



FY 2025 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the resilience and dedication that has defined our work at VAIL. This year, we have navigated a landscape that was both challenging and rewarding—marked by significant changes at both the state and federal levels. Yet, despite these shifts, one thing remained steadfast: our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional service to the individuals and families we support.

The past year has been one of changes, requiring us to adapt quickly and thoughtfully. At times, we had to pivot in response to evolving regulations, shifting priorities, and new opportunities for growth. These moments of pivoting were not just about adjusting to external forces but about reimagining how we can better serve the people with disabilities who rely on us. We have continued to innovate and adapt, ensuring that the individuals we serve receive the highest quality of care, support, and advocacy.

Throughout these transitions, our staff has demonstrated extraordinary flexibility and dedication. They have been able to maintain a high standard of service delivery, even as we navigated the complexities of policy changes. Our team's ability to pivot with grace and efficiency has been a testament to their commitment to our mission. I am incredibly proud of the work they have done, and the impact it has had on the individuals we serve.

We have also worked closely with our partners, community leaders, and stakeholders to ensure that, despite external changes, the needs of those with disabilities remain at the forefront of our efforts. Whether it was adjusting to new funding structures, responding to new guidelines, or advocating for continued support, we remained focused on our core purpose: empowering people with disabilities to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Looking ahead, we recognize that continued change is inevitable. However, I am confident that our team will continue to rise to the occasion, as we have done this past year. We will continue to pivot, not just in response to changes, but in pursuit of new opportunities to enhance the services we offer and to better meet the needs of the individuals we serve.

On behalf of the entire VAIL team, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support. We couldn't do this important work without you, and together, we will continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dayl Bunn", with a stylized, flowing script.

Annual Statistics

471 consumers served

10,089 hours of Individual Services

1236.25 hours of Community and Systems Advocacy — a 10.85% increase

224.5 hours of Outreach to underserved areas

811 hours of Community Education

1,305 hours of Networking

342.75 hours of Information & Referral calls

92 consumers received youth transition services—a 64.29% increase

35 consumers participated in recreational activities—a 74% increase

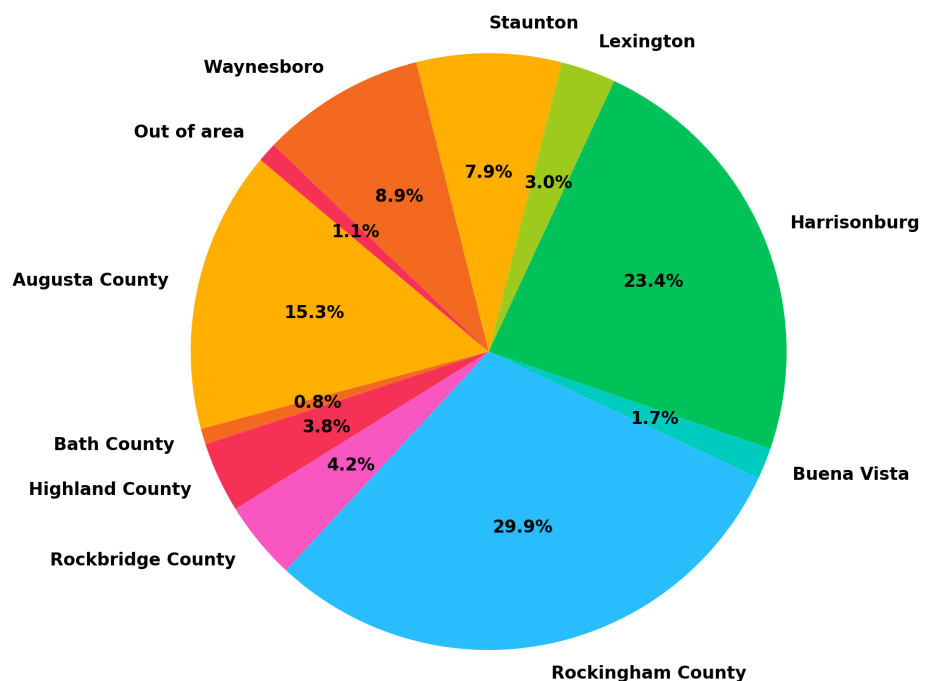
389 people received services that kept them out of institutions

73,224 miles driven to perform services – a 10.31% increase

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 youth transition, community and systems based advocacy, and adaptive recreation. The miles that staff drove to provide services also increased substantially this year.

Individuals Served

Locality	Number of Individuals
Augusta County	72
Bath County	4
Highland County	18
Rockbridge County	20
Rockingham County	141
Buena Vista	8
Harrisonburg	110
Lexington	14
Staunton	37
Waynesboro	42
Out of area	5

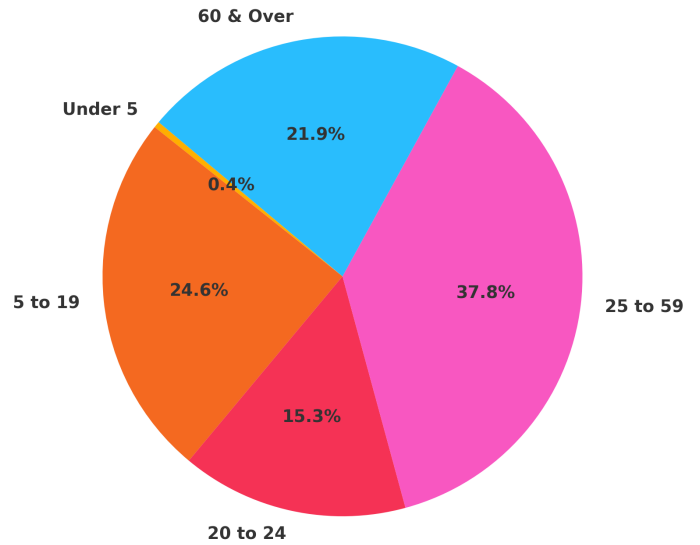


Ethnicities Served

Ethnicity	Number of Individuals
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2
Asian	5
Black / African American	35
Hispanic / Latino	26
White	373
Two or More	27
Race and ethnicity unknown	3

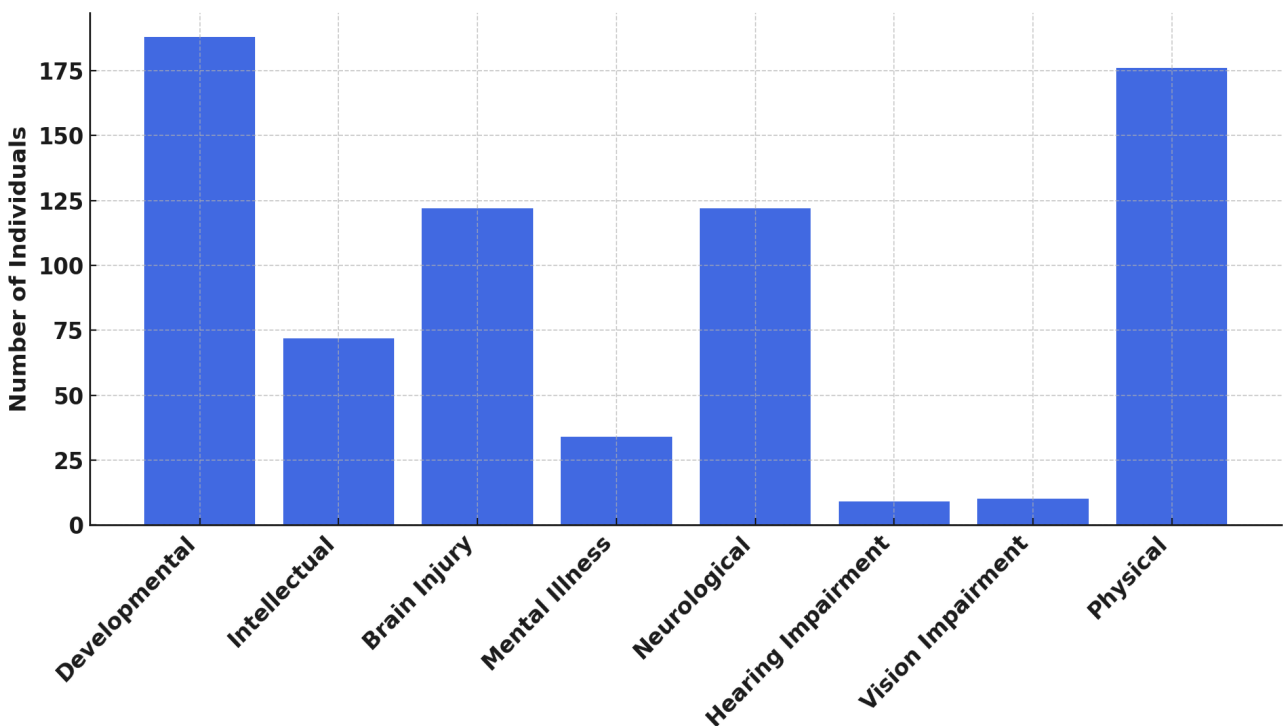
These numbers reflect individuals who completed intakes with VAIL. These numbers do not include Individuals served through information & referral this fiscal year.

Ages Served



Age Range	Number of Individuals
Under 5	2
5 to 19	116
20 to 24	72
25 to 59	178
60 & Over	103

Disability Type



Adaptive Recreation

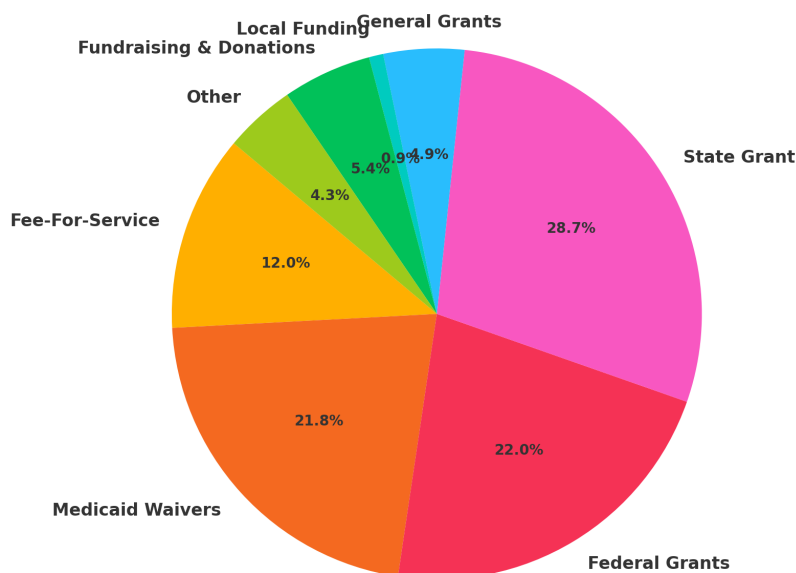
At VAIL our Outdoor Adaptive Recreation program works to provide recreational activity opportunities to people with physical disabilities that may otherwise be difficult or nearly impossible to set up. Activities include skydiving, surfing, skiing, waterskiing and other water events among many other activities.



The VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals wheelchair basketball team had another successful season since joining the VAIL team three years ago. The team registered 12 players, of which 7 either played for the first time, hadn't played in years, or had played for under 3 years. It remains a significant avenue for competitive sports playing for individuals with permanent lower limb disabilities, camaraderie, and peer support.

Finances

Source	Amount
Fee-For-Service	\$144,496.68
Medicaid Waivers	\$263,711.74
Federal Grants	\$265,672.04
State Grant	\$346,885.00
General Grants	\$59,499.00
Local Funding	\$10,600.00
Fundraising & Donations	\$65,673.92
Other	\$52,402.67
TOTAL	\$1,208,941.05



Fundraising - Arctic Dip



This year our fundraiser raised a grand total of **\$41,380.00!**



Individuals from the area plunged into the frigid 42°F waters at Sun Retreats Shenandoah Valley in Stuarts Draft for our 11th Annual Arctic Dip! Funds raised help VAIL serve individuals with disabilities in our community. This event occurs on the third Saturday of February annually.

Donors

Trailblazers (\$2,500 +)

Caritas Tree Farm, Inc.
Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie 4150
Larson Wealth Management
LD&B Insurance
Virginia Housing

Champions (\$1,000—\$2,499)

A-Able Plumbing, Inc.
Michael Alexiou Charitable Fund of The Community
Foundation of Harrisonburg Rockingham
Dominion Energy
Don & Linda Driver Family Fund of The Community
Foundation of Harrisonburg Rockingham
Marcia DuBois
Elevance Health, Inc.
Chris & Becky Grandle
Harrisonburg Honda
Hollister, Inc.
Myers Ford

Pacesetters (\$500—\$999)

Anonymous
Blue Ridge Bank
DuPont Community Credit Union
Harman Construction Charitable Fund
Morris Hickman
James River Equipment
Sharon Menefee

Advocates (\$250 - \$499)

Compass Behavioral Solutions
Virginia Dept. for Aging & Rehabilitative Services
Morgan Drankiewicz
Hall Industries, Inc.
M.I.T.S. of Virginia
Ritchie Law Firm
Kaylor Donor Advised Fund
Donald Smith
John & Linda Neff Charitable Fund of the Community
Foundation of Harrisonburg Rockingham
Thomas Vandever
Linwood & Radella Vrolijk
Weaver's Flooring America

Partners (\$100—\$249)

Patricia Abercrombie
Cynthia Anspach & Ray Rehm
Dustin & Tessa Atkins
Sara Atkins
Jennifer Bowling
Ken & Gayl Brunk
Joann Campbell
Steven & Beatrice Conner
Million Daneker
Thanh Dang
Dan's Body Service, Inc.
Rick & Beth Davis
Carolyn Dickenson
Christine Doughty
Shirley Drankiewicz
Olga Dyachkina
E. A. Breeden, Inc.
B. Wayne & Elizabeth Erskine, Jr.
Alexander Erskine
Lawrence Evans
Stephanie Flick
Taylor Franklin
J.D. Glick
Ken Hill
Carson Hotchkiss
Cary Jackson
Maggie Keaveney-Jermstad
Linda Kegley
David & Teri King
Frank & Jennifer Leone
Alicia Loomis
Claudia Marini
Karen Marmaras
Carolyn McCartney
Jeffrey McDaniel
Cheryl Morris
Bradley Moyers
Amy Mumbauer
Kimberly Murray
Kimberley Oleary
David & Holly Prochaska
Tyler Rich
Tammy Rowzie
Oscar Scheikl
Chelsea Skelton
Jeremy Spilman

Susan Sweeten
Letitia Tucker
Melanie Vest
Judith Warren
Rachel Weaver
TJ Wegman
Seth Whitten
Terri Yoder
Jeffrey & Debra York

Associates (\$50—\$99)

Jack & Charity Abercrombie
Donna Abshire
Svetlana Adamson
Nancy Aigner
Angela Albanese
Craig Anders
Angie Beadles
Ellen Blair
Ginger Bodkin
Mary Bostic
Allen & Carolyn Bouknight
Stephen Boynton
Chester Bradfield
Carolyn Bragg

Chelsey Campbell
Hollie Cave
Violet Cox
Tim DeGlopper
Al Drankiewicz
Alla Ermolenko
Olesya Ermolenko
Garland & Carolyn Eutsler
Brandi Faris
Jack Fielding
Christy Fitzgerald
Pauline Frease
Julie Gorski
Walt Graham
Deana Harman
Joey & Nancy Hepner
June Huffman
Andrea King
Linda Kusse-Wolfe
John Malone
Tina Martina
Thomas Marvin
Bob & Olma May
Brian Miller
Helen Moore

Dennis Morris
Cathy Moyer
Donna Ort
Michael Oshea
Nichole Price
Thomas Rehm
Lauren Roche
Yelena Shumeyko
Zhanna Shumeyko
Valarie Smith
Anthony Spradlin
Brianna Steel
Andrea Stogdale
Peggy Thomas
Victoria Tomlin
John & Lisa Tucker
Terry Tucker
Chafin Vrolijk
James Ward & Donna
Schminkey
Sharon West
Westminster Presbyterian
Church
Blanche Whitesell
Yulia Zudilin

A Personal Perspective

Self-advocacy and independent living skills are critical progressions to the development of the brain. As a nineteen-year-old, I was diagnosed with inattentive ADD. During the time of my diagnosis, I was faced with the challenge of having to re-apply for Medicaid and I was assisted through the process of applying to receive care. The time in between applying for health insurance was met with challenges as I had to delay my appointment times to receive care, but after receiving coverage I was able to address those needs. As a young girl I did not know how to articulate my silent experience, but my learned efforts of self-advocacy have allowed myself to grow. An influential partnership with Tessa has allowed me to focus on establishing a stable future for myself. Together we began to work on schedule planning, budgeting time, and job readiness in creating an understanding of how to utilize my resources and time while in school. The continuous support from Valley Associates for Independent Living has allowed me to develop the practice of working on setting achievable goals through reminders and planning of my time. My testimony has also enlightened how I have been able to receive support through the connections of places that accommodate my experience. I remember the day that I walked into the office of the Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS). I was met with so much patience and understanding of my experience. The staff allowed me to explain my experience and offered me resources that would help continue to guide me while in college. I'm a first-generation college student and my first year of college was challenging and I had to learn the importance of utilizing the resources around me. After a year of setting up partnerships and working towards independent living, I have felt supported, understood, and seen in my experience. I am thankful for the partnerships that I have been able to develop with both advocacy offices and I hope that I can continue to strengthen my partnerships with these services. The support and partnership of VAIL and DARS has allowed me to see growth in my experience.

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.

"All of the services I received were helpful to me."
- Survey Respondent

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

- ⇒ They helped me use personal care, respite, or companion care so I could stay in my home.
- ⇒ They put me in touch with other agencies or people who could help me.
- ⇒ They assisted me to stand up for myself or they stood up for me.
- ⇒ They assisted me in planning for my future.

"Helping my son to make good choices through targeted education especially during this time of transition has been an amazing asset to our family. As a parent, having someone to walk me through transitional services and help with a variety of challenges has been wonderful to get our son the care he needs."
- Survey Respondent

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

Need
Transportation
Personal Assistance Care—Caregivers
Respite Care
Peer Supports

"They assisted me with improving my life."
-Survey Respondent

Thank you for everything you do. I hope you know that VAIL is changing lives across this community and it makes me proud to be from here.
- Survey Respondent

This year VAIL continued to see 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



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

VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals: facebook.com/HburgCardinals



Follow us on Instagram

instagram.com/valleyassociatesil/



Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter)

<https://x.com/CILVAIL>



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

Venmo: @goVAIL



Paypal

“

Change never happens at the pace we think it should. It always happens at the pace it does. But what we can do is be part of that change and push it forward.

Judith Heumann

disability rights activist



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
Olesya Ermolenko: Community Living Specialist
Amy Jones: Community Living Specialist
Liz Nixon: Community Living Specialist
Richard “Mat” Magruder: Service Coordinator
Jack Hotchkiss: Independent Living Specialist
Jesse Compagnari: Independent Living Specialist
Inger Knicley: Program Support Specialist
Roger Southerly: Custodial Assistant

Board of Directors

President: **Doug Galica**
Vice President: **Luther Vucic**
Treasurer: **Jeremy Spilman**
Secretary: **Beth Sellers**

Chris Grandle
Whit Menefee
Kristian Moore

Scott Pruett
Retha Reed
James Ward

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