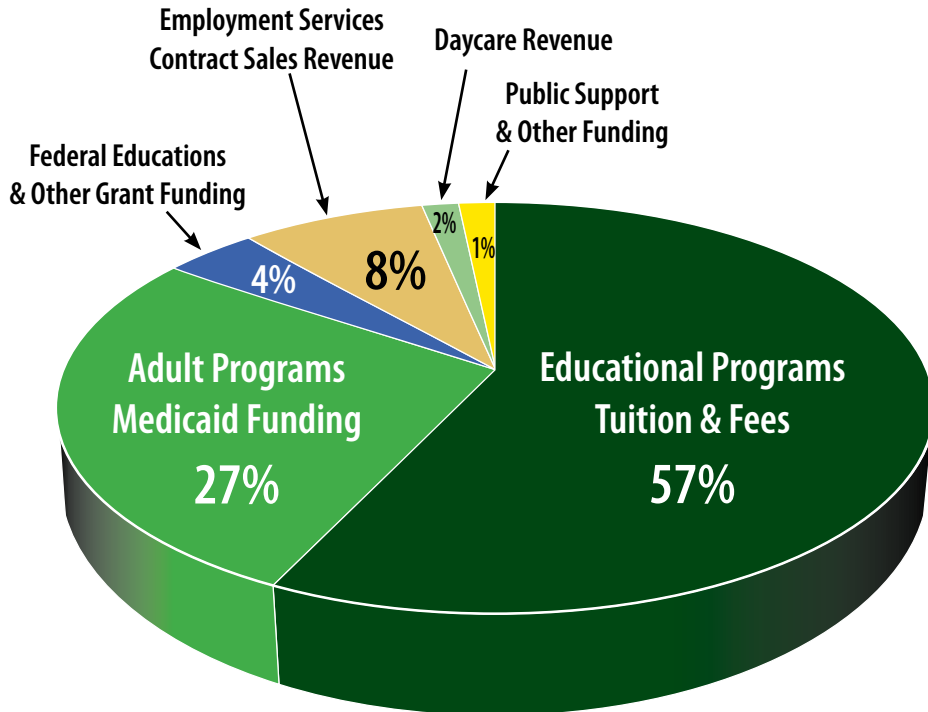
47

The number of community organizations and businesses DLS provided labor solutions for this year

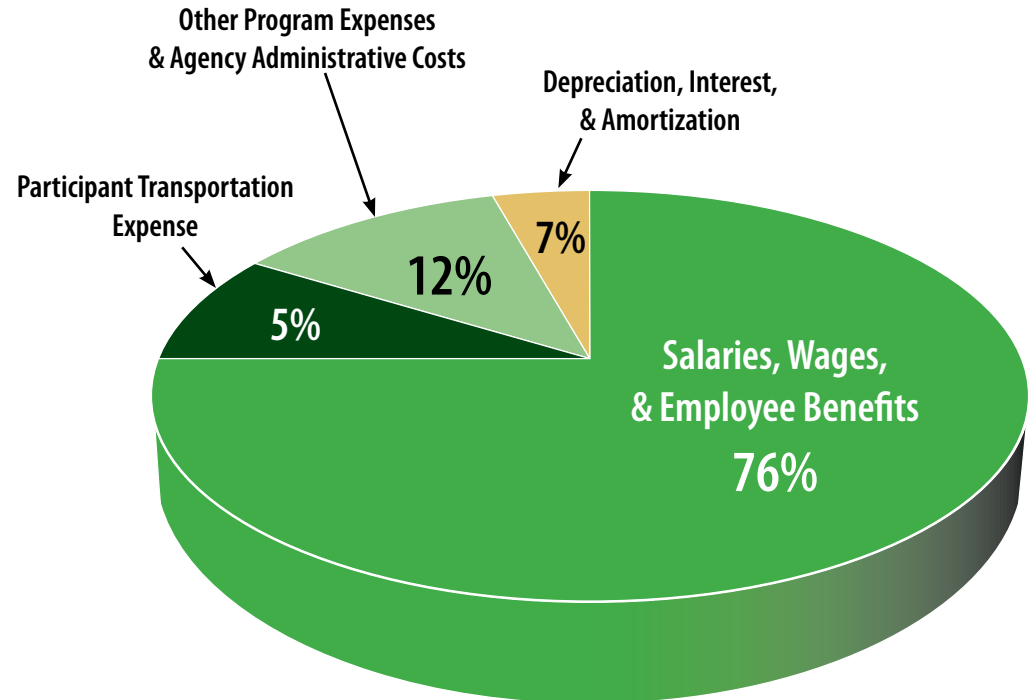


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Agency Revenue



Agency Expenses



- Educational Programs - Tuition & Fees
- Adult Programs - Medicaid Funding
- Federal Education & Other Grant Funding
- Employment Services - Contract Sales Revenue
- Daycare Revenue
- Public Support & Other Funding

- Salaries, Wages, & Employee Benefits
- Participant Transportation Expense
- Other Program Expenses & Agency Administrative Costs
- Depreciation, Interest, & Amortization

The Cantalician Foundation Fundraising and Events

60th Anniversary Celebration

Cantalician Center for Learning celebrated its 60th Anniversary by unveiling a panel display on October 30, 2016 at its Academic Campus in Depew, New York. The display chronicles its long history of serving individuals with disabilities across Western New York. The five panels detail how the founders of the nonprofit organization, the Felician Sisters, came from Polonia, Wisconsin to Buffalo, New York and founded Cantalician Center in 1956. The organization would go on to become an innovative center that teaches crucial life skills to children and adults with disabilities through the various programs and services it offers. Cantalician Center continued the celebration with a 1950s style sock hop celebration. The event was well attended by its students, individuals, families and staff, as well as members of the community and local legislative representatives. Guests enjoyed refreshments, raffles, music and dancing. Thank you to everyone who helped the organization celebrate its 60th Anniversary.



60th Anniversary Gala

The Cantalician Foundation, Inc. hosted the nonprofit organization's 60th Anniversary Gala on May 5, 2016 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew, New York. The event that includes a sit-down dinner, cocktails, heartfelt presentations, various auctions and raffles has been a staple in the organization's 60 year history. It is Cantalician Center's largest fundraising event of the year and it allows the organization to raise money used to fill gaps in funding. Thanks to our major sponsors and community supporters, Cantalician Center is able to directly provide person-centered compassionate services that promote independence and meaningful opportunities for the children and adults with disabilities that it serves on a daily basis.



2016 Annual Appeal

Cantalician Center for Learning held its Annual Appeal in December 2016. The fundraiser was the first for the organization in several years. The focus of the effort was to provide support for the 85% of children and individuals we serve that live in poverty and are in need of the necessary items to attend a full day of school or programming such as clothing, shoes, food for the holidays, personal care products and more. The fundraiser helped provide sensory equipment that will help our children and adults improve sensory processing, body awareness and self-regulation abilities, which will positively impact their level of engagement during their daily routines. It raised funds for field trips and activities that allow our students and individuals to learn critical life skills outside of their program setting. It also helped provide transportation for our individuals enrolled in Employment Services and Day Habilitation Services to access work and volunteer opportunities in the community. Our Annual Appeal was a huge success, raising \$14,000 this year. We plan to continue the effort for years to come by raising more funds to better assist the children and adults served at Cantalician Center.



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Thank you to all of our phenomenal sponsors and donors who have contributed to Cantalician Center for Learning. We could not have provided services to hundreds of children and adults with disabilities without your support!

\$2,500 or more

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In Memoriam

Celine Belling • Karen Carlson • Kevin M. Cray Sr. • John Spisiak

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Mission:

Rooted in the Catholic principle of Human Dignity, we provide person-centered compassionate services that promote independence and offer meaningful opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

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The Cantalician Foundation, Inc.
Cantalician Center for Learning
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Depew, NY 14043

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