

Anixtercenter

Transforming Expectations.



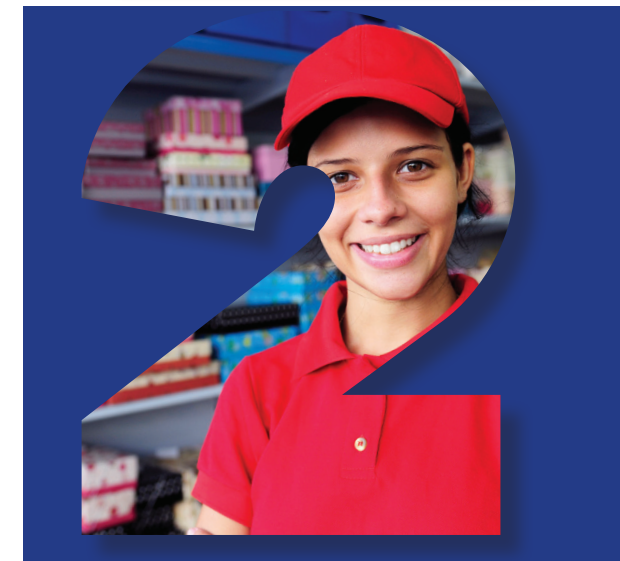
Anixter Center began as an orphanage for children who lost their parents during the global pandemic in 1919. More than 100 years later, Anixter serves over 7,500 Chicagoland community members through more than 30 programs.

To learn more about Anixter's Disability Services, Employment Services, and Mental Health Services
Visit: www.anixter.org

Connect at: Facebook (Anixter Center) and Instagram (@AnixterCenter)
1945 W. Wilson Ave., Suite 3000 | Chicago, IL 60640 | (773) 973-7900 | Email: AskAnixter.org

To learn more Anixter's Chicago Hearing Society (CHS)
Visit: www.ChicagoHearingSociety
Connect at : Facebook (ChicagoHearingSociety) and Instagram (@ChicagoHearingSociety)
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(773) 248-9121 | Videophone: (773) 904-0154 | Email: AskCHS@anixter.org

Anixtercenter



IMPACT REPORT

A Message From Sam.



I am grateful and deeply proud of the unwavering dedication and generosity of those who support Anixter Center. Your commitment and connection to us enable our mission to enhance lives, promote inclusion, and strengthen our community.

This impact report reflects the collective effort across Anixter. Connection is central to our work, and throughout 2025 we valued the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with our donors, community partners, and extraordinary team members — each of whom lives our mission every day. Whether supporting individuals with disabilities, promoting

Commitment. Connection. Community.

mental health and overall well-being, ensuring communication access for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing, or helping service line recipients find employment, your generosity enables us to continue Transforming Expectations. Our clients remain at the heart of everything we do. Please join me in celebrating all we have achieved together.

2025 Highlights

- Community partners, dignitaries and Alderpeople joined Anixter in celebrating our grand opening of the HUB location in Uptown. The renovated space offers a calm, welcoming environment designed with client well-being in mind.
- We completed a full update of our Wilson office to reflect who we are today grounded in our Mission, Vision, and Values.
- CHS received a prestigious award from The Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences for their ground-breaking work with the Caption with Intention initiative rooted in synchronization, intonation and character attribution and draws on detailed feedback from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing audiences.

“We believe every person deserves the opportunity to thrive, contribute meaningfully, and experience true belonging.”

— Samantha Handley

- CHS was also featured in Forbes and WGN News for the Caption with Intention initiative.
- The Chicago Hearing Society provided over 20,000 hours of interpreter services, educated 2,191 seniors about hearing loss and prevention, served 2,074 patients through our Medicaid-supported audiology clinic, mentored more than 1,725 Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing children across Illinois, and delivered information, case management, and referrals to 724 clients, and 488 adults enrolled in CHS Sign Language Classes (SLC).
- Our Choice and Legacy Disability Day Programs provided over 12,684 experiences for people in need of our services in 2025.
- Our Employment Team increased cross-program collaboration, to provide holistic, person-centered support across service lines. By partnering with local businesses, the team expanded employment pathways, and supported more than 160 individuals with disabilities in achieving meaningful employment and on-the-job success.

Whether it's access to disability services, communication, mental health support, safe housing, or meaningful employment, each service at Anixter affirms our core belief that everyone deserves what they need to live fully.

As we look ahead, we are preparing to take bold steps, building on our strong foundation and continuing to expand our brand and mission to reflect even more powerfully the clients and communities we serve.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Handley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Samantha Handley
President and Chief Executive Officer

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2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Because of you...

Because of you — people within the disability community participated in life experiences.

- The Jack Ehrlich Literacy Program volunteers delivered 592 hours of tutoring to help individuals increase their reading levels
- The Day program worked with 80 individuals to improve their life skills, participate in recreational and community volunteering, and travel around Chicago
- 52 residents were supported through our Residential Service program

Because of you — employment candidates found jobs throughout the Chicagoland area.

- More than 160 candidates secured employment, by working with our employment specialists on resume development, job searching, mock interviews, onsite interview support and job coaching.

Because of you — people experiencing mental health issues were able to receive the support they needed.

- 25 residents were supported through our Mental Health program.
- 3,488 visits to the Hub by 108 clients
- 6,822 outpatient service experiences provided for 317 clients
- 583 service experiences for 56 clients

Because of you — people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing are finding their voices, building independence, and discovering true community through the Chicago Hearing Society (CHS)

- Provided technology, training, and support to 138 DeafBlind individuals
- Delivered information, case management, and referrals to 724 clients
- Serve 2,074 patients through our Medicaid-supported audiology clinic
- Educated 2,191 seniors on hearing loss and prevention
- Mentored 1,725 Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing children across Illinois
- Delivered approximately 20,000 hours of interpreting services

CHS

A Division of
Anixtercenter

CHS is dedicated to creating positive change while strengthening communities and inspiring a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive world.



For more than 100 years, CHS has been providing communication access; hearing and assistive technologies; and support services for persons who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing. CHS offers:

- Community-related programs that provide services for thousands of people of all ages yearly
- Sign language classes for adults, youth, and families
- Training, education, consulting, and corporate partnerships
- Youth and Family mentoring and advocacy services
- DeafBlind Community case management, instruction, and technology program



Baxter's World Opens with CHS

At eleven months, Baxter was diagnosed with mild to moderate bilateral hearing loss. His audiologists in Kentucky approached his hearing and speech problems as “needing to be fixed.” Their “solution” was hearing aids for life, and listening and spoken language speech therapy —when what Baxter really needed was advocacy, access, and people who would meet him where he was.

As a result, in 2023, they made the decision to move back to Chicago so Baxter could attend Bell School, once known for its 50% Deaf student population. Bell is ASL-inclusive, with Deaf instructors on staff.

After they arrived, they also began exploring American Sign Language (ASL) classes and resources for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children. “Multiple people mentioned Chicago Hearing Society (CHS). I was impressed that they not only offered ASL classes but also IEP advocacy and family support services. I will never forget my first call with Maddie from CHS. I told her I wanted Baxter to have access to ASL and attend Bell Elementary’s DHH program so he could be among peers and not feel “othered.” It was the first time someone truly understood

what I wanted for my son — and validated it. She supported us through Baxter’s IEP process, and thanks to her advocacy, he was placed in the DHH preschool program at Bell. Through CHS, we received ASL instruction and connected with a Deaf mentor who visits our home to work with us in ASL and help us integrate with and appreciate Deaf culture,” Baxter’s mom stated. “The impact of CHS transformed our lives,” Baxter’s mom continued, “they provided validation, acceptance, and a celebration of learning. They took the time to understand our priorities for Baxter. They opened a whole new world of options, community, and culture.”

“I’m so proud of Baxter — and of us — we wanted the best for our son,” said Baxter’s mom. “Now Baxter has a full signing vocabulary. He is starting to try oral speech, too, but most importantly, he can express himself and connect with others. The Deaf mentor program has been life-changing — it gave us not just language, but belonging.”

In conclusion, Baxter’s mom said, “I am proud to have a Deaf child, I love ASL, and am passionate about disability advocacy. CHS has made our lives better, and I cannot imagine our lives without them.”

Anixtercenter Disability Services

We recognize that every person is important and unique. We work hand-in-hand together with our program participants to determine which services and supports best meets their needs and goals..



Anixter's Disability Services are focused on improving the lives and well-being of our program participants and are designed to enhance their quality of life. The services we offer include:

- Day Services
- Employment Services
- The Jack Ehrlich Literacy Program
- Residential Services

Our wide variety of services and programs ensures that each person thrives and lives as independently as possible with the highest level of community involvement and participation.



Virginia Weinmann Continues to Persist and Thrive

In 2021, Virginia Weinmann reached out to the Anixter Literacy Program after leaving Truman College and joined our program reading at a 4th-grade level — and now she's reading at a 6th-grade level (as measured by the Illinois-mandated Slosson Oral Reading Test).

Virginia approaches learning with incredible tenacity. She independently accesses Zoom for her weekly tutoring sessions, and always completes her homework. Because of her commitment, she earned one of Anixter Literacy's highly coveted seats in *Burlington English's* virtual classroom, a resource limited to just six learners.

Over the last two years, Virginia has completed more than ten certification classes in Early Childhood Education (ECE) course work and has advanced her career from babysitting in her mom's house to Childcare Assistant.

Her goal is to advance from Childcare Assistant to Lead Childcare Teacher, and she's well on her way. She recently landed a full position at Crown Daycare — and was hired on the spot!

Virginia's achievements are extensive. She launched her profile on [sittercity.com](https://www.sittercity.com) and [care.com](https://www.care.com) in 2022 to give her an income and financial independence. She has also completed Illinois Gateways early childhood educator coursework. She is scheduled to complete CPR training, and food-handling certification — making her an outstanding candidate for any childcare center. Virginia's ultimate goal is to own and run her own daycare center.

Virginia's accomplishments, resilience, courageous, and unstoppable spirit she embodies what it means to set high goals and pursue them with heart.

Anixtercenter Employment Services

Anixter doesn't just support job seekers and employers — we empower them. Through a journey shaped by passion and purpose, we help candidates, employers and the Chicagoland business community thrive.



At the heart of Anixter's employment program is a belief: that every person has unique talents waiting to be unlocked. Candidates are supported through:

- Career Exploration
- Resume Assistance
- Interview Preparation

Creating a workplace culture of Inclusion

With more than 100 years of experience and more than 300 business partners, we are your trusted source for becoming Disability Forward.

Whether you need to execute an existing plan or find the right strategy to get there, we will work together to deliver tangible and sustainable results.

Bridging Support Systems: How Collaboration Led to Isaiah's Success.

When Isaiah was referred to our employment program by his mental health therapist, Latoya, he was ready for a change but unsure where to begin. After leaving his previous jobs due to experiencing mental health challenges, Isaiah had been independently searching for work but navigating new employment on his own was overwhelming, stressful, and exhausting.

Isaiah was referred to Anixter's Employment Services program by his therapist, Latoya, in March 2025. Latoya collaborated with Masiya, an Employment Specialist connecting clients to employment opportunities. Masiya and Latoya maintained communication as Isaiah was job searching, constantly discussing progress, challenges, providing wraparound support services. Working with his employment specialist, Isaiah approached every new opportunity with openness and determination. Through close collaboration between

his therapist, his employment specialist, and a community partner, Isaiah received the support he needed to move forward. Together, they helped identify opportunities that matched his skills and goals, leading him to secure a job in three months as a Security Officer with Titan Security.

A quote from Isaiah: "Having a job again has helped me feel more confident and better about myself. It keeps me occupied and gives me the chance to see my friends more. It's been a really positive change in my life."

Isaiah's achievements reflect the heart of our mission, to provide services that enhance lives, promote inclusivity, and strengthen community. His journey is more than an individual milestone; it represents the meaningful differences in our services as we strive to create the inclusive world we envision.



Anixtercenter Mental Health Services

Anixter's Mental Health program is focused on the client's well-being. With personalized mental health services tailored to their goals, we support them through their journey of achieving optimal mental health.



We offer in-person and virtual mental health services for individuals of all ages, including:

- Case Management
- Therapy & Counseling (Individual, Couples, Family, and Group)
- Group Skill-Building
- Employment Services
- Languages offered in English or Spanish.
- American Sign Language (ASL) Deaf counseling and ASL counseling available

In-person or virtual support is provided for youth ages 8-18 who are experiencing emotional or mental health concerns, involved in, or at risk of involvement with the justice system.

In addition, we offer specialized support for:

- Individuals with disabilities.
- People who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing.



How Coping Skills Led to Paula's Success and Many Directions.

Paula has been part of Anixter's community mental health program for 19 years. When she first sought services, she was struggling with low self-esteem rooted in a difficult relationship, which affected her confidence and her ability to interact with others.

Paula wanted help understanding her thoughts, emotions, and reactions, and she was motivated to learn healthier ways to respond to life's challenges.

Through individual counseling and group participation, Paula began to build a stronger sense of self-worth. She gained insight into her behaviors, developed coping skills, and learned how to navigate relationships more effectively.

As her confidence grew, Paula took an important step forward by enrolling in Anixter's Employment Services.

With ongoing support, she secured employment and began working toward her GED.

Over the years, Paula has faced additional challenges, but she has not faced them alone. She has continued to rely on Anixter for support and has consistently drawn on the coping strategies, resilience, and positive self-belief she developed through services. Today, Paula is better equipped to manage stress, advocate for herself, and move forward with confidence.

Paula's journey reflects the lasting impact of consistent, person-centered mental health services — helping individuals build resilience, achieve meaningful goals, and sustain progress over time.



Anixter Center Board Members: Whitney Mercilus, Kimberly Harris-Mooring, and Steve Parker



The Hub grand opening

Dear Community of Friends,

Our progress this year was made possible by the unwavering support of our donors, partners, board members, volunteers, and community advocates. Your belief in Anixter’s mission continues to fuel our growth and impact.

We were delighted to welcome Whitney Mercilus, Kimberly Harris-Mooring, and Steve Parker to Anixter’s Board of Directors, strengthening our leadership and vision for the future.

In April, we opened the Anixter Center Hub—a free, accessible space for individuals 18 and older to connect, participate in activities, and access mental health support.



The Anixter Experience: Roaring into Transformation
Natalia Vera, Maria Hadden, Honoree,
and Samantha Handley, CEO

More than 200 guests attended our annual gala, ***The Anixter Experience: Roaring into Transformation***, where we honored Alderwoman Maria Hadden for her advocacy for inclusion. The event raised more than \$320,000 to support critical programs and services. Year-end campaigns, including Giving Tuesday and the Annual Appeal, generated an additional \$174,180 to help meet annual goals and address urgent needs.

As we look ahead, we are excited to expand our fundraising through new events, including a Golf Outing and a Pickleball Tournament.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership, which makes our mission possible.

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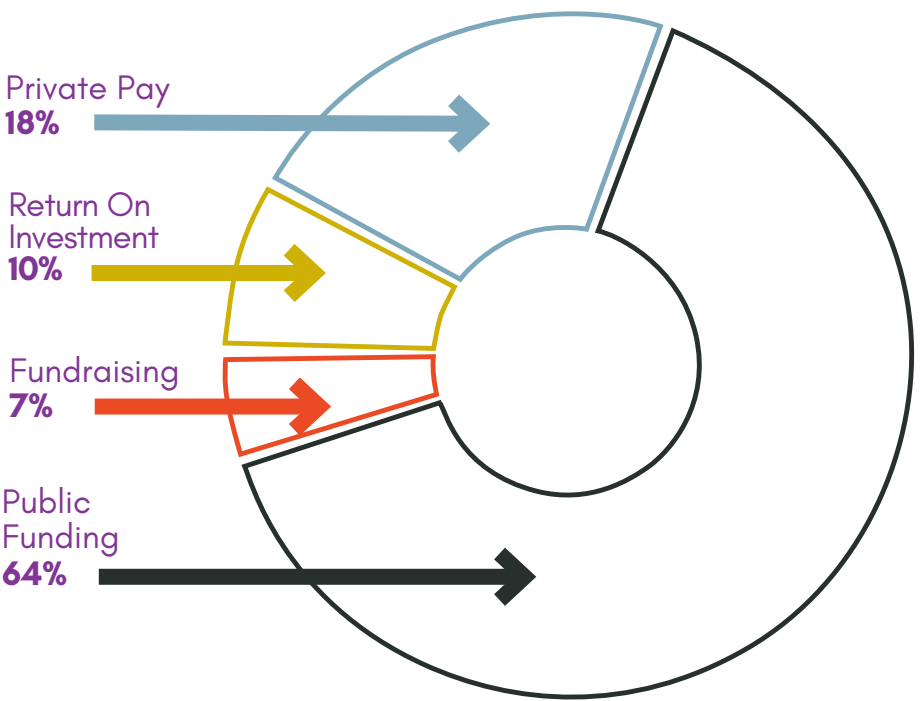
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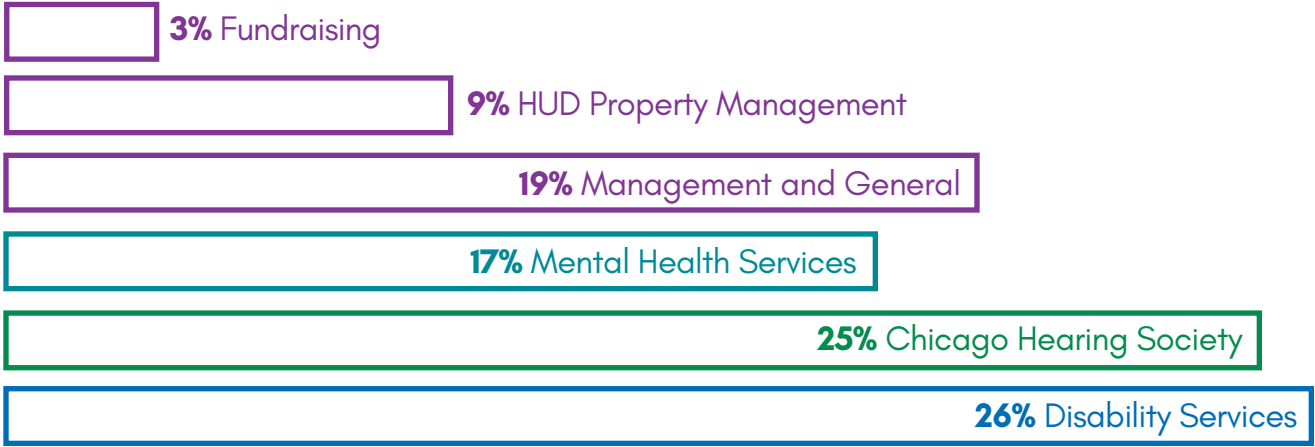
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2025
YOUR IMPACT
AT A GLANCE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$23,334,429



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$21,472,427



Because of your support, Anixter Center is able to fulfill its mission and provide services that enhance lives, promote inclusivity and strengthen community.

OUR MISSION

Anixter’s mission is to provide services that enhance lives, promote inclusivity and strengthen community.

VALUES

Win Together. We work as one team to maximize Anixter’s impact.

Elevate Anixter’s mission. We put the needs of the people we serve at the heart of everything we do.

Act with integrity. We demonstrate transparency and adhere to the highest ethical practices in all that we do.

Respect all. We believe we are better when each of us feels valued and accepted for who we are.

Excellence through innovation. We encourage curiosity, challenge assumptions, and ask “why”?

OUR VISION

We envision a world where access, opportunity, and belonging are realized by everyone.

We Are