



We believe that every person deserves a chance to thrive, contribute to society, and realize belonging.

Our approach is simple but powerful.

Inclusion is the norm.

Through innovative therapies, lifelong learning, job placement services, and supportive housing, we pave the way for opportunity and success. We're changing lives and improving quality of life for everyone.

DISABILITY SERVICES

1945 W. Wilson Avenue | Suite 3000 | Chicago, IL 60640 | www.anixter.org

DEAF, DEAFBLIND, AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

2017 N. Mendel Street | Suite 3NE | Chicago, IL 60614 | www.ChicagoHearingSociety.org

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

6610 N. Clark Street | Chicago, IL 60626 | www.anixter.org

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Recovery Center | 1751 W. Howard Street | Chicago, IL 60626 | www.anixter.org

OUR REPORT



YOUR IMPACT

To our Friends and Followers:

As we reflect on the last year, we are in awe of the individuals, families, and organizations that have propelled us forward. We're proud to share that we have launched our strategic plan, strengthened our service offerings, and continued to build on our diversity, equity, and inclusion plan. None of this would have been possible without our incredible partnerships—and supporters like you.

Imagination is at the heart of our mission. At Anixter, we imagine a world where every individual is able to access the supports they need. We imagine a world where each person is seen and valued for their unique contributions. We imagine a world where partnerships make anything possible. We imagine the meaningful change we create when we all come together.

This year's Impact Report highlights just how much Anixter's supporters make our mission possible. You'll learn how imagination comes to life in the stories we share: stories like Sandy and Bill's, who show the possibilities when you pair generosity with action. From our corporate partners to donors to family members, the past year has shown that the Anixter community is stronger than ever. We are honored to work alongside you to create a better tomorrow.

With gratitude,



Samantha Handley



Sean Murphy



IMAGINE IF...



OUR REPORT **2023** YOUR IMPACT



CHS

A Division of Anixtercenter

DEAF, DEAFBLIND, AND
HARD OF HEARING SERVICES



IMAGINE IF...

the kindness of a stranger transforms a life.

BILL'S STORY

Bill has always struggled to “fit in” and to find acceptance and belonging. “I am part-hearing and part Deaf, and half-white and half-black. It was hard for me to find a group to assimilate,” Bill says. But that all changed when, as an adult, Bill found a community within the Chicago Hearing Society (CHS) family. He developed pride in his Deaf culture and created lifelong friendships and a support system to navigate life’s challenges — he found his place of belonging!

Today, Bill is a proud leader in the Deaf community, teaches American Sign Language (ASL) to persons with disabilities, and freely shares his personal journey as a mentor and friend. Most recently, he received free hearing aids through the Sandy A. Bank Adult Hearing Aid Fund at CHS. For Bill, new hearing aids were a dream that was out of reach due to high cost and lack of coverage.

Bill now has a new chapter in his story. One filled with joy and, according to Bill, one filled with wonder and amazement. “I put my hearing aids on and heard things I never heard before. I heard a plane overhead and cars passing by.” While still incredibly proud of his Deaf culture, Bill believes he has been gifted a new life experience and is grateful for every minute of it.

The Sanford A. Bank Adults Hearing Aid Fund continues to provide hearing aids for adults who can’t otherwise afford them. “Our father Sandy derived great pleasure through his work with the Chicago Hearing Society. He was involved with the CHS for over 40 years and his legacy will continue providing hearing aids to those in need,” John S. Bank, Sandy’s son, shares. Many thanks to Sandy and his family.





IMAGINE IF...

joy and purpose come together.

JONATHAN'S STORY

Walking into the Sloomoo Institute is like walking into a fantasy land: an explosion of colors, textures, and friendly faces greeting you as you immerse yourself in the wondrous world of slime.

One of the friendly, smiling faces you'll see at Sloomoo's Chicago location is Jonathan, a soft-spoken, laid back, and affable Slimetender. Jonathan provides an unmatched experience for guests visiting Sloomoo's, making sure that both children and adults safely enjoy their experience.

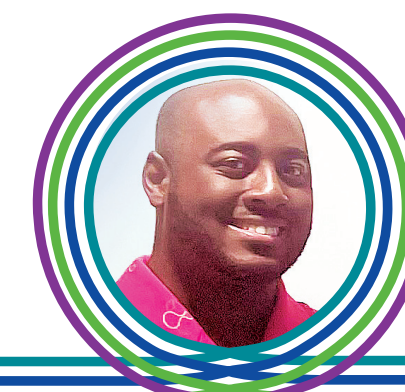
Although you wouldn't know it at first, Jonathan was diagnosed with autism as a young child. "I was kind of an antisocial kid," Jonathan shares. As part of his involvement with Special Olympics Chicago, Jonathan was referred to Anixter Center so he could find meaningful employment.

Anixter worked with Jonathan to identify his skills and ideal work environment. Anixter's partnership with the Sloomoo Institute was a perfect match for Jonathan, who effortlessly fits in with the inclusive, fun, and diverse culture at Sloomoo.

"I love working there," says Jonathan, "I hang out with the guests, help them create their own slime, and it's a fun workplace." Jonathan's work not only gives him a sense of purpose, but it also provides him independence. After working at Sloomoo for several months, Jonathan was able to sign up for a credit card.

At the same time, it's clear that Jonathan is an asset to the Sloomoo team. "We are committed to supporting all forms of diversity. We believe in the power of surrounding ourselves with people who offer different points of view. Celebrating differences fosters community, innovation, and a welcoming culture," says Spenser Prelletz, General Manager of Sloomoo Institute Chicago. Sloomoo's partnership with Anixter shows the magic that happens when inclusion and play join forces.

When imagining what his future has in store, Jonathan shares, "I hope I can have a house one day, and that I can use my money to help everybody else if they need it."





IMAGINE IF...

stigma is erased.

TOM'S STORY*

For many of us, the Covid-19 pandemic tested the bounds of our mental health. For Tom, the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the symptoms he was already experiencing. Tom wasn't 'broken enough' to fit into the system to get supports, but he wasn't functional enough to live independently, either. As the pandemic raged on, Tom — and his parents — began to lose hope. Tom was on the verge of homelessness and unable to hold a steady job. "We were at our wit's end," his mother, Valerie, shares. Not only were Tom and his family struggling to cope with his symptoms, they also faced the all-too-harsh stigma surrounding mental health.

Unfortunately, this was part of a longstanding pattern that Tom and his family faced throughout his life: Tom's life was spiraling out of control, desperately needing services but being unable to access them. Valerie even went back to school to become a therapist to try to support her son. Yet the issues persisted.

It was during one of Valerie's Continuing Education Units that one of the lecturers recommended Anixter Center as a resource for Tom and his family. After fighting for years to access services, Anixter opened the doors. Anixter's clinical team provided a safe place for Tom to live while actively supporting his recovery and he found community and hope. His mother's joy was palpable. "It was like a miracle!"

Tom's stay at Anixter allowed him to shine and to focus on his goal: to live in his own apartment. The team at Anixter worked tirelessly to ensure that it happened by researching and referring him to affordable housing communities.

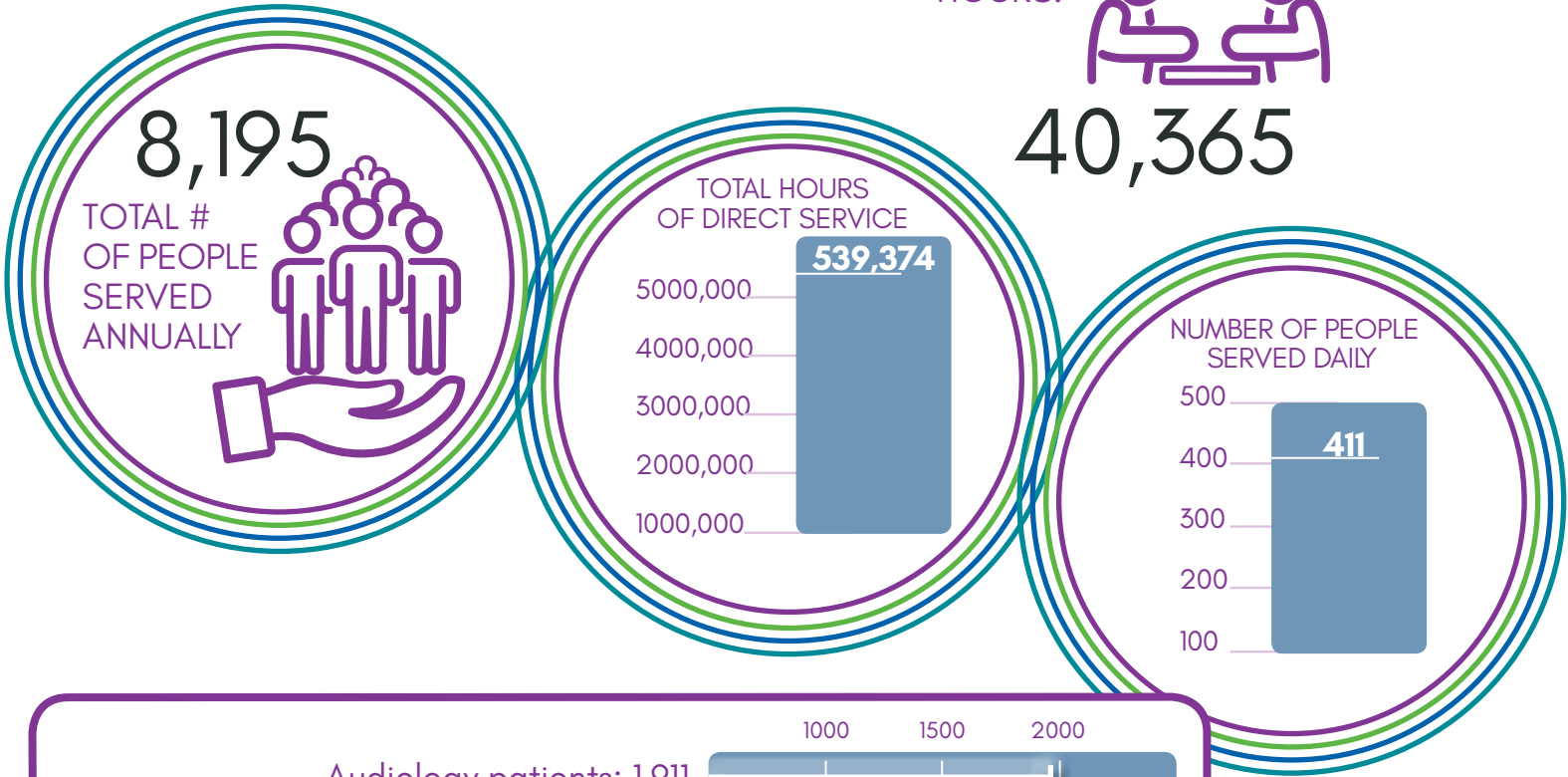
Tom's transformation is nothing short of incredible. Today, he has his own apartment that he loves, filled with mementos of family trips. Tom's family is grateful to have their son back. "We don't know if Tom would be alive today if it wasn't for Anixter."

*Name changed for anonymity



OUR IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS



FY23

AUDITED FINANCIALS

