

Anixtercenter

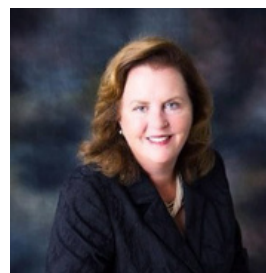
MEETING THE MOMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

20
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OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jonathan (Jon) Linas, Chair

Larry Markin, Chair-Elect

Eric Gastevich, Treasurer

Tanya Curtis, Secretary

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(retired)

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

To our Friends and Followers,

It has been my great honor to serve as Anixter Center's board chairperson this past year. As you may know, Anixter Center was born from the influenza pandemic of 1918 over a century ago. So, it is fitting that in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic dominated American life, Anixter Center saw fit to focus on its future goals through the development a multi-year strategic plan. Despite the pandemic's insistence that our concentration be centered on the present moment and its attendant challenges, Anixter Center still looked to define its future. And its future looks bright.

The agency could not have focused on its future if it was presently unwell. So much credit for the health of the agency today goes to Rebecca and the resilient, dedicated, and talented staff at Anixter, who continued safely providing many of the high-quality programs and services that our clients expect from us during the greatest public health crisis in a century. Everyone rallied when necessary to acquire and distribute PPE, to implement health and safety protocols, and to maintain compliance with an ever-changing array of state and local regulations and public health guidelines. It is fair to say the board of directors was able to fulfill its duties this past year—to envision, strategize, and advance the organization's mission—only because Anixter staff did so well at averting crises and addressing each pandemic-related challenge as it emerged.

Despite temporary program closures and some revenue losses caused by the pandemic, there is reason to believe Anixter Center will emerge from the pandemic stronger than when it began. Following several years of financial challenges compounded by inadequate State funding for our programs and services, Anixter Center is in the midst of a financial turn-around. Moreover, an agency-wide focus on measurable goals and quality standards has led to strong and sustained audit results and increased pride in our program delivery. Our board is energized as well, with several new members joining in the past year, each with a unique perspective and skill set. Our growing and changing board has inspired discussions about exciting new directions and possibilities for the organization that only a few years ago might have felt out of reach.

2020 left us on the doorstep of a strategic plan that will strengthen the agency by focusing our efforts on a defined set of ambitious yet achievable goals. We have so many reasons to be proud of this year's accomplishments, and to be equally optimistic about the organization's future. I hope you'll stay close and partner with us in our successes.

Warmly,

Jon Linas

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Dear Members of the Anixter Community,

It's safe to say the past year wasn't exactly what we had expected. We started this fiscal year immersed in the day-to-day safety of those we serve, hunkered down and isolated. And while there were challenging days, it was also a period of deep reflection and appreciation for what matters most: the people we support, our community, our supporters, and our mission.

You will read in several places within this report how well our team performed, facing COVID head-on and making sure the quality of our services remained high. We shifted our services to meet people safely and creatively, lending the support that was needed. And, thanks to our supporters, we met our challenges head on, realized new opportunities, and created a strategic path forward. We not only kept people safe, but we also advanced our mission. We were able to meet the moment and build for tomorrow.

So, while I cannot ignore the enormity of the challenges faced during these trying times, I can say proudly that Anixter "met the moment." Through hard work and commitment, we made enormous strides. We diversified our revenue streams. We grew many of our services. We served those who needed us most—directly in their communities. And throughout this, as we always have, we discussed issues of justice, equity, action, and inclusion.

In describing Anixter's growth and successes, I must put our supporters at the top of the list. Thank you for staying during these harder times. You are the reason we're able to change lives. I thank all of you for your faith in our work and mission.

Most gratefully,

Rebecca Clark
President & CEO

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OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR



Just two years ago, Anixter Center celebrated a century of service which allowed us to reflect on our historic past. A history steeped in supporting our community and in caring for children during a time of great need: the 1919 influenza pandemic. Little did we imagine that just a year later we would find ourselves in the throes of a 21st century global pandemic. Although this pandemic brought extraordinary challenges, we dug deep, worked tirelessly to help our neighbors and community, and remained committed to ***meeting the moment.***

This meant we put our priorities in order keeping the safety, health, and well-being of those we serve first. It was at the start of every day, every effort, every moment. In the thick of the pandemic, we worked round the clock, supported the community to ensure everyone had the help they needed, and maintained open communication with our stakeholders, all the while preparing for a time when our communities would re-open. We witnessed and participated in important conversations around social justice, equity, access, and inclusion. We completed a 3-year strategic plan that honors our legacy, builds a vision for tomorrow, and documents our efforts to support advocacy, inclusion, and belonging in every corner of our society.

The last year has certainly been a year unlike any other. But through hard work, and your unending support, we visualized a better tomorrow. In 100 years, history will look back and once again proclaim Anixter showed up for our community, our neighbors, and those in need of support. Anixter met the moment and triumphed.



PROGRESS AT ANIXTER BY THE NUMBERS AGENCY TOTALS, PEOPLE SERVED—

FY2017: 336 FY2018: 455 FY2019: 508 FY2020: 215

FY2021: 434

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CHICAGO HEARING SOCIETY

Contact: Karen Aguilar, Vice President of Communication Access, Chicago Hearing Society



"Despite the challenging times, CHS was able to continue to serve our Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing communities. We are honored that our supporters stood by our side as we provided safety planning for our domestic violence survivors; virtual sign language classes for parents, children and the community; interpreting in medical settings so that effective communication could occur; and audiology services so that we could stay connected."

- Karen Aguilar, Vice President of Communication Access

"I am extremely grateful for this program, because it has helped our family financially and, more importantly, it has provided the resources for him to be able to live a mainstream life. This organization made things easy without sacrificing quality. Our family will be forever grateful!"

- Roxanne, mother of Matteo, 100th recipient of Hear the Cheers



COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS BY THE NUMBERS:

Domestic Violence Services	48
Victims Assistance	36
Youth Connections (including Deaf Mentor program)	942
Interpreter Referral Services	574 customers
Audiology Services	1,142 customers
DeafBlind Services	228
Community Outreach and Advocacy	1,295
IL Dept of Corrections assessments	734
Amplified Telephone Program	57
Tax Program people served	137

DISABILITY SERVICES

Contact: Necole Mills, Vice President of Disability Services



"COVID made us stop and rethink our protocols to keep everyone safe. Staying connected to families, participants, and supporters was top priority. We did very well, considering the circumstances. We continue to work through the challenges COVID brings as a team and see success every day. This makes me feel really good about the work we are doing here at Anixter."

– Necole Mills, Vice President of Disability Services

Despite the challenges COVID brought to our participants, families, and team, we rose to the occasion. Here are some of our highlights over the last year:

- We supported people in their homes and their communities and saved lives through PPE, social distancing, and rigorous cleaning.
- Consistent communication key to keeping everyone connected: we initiated a newsletter and made use of online platforms like Zoom, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
- Engaging touchpoints allowed human connection to blossom: Created interactive photo albums for individuals and their families and kept families connected via Zoom.
- Put on a Zoom talent show for participants and staff! Issy R wowed everyone with his incredible guitar skills.
- We invested in our future: our Adult Community Transition (ACT) location in Highland Park received a makeover with new paint, carpeting, and bright spots of color.

DISABILITY SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

FY2017: 169 FY2018: 221 FY2019: 225 FY2020: 231

FY2021: 222



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Contact: Amy Bowers, Vice President of Behavioral Health



"I am able to engage my peers and feel safe. The Recovery Hub is an amazing place to come. I have found new meaning and hope."

-Larry B., program participant

"I am thankful for each moment for living my life. It has always been really rough for me but my good deeds always show my pure heart."

-Jersey J., program participant

Consistent contact and mutual support are critical for Behavioral Health Services, and COVID created many barriers for us. Nevertheless, we persisted and were able to continue to provide top-quality support. Here are some of our proud accomplishments:

- Grew Community Mental Health Services by over 68% this year
- Transitioned to telehealth services to continue therapeutic healing
- Supported members in their transition to independent living
- Provided affordable, accessible housing with supports for mental stability to 32 people in 4 settings

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

FY2017: 167 FY2018: 234 FY2019: 283 FY2020: 309

FY2021: 279



OUR DONORS

Support comes to us in many forms, and our donors are Anixter's life source. Along with the many wonderful individual supporters who keep us going, we acknowledge our corporate and foundation donors on this page.

AbbVie
Allegra Marketing Print & Mail
Alliant/Mesirow
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Center for Spine and Neurosurgery
American Century Investments Foundation
Anixter Center
APT Metrics
Banner Plumbing/We Fix H2O, Inc.
BDO
BMO Harris Bank
Bright Funds
Byline Bank
Cassona Home Furnishings and Accessories
Chicago Cooling Corporation
Chicago Fire Soccer
Chicago Wolves
City Wide Jani, Inc.
Closerlook
Colley Elevator Company
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Deloitte Services LP
Dovetail Brewery
Eagle Heating and Colling, Inc.
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Enjoy, An Urban General Store
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Executive Construction, Inc.
Exelon Corporation - CyberGrants
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Foundation for Hearing Loss & Speech Rehabilitation
Freund Family Foundation
Frontstream - United Way Worldwide
FSS Technologies
GE Foundation
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Holzheimer Fund
Howard Simon and Associates, Inc.
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IL Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Illinois Deaf Latino Association

In Fine Spirits
J. P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
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Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
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Kane County Cougars Foundation, Inc.
Kendra Scott
Kessler Foundation
Knights of Columbus Palatine Council #4977
Knowles Electronics, Inc.
Koval Distillery
KPMG Gives (c/o Bergen County United Way)
Kreider Services
Lendr
Les Mills International
LK Enterprises, Inc.
Mario Garcia Landscaping Inc.
Markoff Law, LLC
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Med-El Corporation
Merrill Lynch Private Wealth Group
Metro Chicago
Mills Family Charitable Foundation
MMA Construction Inc.
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Music Box Theatre
NASH Disability Law
Neiger Design, Inc.
Network for Good
Neuberger Berman Foundation
NIU Student Academy of Audiology
Northwestern Memorial Healthcare
Patricia Locke Ltd.
PAWS Chicago
Performance Mailing
Polk Bros. Foundation
Quarles & Brady LLC
Rally4aCause
Ravensgoods
Raygun
Regal Webster Place
Retired Members of Local 134
Rothman Family Foundation
Rothschild Agency, Inc.
Saint Clement Church
Salesforce Tower
Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation
Sherman Plastics Corporation
Sorenson Communications, Inc.

OUR FINANCES

Unwavering financial oversight and attentive data monitoring, along with other actions, keep Anixter Center compliant and positioned for continued health. While the State of Illinois continues to struggle, Anixter proudly exercises sound fiscal policies, diversifying revenue streams and exploring new means for achieving growth.

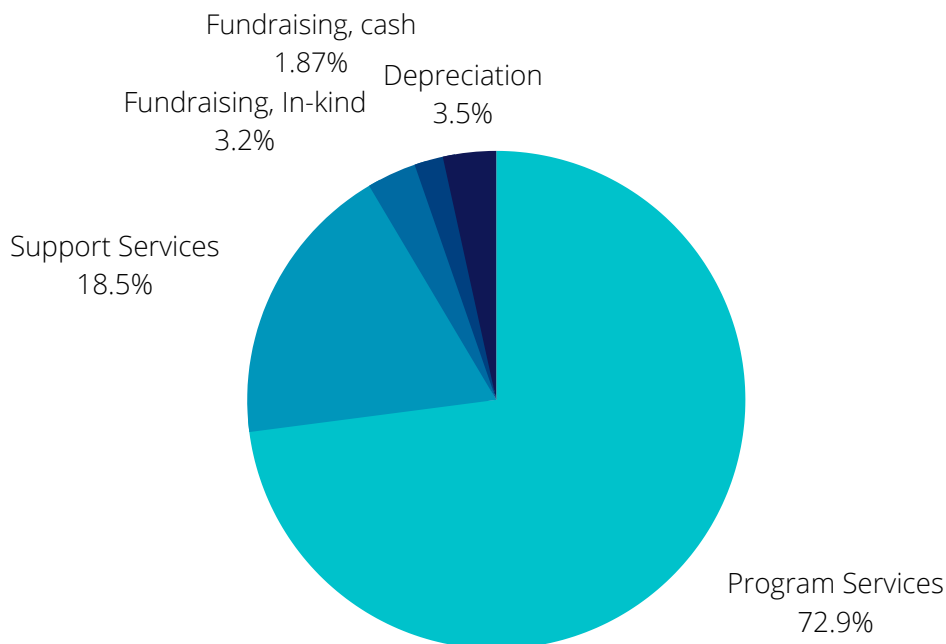
SUMMARY OF AUDITED FY20 FINANCIALS

Total expenses \$17,564,568

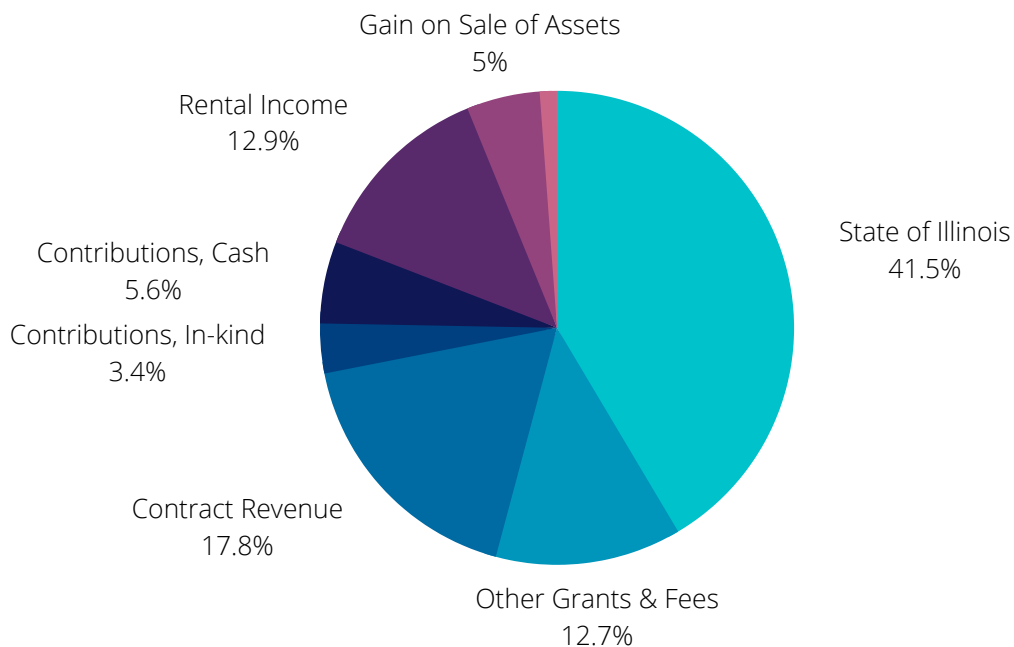
Total revenue \$16,230,336

Total net assets \$10,736,777

EXPENSES



REVENUE



Anixtercenter

MEETING THE MOMENT



Our Mission: To provide an array of services for people with disabilities and related challenges to live, learn, work, and play in the community.

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