CAL’s Mission Statement

The Mission of the Center for Accessible Living is to assist in providing an environment that supports individuals with disabilities in attaining independent living and the right to choose his or her personal degree of independence: This includes, but is not limited to the following activities:

- Advocating for the expansion of the range of independent living options available to citizens with disabilities;
- Educating service and housing providers, public officials, and the general public as to the needs of citizens with disabilities;
- Administering programs to assist people with disabilities in seeking and obtaining an independent lifestyle;
- Identifying unmet needs for programs and services as expressed by citizens with disabilities, and working cooperatively with people with disabilities and other organizations and agencies to meet these needs;
- Advocating for the full exercise of the statutory and constitutional rights of citizens with disabilities;
- Educating members of legislative bodies on issues of importance to citizens with disabilities;
- Performing all other actions which advance the mission of the Center.

From the Executive Director

I respectfully submit to you this annual report on behalf of the Center for Accessible Living. This report covers the period from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. It was a very successful year for the Center: a year of growth, a year of opportunities, a year of challenges successfully met.

On Page 3 of this report, you will find the annual financial report for the Center. Despite the fact that expenses slightly exceeded income for the year, the Center remains on very solid financial footing. Pages 4 and 5 focus on the Center’s Programs and Services, highlighting particular successes in advocacy, transition, peer support, interpreting, and housing assistance.

Pages 6 through 7 provide a glimpse of the people the Center serves. Several stories of individual successes are featured from all areas the Center serves. Every day staff in Louisville, Bowling Green and Murray assist individuals in realizing more independent lives of their own choosing.

The Center’s dedicated staff and the Board of Directors are featured on Page 8.

I hope you enjoy this glimpse of another successful year for the Center. There are more successes to come in the year ahead.

Jan Day, Executive Director
# The Financial Year in Review

**October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018**

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<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<table>
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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**  
($75) ($8,828) ($8,903)

**NETS ASSETS ON OCT. 1, 2017**  
$85,374 $29,385 $114,759

**NET ASSETS ON SEPT. 30, 2018**  
$85,299 $20,557 $105,856
Advocacy: Placard Bill Passes

After years of effort by advocates, the Disability Placard Bill was passed by the 2018 General Assembly. CAL Director of Advocacy David Allgood, along with many other advocates in the state, was instrumental in working with legislators to get the bill passed. The bill creates a $10 charge for a second placard if an individual wants one (the first one remains free). It ties the placard to the person, not the vehicle, and occupational therapists and physical therapists can now issue temporary placards. The renewal cycle has been extended from two to six years. In the picture to the right, David and Board Member Tom Stokes attend the bill signing ceremony in Frankfort.

Transition & Peer Support: YES! Grows

2018 was a year of growth for the Youth Empowered Self-Advocates (YES!) Program. In the 2017-2018 School Year, seven Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) hosted YES! meetings monthly. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation agreed to support the further expansion of YES! to include 11 JCPS Schools. YES! will start going into the three Bullitt County high schools in 2019. In July, CAL staff presented on YES! at the 2018 National Council for Independent Living Annual Conference in Washington, DC. At the Conference, CAL staff Tyler Levy (left), Donna Fox (second from right) and Paul Graber (right) met disability rights icon Judith Heumann.

Interpreting and Deaf Services: Signing with Santa

In December of 2017, the Interpreting and Deaf services departments at CAL worked together to coordinate Signing with Santa. The event was open to the public. Santa Claus was Deaf used sign language. It was wonderful event for the Deaf community and for Deaf children in the area to be able to tell Santa what they would like for Christmas without ANY language barriers. Most Deaf children would normally have to go to a mall or store to see Santa, but unfortunately most of the time they cannot communicate with Santa directly. Because of CAL, these children were able to communicate and get their picture taken with him! The event was also a great way for the Deaf community to gather and enjoy each other’s company. It was such a success that, in 2018, CAL will be adding food, games, and raffle prizes!
Programs and Services

Housing: CAL to Partner on Housing Grant

In September, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority was among 285 local public housing authorities to be awarded federal funding for vouchers to provide permanent affordable housing to low-income residents with disabilities. The grant from the HUD 2018 Mainstream Voucher program will provide 107 vouchers annually to persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. CAL, along with Wellspring and Volunteers of America, will provide referrals for the vouchers and assist with a timely transition to a housing unit and access to supportive services and supports. CAL Housing Coordinator Lee Ann Thomas (pictured at right) will work on the grant.

Other 2018 Program Highlights:

- Five CAL consumers are participating in the Assets for Independence Individual Development Account (IDA) Program operated by the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV). Under the program, they will save $1,000 and receive a match of $4,000. The savings and match can be to help with post-secondary education, self-employment expenses or the purchase of a home.
- CAL is a participant in the Ramp Up Kentucky program of the KATS Network. Funded by the Reeve Foundation, the program supplies portable ramps to 16 KATS Network partners for loan to individuals with disabilities for temporary use until more permanent solutions can be arranged. CAL has portable ramps for loan in Louisville, Bowling Green and Murray. To date, CAL Bowling Green is the most active lender of all 16 locations.
- Build the Future Workshops were conducted monthly (except in the summer) and covered a variety of daily living and employment topics including ‘Money for the Real World,’ ‘What Kind of Job Do You Want,’ ‘College Options,’ and ‘Dating and Relationships,’ among other things. Presenters included staff from the Human Development Institute, Fifth Third Bank and SHRM and instructors from Bellarmine University. Attendance ranged from 20 to a high of 75. Independence University, an annual crash course in skills and information needed to live independently, was held in June with 25 consumers attending.

Services by the Numbers

Core IL Services

⇒ Advocacy - 323 individuals served
⇒ Information and Referral - 3,126
⇒ Peer Mentoring and Support - 30
⇒ Independent Living Skills Training - 650
⇒ Transition Services - 155

Other Services and Programs

⇒ Personal Care Attendant Services (PCAP) - 147
⇒ Employment Services - 22
⇒ Housing Assistance - 30
⇒ Rampbuilders Program - 35 ramps installed
⇒ Work Incentive Planning Services - 465 referrals

with 222 receiving intensive services
Bowling Green: The First Apartment

At the age of 28, Kent Madison was anxious to move out on his own. Disabled when hit by a drunk driver when he was 17, he felt he was ready to live independently. His family wasn’t so sure, so he turned to CAL-Bowling Green staff Melanie Piazza and Lindsay Jones for help. They helped him get a copy of his birth certificate, change his power of attorney, write a living will, complete a housing application, and apply for SNAP and para-transit, among other things. They also helped him arrange more consistent, reliable and qualified personal assistance services. In September, he moved into his very first apartment at Bowling Green Towers. Recently, Kent was having trouble using a conventional key lock, so Melanie and Lindsay arranged for Lowe’s to donate a keypad entry system for $1.00 (it normally sells for $150). Kent is extremely happy to be living independently.

Northern Kentucky: Getting the Vote Out

CAL Northern Kentucky staff person Rene Thompson was very involved in Rev Up, the effort to help individuals with disabilities register and vote. She helped shape some of the questions for candidates Kentucky voters with disabilities could use to make informed decisions, signed up new voters, transported voters with disabilities to the polls, and was able to provide Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and the Secretary of State’s office with feedback about accessibility in voting in the Northern Kentucky area. Rene was on the National Advisory Board for Rev Up and served as the designated Kentucky state contact. Rene is pictured at an event on National Voter Registration Day (September 25th) with Secretary of State Allison Lundegran Grimes (center) and Peggy Thompson of New Perceptions, Inc. (left).

Murray: On to College!

Miricle Clark is 20 years old and has been a consumer with the Murray satellite office since 2015. Satellite Office Manager Carrissa Johnson has met with her regularly at Calloway County High School over the years and worked on different independent living skills. When she started with CAL Murray, Miricle was unsure if she could ever live independently away from home. Having similar disabilities, Carrissa was able to provide the peer support needed to help Miricle achieve her goals of attending Murray State University and living on campus. Through help from the center, Miricle was able to get assistance with attendant care. Staff also set up services through the university’s disability resource center and a college tour. Miricle started at Murray State this fall. And she also got a job on campus! In addition, she has been working with staff to learn to cook and has made several dishes over the last few months independently.
**Who CAL Serves**

**Louisville: Help with Benefits**

An individual was referred by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to the Center’s Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program. Beginning in December of 2016, the individual had been charged a share of the cost for his Waiver services. He had received services for a long time and had never been charged a share of cost before. He worked and was living on his own, using the waiver to cover some of his expenses. After months of researching, the Certified Work Incentive Counselor (CWIC) discovered that a computer error occurred in 2013 and then, with the cost of living increases, the individual became ineligible for the SSI Medicaid category in October of 2016. That set off a share of cost for waiver services two months later. Otherwise, nothing had really changed in the individual’s circumstances in the last five years. He was working the same amount of hours, making a little more money with raises, but was spending a little more money on rent, utilities and other expenses. With the CWIC’s help, he regained eligibility for SSI and will no longer be billed for waiver services after that point, about $330 per month.

**Louisville: A Place to Live Quick!**

CAL’s Housing Coordinator was contacted by one of the case managers of Centerstone, the Regional Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Service Center in Louisville. The case manager was working with a young man with cerebral palsy in a power chair. His primary caregiver had recently been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer. In addition, his landlord, a relative who had not been charging them any rent, had just given him a month to find another place to live. He needed a place to live immediately. The Housing Coordinator worked with the young man and the case manager on getting him a 811 Mainstream voucher, a housing voucher through Section 8 for homeless individuals or individuals in danger of becoming homeless. Even with the voucher, he still needed to find an accessible place to live. Amazingly, another Center employee found out about an accessible house and with an opening. The Housing Coordinator passed the contact information on to the Centerstone case manager and the young man was able to get into the space. He is now safe and his caregiver seems to be holding her own for now.
The CAL Staff - Fall, 2018

The Board of Directors

Jeremy Randall, President
Toni Ahl, Vice-President
Cliff Johns, Fundraising and Development Chair

Joi Boyd
Todd Crawford
Keith Frost
Robert Meehan
Chuck Rogers

Kathi Stearman
Tom Stokes
Jerry Wheatley
Greg Willett
Sandra Williams