



FY 2026 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 I reflect on another year at Valley Associates for Independent Living, I keep returning to one word: **value**.

The value of making your own choices. The value of receiving the right information at the right time. The value of a young person with a disability gaining the skills and confidence to prepare for adulthood. The value of recreation, competition, friendship, and belonging. And perhaps most importantly, the value of having the support needed to remain in your own home and community.

This year, VAIL served 494 individuals with disabilities, an increase from 471 the previous year. During the year, the individuals we served achieved 595 goals toward greater independence, with another 109 goals still in progress. These are more than numbers—they represent people gaining skills, accessing resources, advocating for themselves, finding solutions, and building lives of greater independence.

One area I am especially proud of is our commitment to community-based living. VAIL provided prevention-of-institutionalization services to 390 individuals and assisted others with transitioning from institutional settings. For people with disabilities, access to the right services and supports can make the difference between remaining at home, surrounded by family and community, and entering an institution. VAIL remains deeply committed to protecting that choice.

We also continue to invest in the next generation. Our youth transition services have grown significantly, with 86 young people receiving services this year. Through independent living skills, self-advocacy, employment preparation, financial education, and community participation, we are helping young people prepare not simply to leave school, but to build the adult lives they choose for themselves.

Independence also means having opportunities to participate fully in community life. Our adaptive recreation program and VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals wheelchair basketball program provide opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to individuals with physical disabilities. Recreation is about much more than an activity—it creates friendships, peer support, confidence, competition, health, and a sense of belonging.

Our work extends beyond those formally enrolled in VAIL services. Throughout the year, our team devoted thousands of hours to advocacy, community education, outreach, technical assistance, networking, collaboration, and information & referral. We advocate for accessible communities, educate people about services and rights, work with partners to remove barriers, and ensure the voices and experiences of people with disabilities are included in decisions.

None of this happens without an incredible team. Our staff travel throughout a large and diverse service area, problem-solve when resources are limited, advocate when systems create barriers, and celebrate successes alongside the people we serve. Their knowledge, creativity, compassion, persistence, and commitment to independent living are the heart of VAIL, and I could not be prouder of them.

And none of this happens without you.

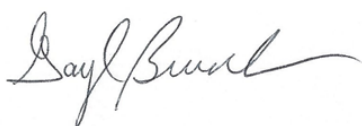
To our donors, funders, volunteers, Board members, community partners, businesses, families, advocates, and friends: thank you. Your contributions, partnerships, referrals, volunteer hours, advocacy, encouragement, and belief in our mission allow VAIL to continue reaching people throughout our community.

Your support is an investment in independence. It helps someone remain at home instead of entering a nursing facility. It helps a young person learn to advocate for themselves and prepare for employment. It creates opportunities for adaptive recreation and competitive sports. It helps families find answers and communities identify and remove barriers to full participation.

As we look toward another year, challenges remain. Disability service systems continue to change, resources are limited, and strong advocacy remains essential. VAIL will continue to be at the table—asking questions, sharing information, challenging barriers, and ensuring that individuals with disabilities have both a voice and a choice.

Thank you for standing with us and recognizing the value of this work. Together, we are creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and advancing the right of people with disabilities to direct their own lives.

With gratitude,



Annual Statistics

494 consumers served

9,923.5 hours of Individual Services

1138.5 hours of Community and Systems Advocacy

246.5 hours of Outreach to underserved areas

659.25 hours of Community Education

1,135 hours of Networking

512.25 hours of Information & Referral calls—49.45% increase

86 consumers received youth transition services

12 consumers participated in recreational activities

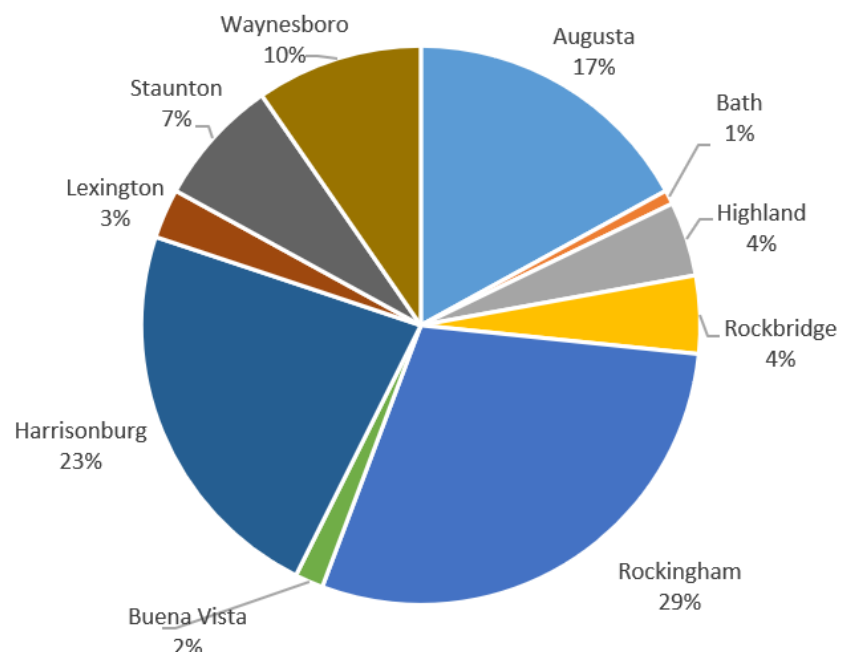
390 people received services that kept them out of institutions

78,291 miles driven to perform services—6.92% increase

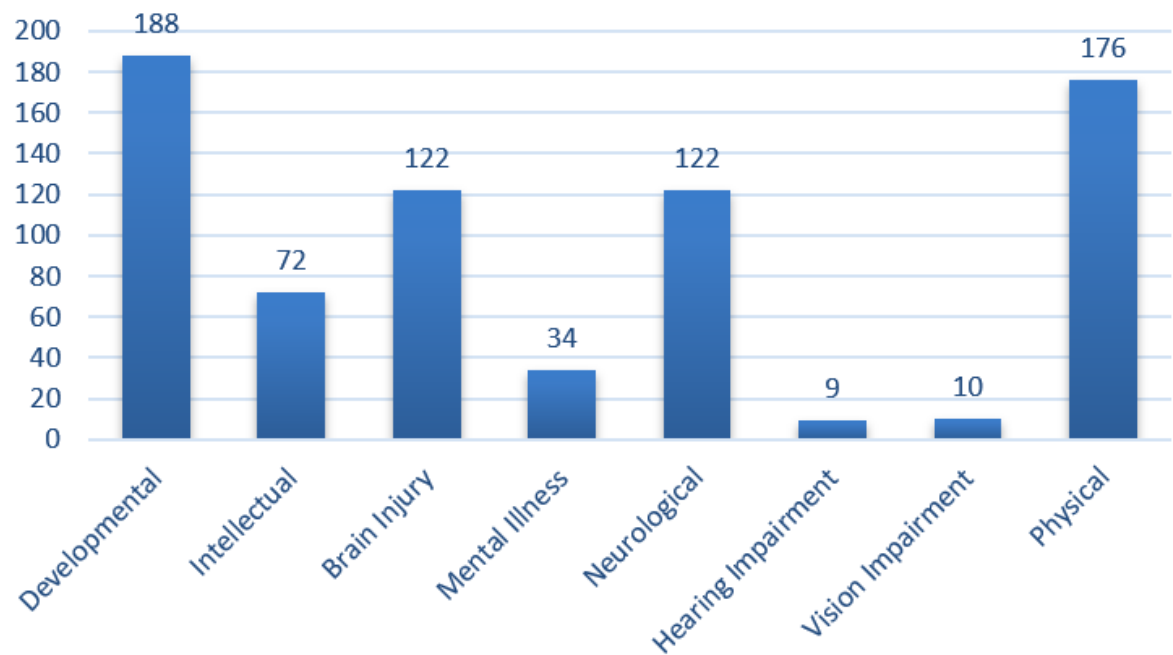
VAIL continues to be creative in our service delivery to meet the unique needs of each individual. There was a significant increase in the amount of hours spent providing youth transition and information & referral calls. The miles that staff drove to provide services also increased substantially this year.

Individuals Served

Locality	Number of Individuals
Augusta County	83
Bath County	4
Highland County	21
Rockbridge County	22
Rockingham County	142
Buena Vista	8
Harrisonburg	111
Lexington	14
Staunton	36
Waynesboro	47
Out of area	6

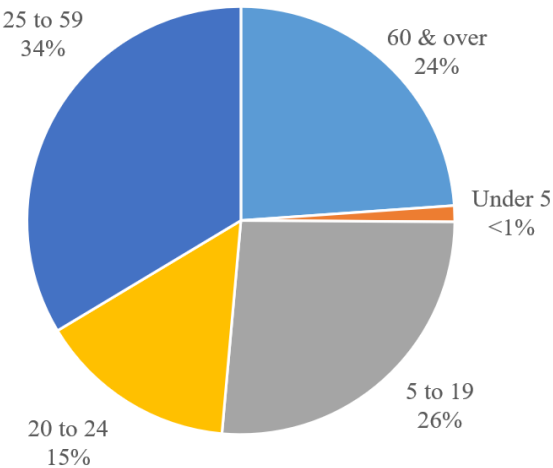


Disability Type



Ages Served

Age Range	Number of Individuals
Under 5	6
5 to 19	130
20 to 24	74
25 to 59	166
60 & Over	118



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

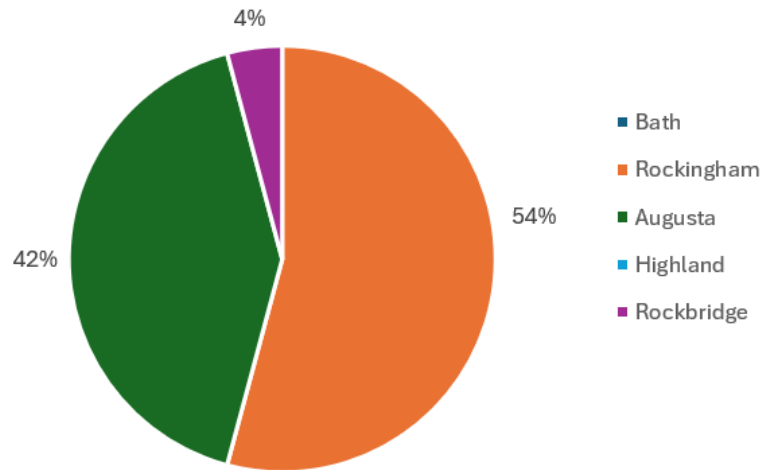
Ethnicities Served

Ethnicity	Number of Individuals
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3
Asian	5
Black / African American	38
Hispanic / Latino	28
White	390
Two or More	25
Race and ethnicity unknown	5

Program Highlights

VAIL's Home Modification Program helps individuals with disabilities remain safe, independent, and connected to their communities by addressing accessibility barriers within their homes. Modifications such as ramps, accessible bathrooms, widened doorways, and other improvements can make the difference between struggling at home and living with greater independence. This year, VAIL completed 15 home modification projects, helping individuals remain in their homes and reducing the risk of unnecessary institutionalization.

Home Modifications



After



Before



After

Adaptive Recreation



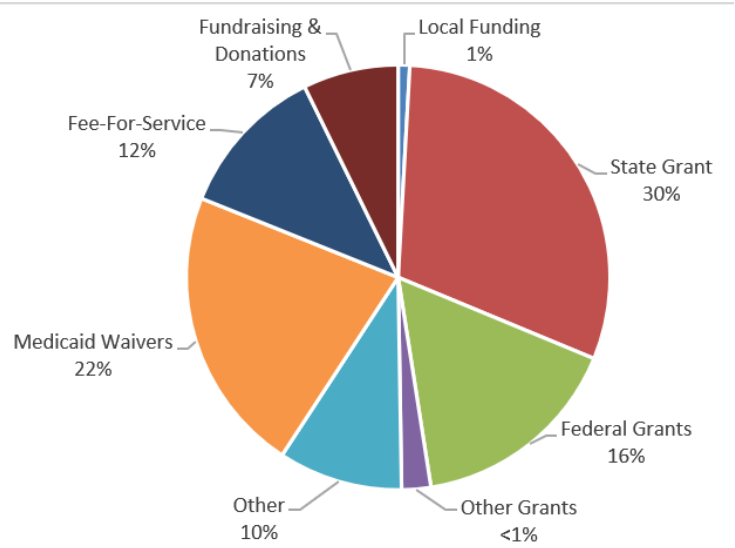
At VAIL, our Outdoor Adaptive Recreation (OAR) program provides individuals with physical disabilities opportunities to participate in recreational activities that may otherwise be difficult or nearly impossible to access. This year, OAR participated in the Lexington Road & River Relay Race, horseback riding with Ride with Pride, a wildflower stroll, and skiing with Wintergreen Adaptive Sports, among many other events, creating an opportunity to experience nature, recreation, and connection.

The VAIL Harrisonburg Cardinals wheelchair basketball team had another successful season since joining the VAIL team four years ago. The Cardinals compete in tournaments across Virginia and beyond while promoting disability awareness and showcasing the skill and athleticism of adaptive sports. The team remains an important avenue for individuals with permanent lower-limb disabilities to participate in competitive sports while building camaraderie, peer support, and lasting connections.



Finances

Source	Amount
Fee-For-Service	\$145,234.49
Medicaid Waivers	\$271,906.79
Federal Grants	\$202,762.59
State Grant	\$378,062.00
General Grants	\$59,499.00
Local Funding	\$11,000.00
Fundraising & Donations	\$65,673.92
Other	\$118,188.53
TOTAL	\$1,208,941.05



Donors

Trailblazers (\$2,500 +)

Beachy Arehart PLLC
 Caritas Tree Farm, Inc.
 Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie 4150
 Larson Wealth Management
 LD&B Insurance
 Railside Industries, Inc.
 Raymont Enterprises
 The Community Foundation of H/R-
 Harry F. & Margaret M. Flippo Foundation
 The Community Foundation of H/R- Jonas &
 Barbara Borntrager Designated PT Fund
 Virginia Housing

Champions (\$1,000—\$2,499)

Conner, Steven & Beatrice
 Marcia DuBois
 Elevance Health, Inc.
 First Presbyterian Church
 Chris & Becky Grandle
 Harrisonburg Honda
 Hollister, Inc.
 Whit & Sharon Menefee
 The Community Foundation of H/R
 Don & Linda Driver Family Fund
 Judith Warren

Pacesetters (\$500—\$999)

Anonymous
 Blue Ridge Bank
 Dominion Energy
 DuPont Community Credit Union
 David & Esther Friesen
 Interchange Group, Inc.
 James River Equipment
 Rockingham Cooperative
 Sharp Shopper Grocery Outlet
 Linwood & Radella Vrolijk
 Debra & Jeffrey York

Advocates (\$250 - \$499)

Compass Behavioral Solutions
 DAFgiving360 & Valerie Kaylor
 Virginia Dept. for Aging & Rehabilitative Services
 Jerry & Rebecca Early
 Harman Construction
 M.I.T.S. of Virginia
 Myers Ford
 Ritchie Law Firm
 Jessica Rowzie
 Emily Rutherford
 Gloria Shepherd
 Jeremy Tabler
 The Community Foundation of

H/R- John & Linda Neff Charitable
Foundation
Valley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Weaver's Flooring America

Partners (\$100—\$249)

Svetlana Adamson
Sara Atkins
Jessie Baldwin
Malachi Bontrager
Carol Brunk
Joann Campbell
Nikki Cash
Terri Denton
Shirley Drankiewicz
Olga Dyachkina
Alla Ermolenko
Olesya Ermolenko
Alexander Erskine
EyeOne, P.L.C.
Darlene Ferguson
Stephanie Flick
Josiah Friesen
Gift & Thrift Shop, Inc.
J.D. Glick
Kimberly Haines
Ken Hill
Shawna Hiner
George Homan
Nancie Howden
Richard Jackson
JJ's Soft Serve
David & Teri King
Cole Lawrence
Pamela Layne
Lyamshin Family
Mane Course Sandwiches
Carolyn McCartney
Barbara Miller
Cheryl Morris
Virginia Newton
David & Holly Prochaska
Laura Quiimby
Rainbow Hill Farm
Jennifer Roadcap
Tammy Rowzie
Adam Savanick
Oscar Scheikl

James & Melissa Szulkowski
Lisa Tumor
Sharon Van Name
Thomas Vandever

Associates (\$50—\$99)

Jack & Charity Abercrombie
Anonymous
Dustin & Tessa Atkins
Ginger Bodkin
Mary Bostic
Elizabeth Brady
Carolyn Bragg
Terri Bsullak
Mindy Campbell
Lindsey Cash
Violet Cox
Morgan Drankiewicz
Shelby Evans
Tracy Gentry
Julia Gorski
Deana Harman
Sharon Harold
April Hepler
John & Marion Hickman
Morris Hickman
Angela Hudgins
Tina Humphreys
Lucas Hutton
Anastasia Jackson
Martha James
Heather Keens
Cathey Kennett
Kendrick Kier
Andrea King
Heath Knott
Donald Knox

Mitchel Lampron
Don Lilley
Mitchel Makrova
John Malone
Tina Martina
Michael Melby
Brian Miller
Clifton Mills
Helen Moore
Kristian Moore
John & Linda Myers Jr.
Frank Oncken
Don & Donna Ort
Virginia Pardo
Catherine Patterson
Wendy Perry
Ben Puckett
Region 3 Virginia Building &
Code Assoc.
Tyler Rich
Jennifer Riner
Nicole Rutherford
Valerie Schoolcraft
Beth Sellers
Edwin Shuler
Zhanna Shumeyko
Brianna Steel
Jane Swope
Brett Temple
Victoria Tomlin
Amy Wakeman
Sharon West
Blanche Whitesell
Karen Williams
Terri Yoder
Amy Yount
Yulia Zudilin

Fundraising - Arctic Dip

This year our fundraiser
raised a grand total of
\$44,074.00!



Survey Results

VAIL fielded two companion surveys: a Consumer Satisfaction Survey assessing how people currently or recently served by VAIL experience its services, and a Needs Assessment Survey capturing unmet and ongoing needs across the broader community.

“My VAIL mentor is so friendly and assists me in a positive way!”
- Survey Respondent

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

- ⇒ They taught new skills (daily living, employment, etc.).
- ⇒ They assisted in making choices to improve my life.
- ⇒ They put me in touch with other agencies/people.

“At the beginning of us joining VAIL, there was too much turnover in our case managers. Every quarter it seemed that there was a new face. Now, there seems to be more stability in the personnel of their stay. We currently have the same girl for a couple years now, which I feel is a better set up.”
- 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 100%
Peer Supports 79%
Resources for equipment 79%
Support Groups 57%

“I give this a thumbs up. I have enjoyed my services.”
-Survey Respondent

“Tessa is the BOMB”
- 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. 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. This year, VAIL completed 15 home modifications, helping residents live more safely and independently in their own homes. Despite this progress, demand continues to grow, a trend that underscores the increasing need for accessibility support in our community and the importance of continued investment in these programs.

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

“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.”

-Robert M. Hensel



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
Alana Galbert: Independent Living Specialist / Referral Specialist
Olesya Ermolenko: Community Living Specialist
Amy Jones: Community Living Specialist
Richard “Mat” Magruder: Service Coordinator
Liz Nixon: Community 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: **Scott Pruett**

Chris Grandle
Whit Menefee
Kristian Moore

Scott Pruett
Beth Sellers
James Ward

Contact Information

Valley Associates for Independent Living, Inc.

Phone: (540) 433-6513
Fax: (540) 433-6313
Website: www.govail.org
Address: 3210 Peoples Drive Suite 220
Harrisonburg, VA 2280

