



Anixtercenter

The ability to soar™



ANIXTER CENTER 2019 GRATITUDE REPORT

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

Celebrating a Century of Service



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To All our Anixter Supporters and Friends:

As we continue into our second 100 years, we are eternally grateful for the support of our friends over the past century. When we gathered the photos and clippings from those early years for our 100-year gala, it was heartwarming to see the decades of support from such generous patrons. The Anixter Family and Foundation has been a steadfast supporter for all this time, not only with their substantial financial support, but also with their participation in our Board and other Committees. The Silberman Family and the Jack Erlich Family also were instrumental in developing Anixter into the multi-service organization we are today and introduced Anixter to their many friends and colleagues.

Our volunteers over the years have also given countless hours of their time and more importantly have made significant impact on our clients. These volunteers have brought our clients to their homes for dinner, helped them read, taken them on field trips and visits to their doctors, and have brought joy to individuals who need it most. Our gratitude to these volunteers is more than I can express.

And we certainly could not provide the services we do without our dedicated and loving staff. Choosing a career in social services requires a truly special person who is not driven by substantial wealth. Our staff and management are committed to making a positive difference in people who need it the most, and it is so evident when you watch the interaction between our staff and clients. The patience and love they show is humbling, and we are eternally grateful for their commitment and dedication. We are committed to continue to serve the most forgotten and underfunded people in our community and look forward to your working with us to accomplish this support.

With warmest regards,

Mary

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

So, why a theme of gratitude? With all that's happening in the world—the uncertainties, crises, and all the everyday challenges—why would we opt to characterize our 2019 as a year of gratitude?

The truth is, we at Anixter consider ourselves incredibly lucky to do the work we do. As I hope the images, statements, and reports that follow will attest, we derive immeasurable inspiration each day from those we serve. We feel their struggles and we share their progress every step of the way. Our work is truly a gift to us.

And then there is you. Without your friendship and support, the reality is that Anixter wouldn't exist. As Anixter moves forward increasing and diversifying our sources of support, we recognize more each day how marvelous it is that you believe in us. The investment you make in Anixter has a ripple effect and is felt in every corner of our network.

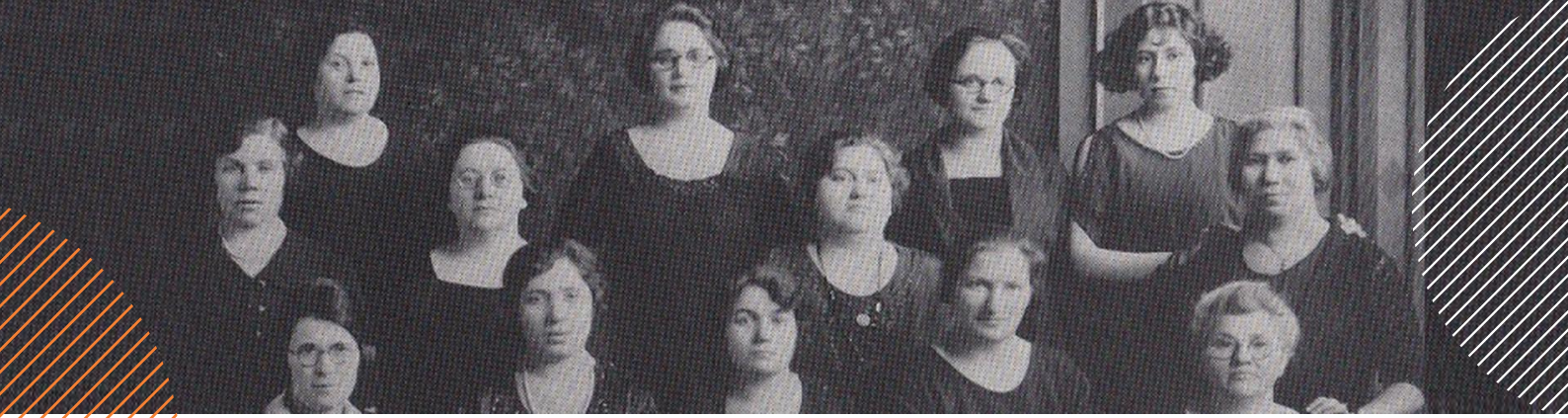
2019 was all about celebrating the milestones and accomplishments of our first century of service. After the receptions, the toasts, and the proud smiles, we turn to you—the people who breathe life into Anixter through your generosity. So, let's consider the 2019 Annual Report an expression of our gratitude—and our tribute to you!

With deepest thanks,

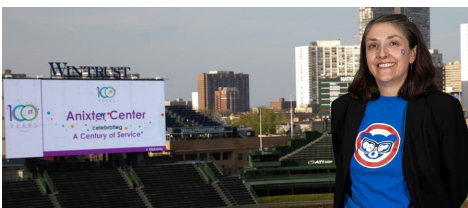
Rebecca

PS—As you probably have figured out, this Annual Report for 2019 is created a few months into 2020. While it might make sense to incorporate discussion of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have opted to present this somewhat scaled down report providing only details and statistics from the year just completed.





THE WISDOM THAT COMES WITH 100 YEARS OF SERVICE.



By now, you have all heard our story. What is today the Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center was launched in 1919 to meet the needs of children who had been orphaned by the Spanish Influenza pandemic. Over time, Anixter evolved to meet the needs of people with various disabilities, eventually specializing in serving adults, mostly. We added bold new job-training and customized learning programs over time, developing person-centered approaches focused on the real, individual needs and interests of those we serve. We believe in engagement and integration, and offer programs designed to inspire social interaction and inclusion. Anixter's philosophy avoids anything resembling the warehousing of people—we do all we can to celebrate individuality, helping each member live her or his best life. We watch for small personal triumphs just as readily as we measure performance and impact in our programs.

At Anixter, our programs are grouped into three divisions—developmental disabilities, behavioral disabilities, and communications access—and more than half of our participants receive services or participate in programs that straddle more than one division. It is imperative that our team members be open and responsive to each person. This is how progress is made and how goals are met.

Following our first century of service, Anixter continues to apply what we have learned. An organization like ours must adapt to the times and changing needs brought about by things like technology and shifting social attitudes. We are flexible and responsive in helping each person individually. And we listen.





thank you



CHICAGO HEARING SOCIETY

is a division of Anixter Center that has provided vital services to thousands of deaf and hard of hearing Chicagoans since 1916.

"The most gratifying part of my job is being in a position to not only offer services and programs to those who otherwise would have no place to turn, but being able to effect systemic change, both on a local and national level. For example, CHS serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing offenders in Department of Corrections facilities, parents whose children are Deaf, Domestic Violence survivors, the DeafBlind Community, people who have lost their hearing, children who are Deaf and so many more. Our services can start when a baby is born and continue until the child is 100+ years old! CHS isn't providing services and support on just a one-on-one basis, we are working to improve policies with local police, collaborating with national organizations to analyze sign language interpreter services and creating trainings for our staff, clients, and freelance interpreters. We do this with the support of so many donors, staff, volunteers and supporters."

-Karen Aguilar, Director, Chicago Hearing Society



"CHOICES for Parents is dedicated to connecting families of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals with resources, advocacy, information, services, and support. In FY 2020 we were able to provide our services to over 3,000 clients! Our most requested area of support is sign language instruction, so, to respond to that demand, we now have a variety of classes for children and adults available online with more requests coming in daily. We've also been able to provide personalized deaf adult mentoring services to over 40 families through the year through our Connections program. We recently acquired additional grant funds and are looking forward to supporting more families through case management, READ Kits, Children & Hearing Loss Resource Notebook, Connections Mentor Program, sign language classes, hearing technology resources, and various child, youth, and family events throughout the year! We're excited to see what the next year has in store for us!"

-Karla Giese, Coordinator, CHOICES for Parents at Chicago Hearing Society



Communication Access (Chicago Hearing Society)

Participants

CHOICES for Parents	476
Domestic Violence Services	27
Social Services & Advocacy	739
Victim Assistance	28
Youth Programs	1,326
Interpreter Referral Services	1,974
Audiology: Hearing Health Clinic/Hearing Aid Bank	1,939



DISABILITY SERVICES

We have so much to offer adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities through person-centered programs ranging from residential facilities to literacy to employment and jobs readiness.

"The move to the new building has made a tremendous difference. Environment is everything sometimes. Now the clients have a comfortable and cozy space to take part in groups and socialize with their peers. They are proud of the space and take really good care of it.

All of our clients, regardless of their limitations, are getting this opportunity on a regular basis and they just love it. They are being told "Yes you can go" instead of "No you can't go". Many of the clients I serve are experiencing events for the first time in their lives. They are exploring museums, enjoying art, going to zoos, gardens, navigating stores and even neighborhoods. They are getting exposed to all of the opportunities their community has to offer instead of just waiting around for what is offered to them."

-Anne Lank, Program Manager, Community Resources and Support



Disability Services

Participants

Adult Community Transition (ACT) Services	16
Community Resources & Support (CRS)	128
Jack Ehrlich Literacy Program	44
Employment Programming	169
Intermittent Residential Support Services (ICILA)	36
24 Hour Supervised Residential Settings (CILA)(10 settings)	44



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In this division, Anixter offers vital programs addressing an array of mental health challenges. Here, our participants access support, reinforcement, and hope.



"The welcome we have received from the community has been more than we could have ever anticipated. New members and those that tour the space make comments such as, 'This type of program is so needed!', and 'We've been looking for a place like this!' The response to our opening has been incredibly validating that these supports are not just needed but also deeply desired by the community."

Collectively, our mental health department is growing to be incredibly innovative and dynamic, and I believe we are setting ourselves up for tremendous growth and advancement as a provider of mental health services. "

- Kristin Williams, Manager, Recovery Hub

"I love watching our members enrich their lives with learning opportunities, socialization, community integration and employment and I love supporting our staff and interns to develop their skills to provide progressive, and supportive therapeutic services

I went to "Mariano's" to purchase program supplies and observed one of members working, she was bagging someone's groceries with a smile and she had the most polite attitude; I was happy to know that the services she's received here at Anixter Center has empowered her to work in the community and provide excellent customer service."

-Charita Graham, Director, Mental Health Day Services

Behavioral Health Programming.

Participants

Community Mental Health Services	60
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs	214
Intermittent Residential Support Services (case mngt.)	6
24-Hour Supervised Residential Settings (3 settings)	28



DONORS

We love and appreciate all of our donors, including the many individuals whose support keeps us going. Space in this year's abbreviated Annual Report limits us to listing corporate and foundation donors. Our hearty thanks to everyone!

"We're proud and happy to support Anixter's long-standing mission of bringing support, hope, and healing to those most in need in Chicago."
—Anixter Donors Karl & Gayle M.

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Every day is a little bit better at Anixter and every day we all have a little more hope. Our work is almost entirely “in the moment”—our team is present on site for those who rely on us. We cannot work from home or put off our responsibilities. Indeed, we are the sole providers of support for many Chicagoans with disabilities.

To ensure consistent and regular delivery of our programs, the behind-the-scenes team needs to be thinking ahead and planning at all times. You’ll be seeing more communications from us reminding you of how much your support matters. We will continue to inform you of our successes and our needs, hoping that you will be able to support us as you have done in the past.

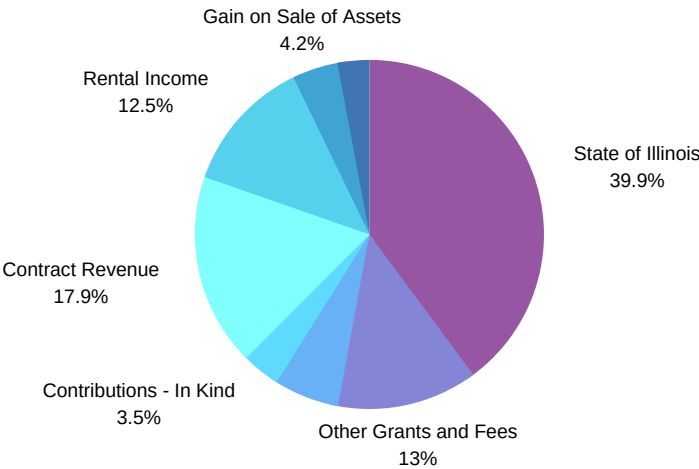
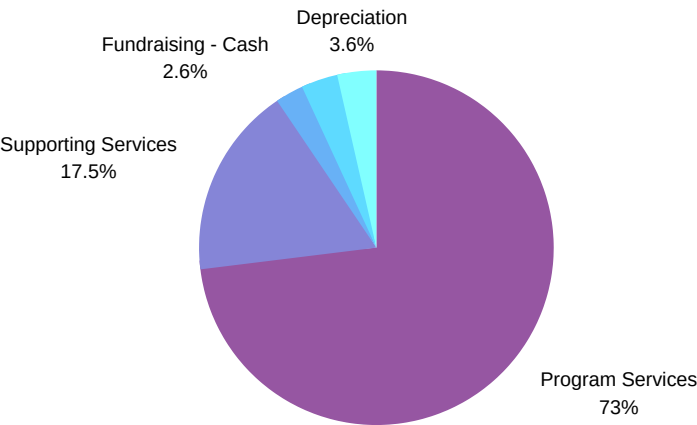
We are making progress at Anixter. 100 years is itself a major accomplishment and we are very proud to have withstood the tests of time. The future is always uncertain and we have renewed our commitment to doing our best. We hope you will stay tuned and stay involved.

SUMMARY OF FINANCES - FY2019

Total expenses	\$18,050,663
Total revenue	\$16,948,346
Total net assets	\$12,313,438

Total Operational Expenses: \$18,050,663

Total Operational Revenue: \$16,977,456





Our mission statement: 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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