



# VALLEY ASSOCIATES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT  
FY 2024

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Promoting self-direction among people  
with disabilities and  
removing barriers to independence in  
the community.*

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community,

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements that the individuals we serve have experienced. This year has truly been one of milestones, growth, and perseverance, and we are excited to share these successes with you.

First and foremost, our wheelchair basketball team has once again ranked 16th in the nation—a remarkable accomplishment for the second year in a row. The team also welcomed several new players to the team for this past season. This is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and determination of our athletes who continue to compete at a high level with a strong competitive spirit. We are eager to see where their journey takes them in the coming year as they push themselves to new heights.

Our Outdoor Adaptive Recreation Program has also seen significant progress in its second year. We have increased the size of the program, offering even more opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to participate in exciting and challenging activities. This program is a vital part of our mission to foster independence, build confidence, improve social determinants of health, and create lasting memories through accessible recreation. We are thrilled to see how it has grown and impacted the lives of so many. The participants describe it best when they proclaimed “best day of my life” and “I haven’t been in water since my accident 7 years ago.”

In addition, we continue to focus on helping young people transition successfully into adulthood. Our programs have assisted numerous individuals in developing essential life skills, preparing them for both college and community life. This year, we are proud to celebrate the young people who have gained knowledge in independent living skills, budgeting, learning to cook and organize. Watching these young people achieve their goals is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work.

This year, we also celebrate the incredible contributions of our staff, who remain the heart and soul of our organization. We are honored to recognize team members who have reached the significant milestones of 5, 10, 20, and 25 years of service. Their dedication, compassion, and expertise make everything we do possible, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to our mission.

As we look ahead, we are filled with excitement for what the future holds. This year of milestones has laid the foundation for even greater success and growth in the years to come. We remain committed to expanding our programs, serving more individuals, and creating a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities, and we look forward to celebrating even more successes with you in the future.

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dayl Bunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

## Annual Statistics

**482** consumers served

**10,616.75** hours of Individual Services — a **16.5%** increase

**1,115.25** hours of Community and Systems Advocacy — a **122%** increase

**295.5** hours of Outreach to underserved areas — a **99%** increase

**913.5** hours of Community Education — a **17%** increase

**1,860.5** hours of Networking

**155.5** hours of Technical Assistance — a **26%** increase

**478.5** hours of Information & Referral calls

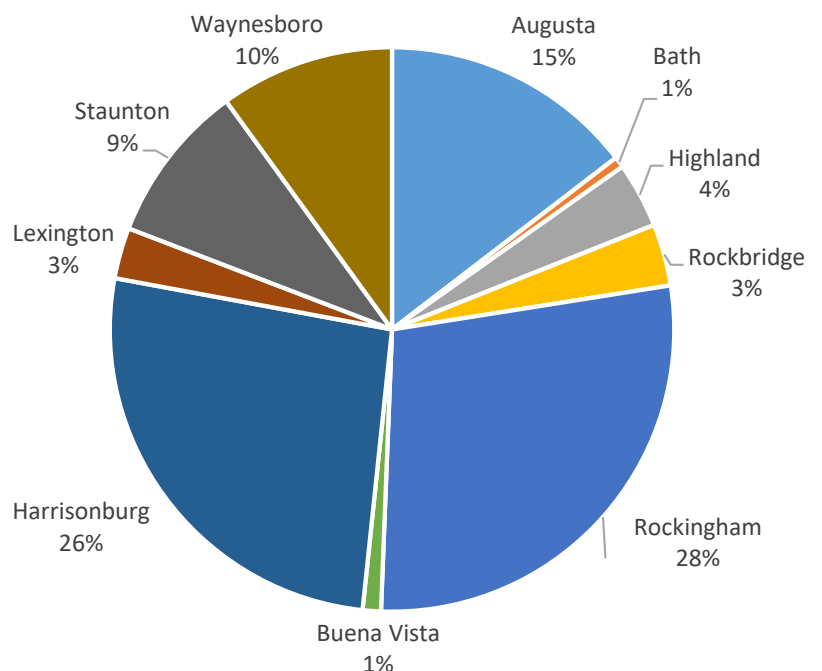
**409** people received services that kept them out of institutions

**66,378.7** miles driven to perform services — a **3%** increase

For the second year in a row, VAIL saw an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities to whom we provided direct service. VAIL continues to be creative in our service delivery to meet the unique needs of each individual. There was a significant increase in the amount of hours spent providing technical assistance, community and systems based advocacy, conducting outreach to underserved areas, and in time spent informing through community education.

## Individuals Served

Locality	Number of Individuals
Augusta County	70
Bath County	3
Highland County	18
Rockbridge County	17
Rockingham County	135
Buena Vista	5
Harrisonburg	126
Lexington	14
Staunton	44
Waynesboro	48
Out of area	2

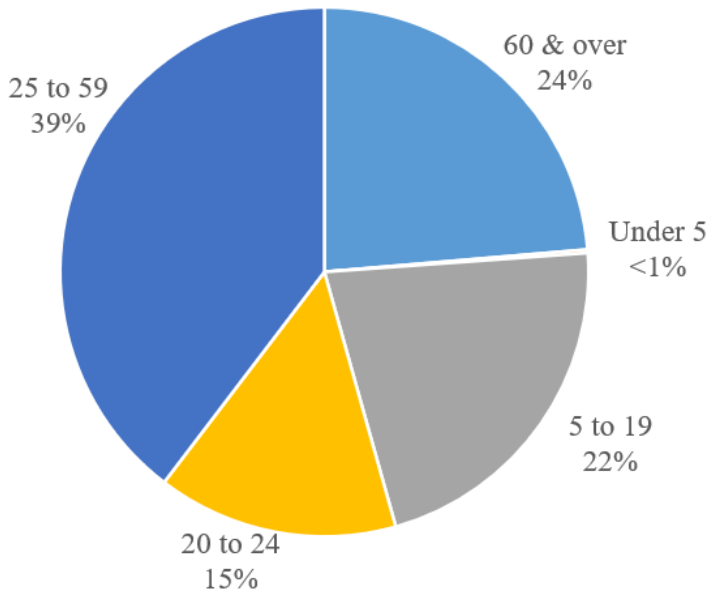


## Ethnicities Served

Ethnicity	Number of Individuals
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	3
Asian	7
Black / African American	36
Hispanic / Latino	30
White	385
Two or More	20
Race and ethnicity unknown	1

*These numbers reflect individuals who completed intakes with VAIL. These numbers do not include Individuals served through information & referral this fiscal year.*

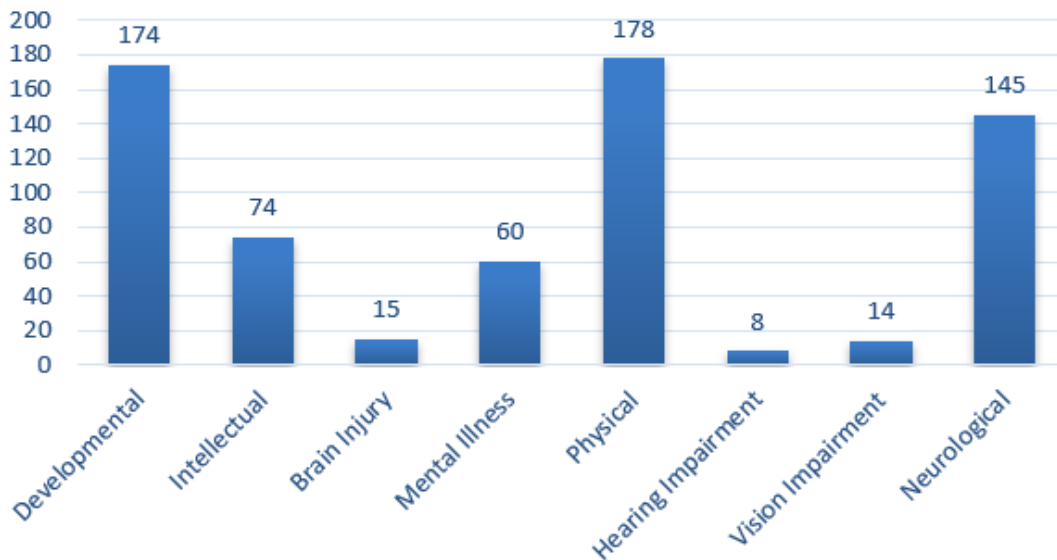
## Ages Served



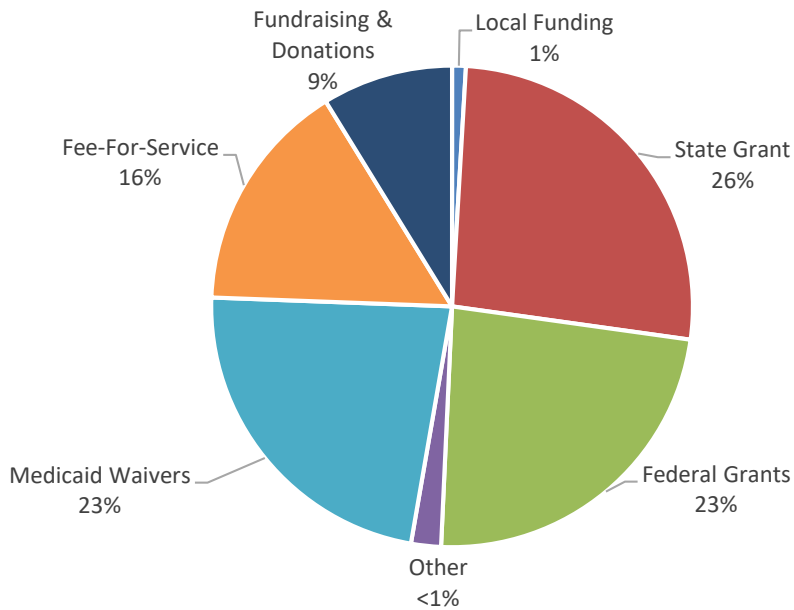
Age Range	Number of Individuals
Under 5	1
5 to 19	105
20 to 24	71
25 to 59	191
60 & Over	114

## Disability Type

### Types of Disabilities



## Finances



Income Type	Amount
Fee-For-Service	\$179,506.24
Medicaid Waivers	\$262,594.79
Federal Grants	\$270,209.46
State Grant	\$302,071.00
Local Funding	\$10,600.00
Fundraising & Donations	\$100,968.49
Other	\$23,077.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,149,027.85</b>

## Fundraising: Arctic Dip



This year our fundraiser raised a grand total of **\$40,431.44!**



Individuals from the area plunged into the frigid 45°F waters at Sun Retreats Shenandoah Valley in Stuarts Draft for our 10th Annual Arctic Dip! Funds raised help VAIL serve individuals with disabilities in our community. This event occurs on the third Saturday of February annually.

## Go VAIL Cardinals! Go!

The VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals wheelchair basketball team had another successful season since joining the VAIL team two years ago. We hosted a 4-team tournament in the spring of 2024 and were invited to the national championships in Richmond, VA. The team placed 16th in the nation for the second year in a row and welcomed several new players to the team.



## Adaptive Recreation

At VAIL our adaptive sports program works to provide recreational activity opportunities to people with physical disabilities that may otherwise be difficult or nearly impossible to set up. Activities include pickleball, hiking, kayaking, birdwatching, skiing, waterskiing, and more.



# Donors

## Trailblazers (\$2,500 +)

Beachy Arehart PLLC  
Larson Wealth Management  
LD&B Insurance Agency  
Myers Ford  
Railside Industries  
Virginia Housing  
Dennis & Mary Witt

## Champions (\$1,000—\$2,499)

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
A-Able Plumbing Inc.  
Michael Alexiou  
Caritas Tree Farm  
Dominion Energy  
Elevance Health, Inc.  
Chris & Becky Grandle  
Harrisonburg Baptist Church  
Harrisonburg Honda

## Pacesetters (\$500—\$999)

Anonymous \$650  
Blue Ridge Bank  
Hollister  
DuPont Community Credit Union  
Hollister, Inc.  
Interchange Group, Inc.  
James River Equipment  
Linda Kegler  
James McHone  
Rebecca Miller  
Rockingham Cooperative  
James Ward & Donna Schminkey

## Advocates (\$250 - \$499)

Anonymous  
Ken & Gayl Brunk  
Susan & Nathaniel Adamson  
Compass Behavioral Solutions  
DARS  
Don Driver  
David & Holly Proschaska  
Hall Industries, Inc.

John & Linda Neff Charitable fund of the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg & Rockingham  
M.I.T.S. of Virginia  
Ritchie Law Firm  
Linwood & Radella Vrolijk  
Judy Warren  
Weaver's Flooring American  
C.L. & Kathryn Whitten

## Partners (\$100—\$249)

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Svetlana Adamson  
Dustin & Tessa Atkins  
James Beasley  
Barbara Bishop  
Mary Bostic  
Sue Breen  
Gabriel Bruce  
Thomas & Gail Bundrick  
Deborah Davis  
Elizabeth Davis  
Julie Davis  
Robert Define  
Jessica Dove  
Lynne Eggert  
Olesya Ermolenko  
Wayne & Elizabeth Erskine  
Alexander Erskine  
Shelby Evans  
Elena Finelli  
Brittney Forgrave  
Nancy Frutuoza  
Tim Galica  
JD Glick  
Maretta Heatwole  
Jeff Henderson  
Catharine Hervey  
Stephan Hess  
Ken Hill  
Margaret Holden  
George Homan  
Diane & Jared Horst  
Brenda Hutcheson  
Eric Jenkins  
Robert May

Varetta Mayes  
JoAnn McCarthy  
Frank McMillan  
Vicky Milstead  
Helen Moore  
Cheryl Morris  
Theresa Moore  
Amy Mumbauer  
Sara Mumbauer  
Lorna Nichols  
Holly Nothnagel  
Frank Oncken  
Anne Oniell  
JJ's Soft Serve  
Leslie Jones  
Matt Jordan  
Cheryl Kasey  
Julie Keblish  
David & Teri King  
Christopher & Inger Knicely  
Cole Lawrence  
Mary Lawrence  
Ralph Magri  
Claudia Marini  
Robert Marley  
Karen Marmaras  
Theresa Moore  
Cheryl Morris  
Bradley Moyers  
Kimberly Murray  
PTO Harrisonburg Team LLC  
Donne Rielly  
John Rosenburger  
Dawn Ruple  
Chelsea Skelton  
Donald Smith  
Valarie Smith  
Joseph Snyder  
Jeremy Spilman  
Lisa Tumer  
Thomas Vandever  
Seth Whitten  
Helen Wiley  
Ann Williams

Kaitlyn Williams  
Jeff Wine  
Ginger Wright  
Jackqueline Yoder  
Debra & Jeffrey York  
Cynthia Yount  
Julia Zudilin

### **Associates (\$50—\$99)**

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Donna Abshire  
Maria Adamson  
George Ahearn  
Kay Akerele  
Yana Aksanich  
Cindy Alexander  
Anabelle Amola  
Emily Anderson  
Sara Atkins  
Angela Beadles  
Ellen Blair  
Bethany Boury  
Elizabeth Brady  
Carolyn Bragg  
Gina Clapper  
Lenae Conley  
Violet Cox  
Angie Critzer  
Kathy Deacon  
Stephanie Diehl  
Cindy Durham  
Thomas Duval  
Olga Dyachkina  
Fidelity Charitable  
Dawn Frederick  
Jeanne Fielding  
Phillip Fielding  
Hallie Gordon  
Bryant Haines  
Diane Haldane  
Sandra Hammock  
Jannell Harris

John & Marion Hickman  
Christine Johnston  
Doris Leaman  
Nan Lewis  
Teresa Lewis  
Melissa Liquerman  
Bonnie McLarty  
Laurie McManus  
Michaela McManus  
Janie McMeans  
Kristian Moore  
Alan Oncken  
Kyle Reid  
Tyler Rich  
Tammy Rowzie  
Tracy Seefried  
Zhanna Shumeyko  
Whitey Simmons  
Natasha Skelton  
Rebecca Smiley  
Joanne Smithknauf  
Brianna Steel  
Brant & Jeannette Suter  
Shari Thompson  
Victoria Tomlin  
Luther Vucic  
Dennis Ward  
Cathy Watson  
Helen Wiley  
Karen Williams  
Jerry & Shannon West  
Blanche Whitesell



## Survey Results

An annual survey was sent to all current recipients of VAIL's services to ensure VAIL is providing quality services that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in our community.

Thank you administration, staff, and volunteers who provide a lifeline to people like me. I am very grateful for your service and dedication. I look forward to continuing services together.  
- Survey Respondent

When asked which type of service received from VAIL was the most helpful, the top five responses were:

- ⇒ They helped me use personal care, respite, or companion care so I could stay in my home.
- ⇒ They assisted me in finding or going to social or recreational activities, including but not limited to adaptive recreation or sports.
- ⇒ They assisted me in understanding my social security, SNAP, Medicaid and/or other benefits.
- ⇒ They assisted me in planning for my future.
- ⇒ They taught me a new skill I wanted to learn.

"VAIL has been instrumental in helping with essential and life enhancing services. Quality of life would be lower without the availability of VAIL."  
- Survey Respondent

Survey recipients were asked to identify the biggest needs of people with disabilities in our area. The top five responses were:

Need	% Response
Transportation	61%
Service Facilitators	56%
Caregivers	56%
Peer Supports	51%
Assistive Technology	51%

"We are so happy to have VAIL. I would be in a nursing facility if not for VAIL's service and my caregiver."  
-Survey Respondent

*What is the most important priority in your life currently?*

'Being able to stay with my sister who is taking care of me because I am disabled and blind.'  
- Survey Respondent

This year VAIL saw an increase in Youth Transition Services primarily due to the many referrals from DARS. As a result, we will now be able to continue expanding our youth transition services. Pre-ETS and RAMP are two programs of transition support that we have here at VAIL. The Ready To Achieve Mentorship Program is a career-oriented program which pairs students up with adult mentors who work together to achieve a range of student goals. The Pre-Employment Transition Services provides a range of transition related vocational activities including but not limited to food safety, budgeting, job interview training, and more.

## Get Involved



Donate via PayPal: <https://govail.org/> or Venmo: @goVAIL



Participate in our fundraisers

**The Great Community Give** – an initiative of The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County

**Arctic Dip**: the 3rd Saturday of February



Write/call your legislators

Advocate for disability issues

Tell them about the great work VAIL does



Click “like” on our Facebook page!

**VAIL**: [facebook.com/valleyassociatesforindependentliving](https://facebook.com/valleyassociatesforindependentliving)

**VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals**: [facebook.com/HburgCardinals](https://facebook.com/HburgCardinals)



Follow us on Instagram!

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*Paypal*

"Ability is what you're  
capable of doing.  
Motivation determines what  
you do. Attitude determines  
how well you do it."  
– Lou Holtz



**venmo**

## Staff

**Gayl Brunk:** Executive Director  
**Holly Prochaska:** Finance, Operations, & Compliance Director  
**Andrea King:** Community Services Director  
**Chelsea Skelton:** Community Living Supervisor  
**Shawn Abercrombie:** Community Living Specialist  
**Tessa Atkins:** Independent Living Specialist / Service Coordinator  
**Tim Davis:** Social Support Specialist / Adaptive Recreation Coordinator  
**Olesya Ermolenko:** Community Living Specialist  
**Taylor Hinkle:** Community Living Specialist  
**Amy Jones:** Community Living Specialist  
**Richard “Mat” Magruder:** Service Coordinator  
**Inger Knicley:** Program Support Specialist  
**Jesse Compagnari:** Independent Living Specialist  
**Roger Southerly:** Custodial Assistant

## Board of Directors

President: **Chris Grandle**  
Vice President: **Doug Galica**  
Treasurer: **Jeremy Spilman**  
Secretary: **Beth Sellers**

**Madeline Montgomery**  
**Whit Menefee**  
**Kristian Moore**

**Retha Reed**  
**Luther Vucic**  
**James Ward**

## Contact Information

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Harrisonburg, VA 2280

