



2009 Annual Report

Creating Success Every Day

Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with a wide range of disabilities like autism, downs syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental health and mental retardation. Via's mission is to provide leadership, support, opportunities and resources for people with disabilities so they may be independent, productive and enjoy full lives within the community.

Via envisions a time when all people will have equal access to appropriate developmental and educational services, friends who care and relationships that are rich and meaningful, a rewarding career of their choice, and a satisfying retirement. Everyone deserves the chance to succeed and, through the support of our community, Via is able to provide support for the people we serve.

Children's Services

Children deserve a bright and healthy start in life. Recognizing developmental delays and treating them early is vital in the growth of children. Via's Children's Services can make all the difference in a family's life.

Early Intervention Program

Via's Early Intervention program is staffed by highly qualified and experienced professionals from a variety of disciplines.

Via's speech therapists, occupational therapists and physical therapists work with children in their natural environments (homes, daycares, etc.) to meet the individual needs of each child and their families.

Children are assessed by their therapist to determine their strengths. A plan is developed that helps each child learn and grow according to their needs and abilities.

Sibshops

Sibshops are lively celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. This series is for children who want to celebrate the many contributions they make to their brothers and sisters with special needs and find support among peers experiencing the same types of things.

Sibshops intersperses information and discussion activities with new games designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range.

Employment Services

Via's Community Employment services are based on the belief that Everybody Works™ and no one should be excluded. Work is a typical part of adult life and everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from being a part of the employed community. Every day, Via staff work on innovative ways to help people find and maintain community employment.

Community Employment

Via works to provide the best employment option for individuals and excels at creating innovative employment solutions that match business' needs. Via enables adults with disabilities to work in integrated settings in the community and provides ongoing support so people can perform their job well. Via works one-on-one with adults and employers to make effective job matches and provides onsite job coaching and support to assist individuals in getting, learning and keeping a job.

Business Services & ViaWorks

Via's Business Services & ViaWorks are avenues provided to help adults with disabilities develop skills and gain valuable work experience so they are prepared to ultimately move to a job in the community. Via's Business Services subcontract to complete assembly and packaging services for businesses. ViaWorks provides job training and work in community settings in positions including clerical, food service, housekeeping, janitorial, light manufacturing and production.

Community Connections

Via's Community Connections facilitates relationships between individuals and the communities in which they live. Via connects people to their community through volunteer, recreational, social and educational activities.

Community Mentoring & Retirement Services

People want to be valuable, active, and productive members of their community. Via helps individuals discover preferences and choose recreational and volunteer activities in their community to participate in as independently as possible. Via also helps people who are over or nearing age 55, transition to retirement to maintain skills, participate in leisure and volunteer activities, stay active, and connect with activities in community settings.

Teen Summer Experience

Via works with teens and their family to develop educational, recreational and vocational goals, centered on developing life skills. This intensive 11-week program includes job shadowing, career counseling, volunteering, and a series of recreational and team-building activities that help prepare young adults to become successful members of the community and workforce upon their graduation.

Supported Living

Via's Supported Living program helps individuals live independently in their own accessible apartment or home. A planning process helps individuals explore where they want to live and if they want to live with a friend or on their own.



ViaNet.org



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610-317-8000 | ViaNet.org | Via@ViaNet.org



In 2009*, Via of the Lehigh Valley provided services for more than 630 children and adults with disabilities throughout the greater Lehigh Valley, in Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks and Berks counties. Below is a summary of each program Via offers and significant milestones from the past year.

* 2009 refers to Via's fiscal year 2009, running from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Children's Services

- 185 children, from birth to age 3, and their families were provided with Early Intervention therapy and first steps towards school readiness. 9% of children receive multiple therapies.
- All Early Intervention therapies are provided in natural family home or day care settings. Therapists provide therapy to the child and instruction to caregivers who provide "practice" with children between therapist visits.
- Via offers nationally recognized Sibshops program for siblings of children with disabilities in the Lehigh Valley.

Community Employment

- 270 people were assisted in acquiring and maintaining employment through job development, work assessments, follow-along support and small business ownership.
- Via's partnership with the City of Bethlehem continued to help people in this community develop small businesses and create resource ownership opportunities.
- 3 people were able to start their own small businesses this year. 2 new DJ businesses were launched, one specializing in polka music. A new fine arts and print making business was created.
- Via continues to assist Bangor, Easton and Saucon Valley School Districts with transition and job development for teens and by providing training assistance for staff.

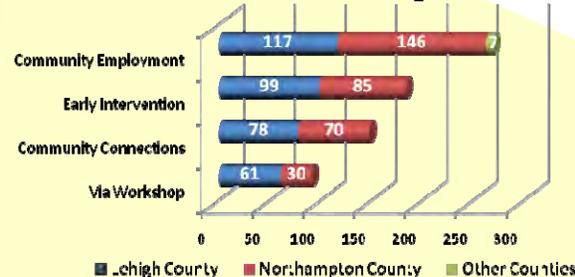
Community Connections

- 148 people received support for volunteer, recreation, and educational activities in their communities, as well as supported living assistance so they can live independently.
- 48 Lehigh Valley agencies partnered with Via and received over 5,000 hours of volunteer assistance from people served in Community Connections program.
- With a grant from Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation Via continued to assist people over age 55 learn about and transition from our workshop program to inclusive retirement activities in their communities.
- With funding from the Rider Pool Foundation and an anonymous donor Via's Summer Teen Experience offered 11 weeks of vocational exploration and inclusive recreational activities for 29 young people age 14 through 21.

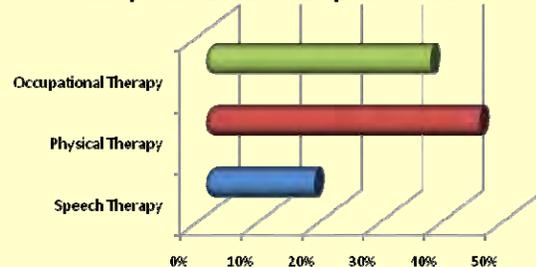
Via Workshop

- 91 People, engaged in packaging, assembly, and other light industrial jobs for local manufacturing companies such as Crayola, B. Braun, Martin Guitar and Lutron.
- Workshop census is reduced by an average of 20% annually due to individuals choosing community based services.

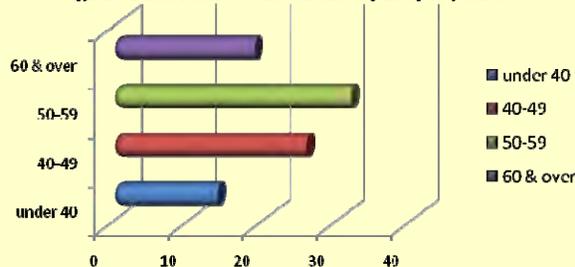
Individuals Served in Each Program



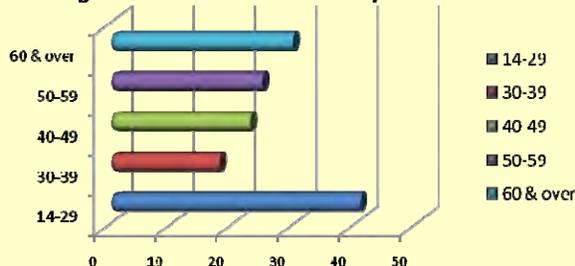
Early Intervention Therapies Provided



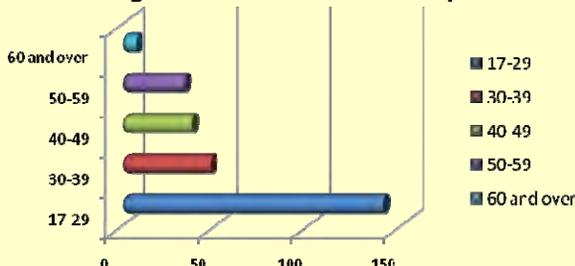
Age Breakdown for Community Employment



Age Breakdown for Community Connections



Age Breakdown for Via Workshop



From the Chair of the Via Board

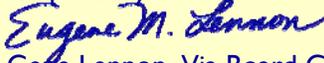


It is an exciting and challenging time to be part of the board of Via of the Lehigh Valley. We are in the midst of streamlining our organization to serve children and adults with disabilities more efficiently. Doing more with less is a necessity for everyone during these economic times. Fortunately, Via is focused on creating success every day for people with disabilities and economic concerns are no obstacle to that dedication.

As a board, we are currently working with the Non-Profit Center at LaSalle University to provide interim leadership, board and staff training, and a professional search for an Executive Director. This relationship and a group of new Via board members has brought fresh ideas, and renewed enthusiasm and confidence that places us in a position to better serve our community.

There are many ways to help Via fulfill our mission. Besides supporting our successful events, we accept contributions of time and/or money directed at any one of the services Via offers. In addition, our Thrift Stores accept donations of clothing and household goods.

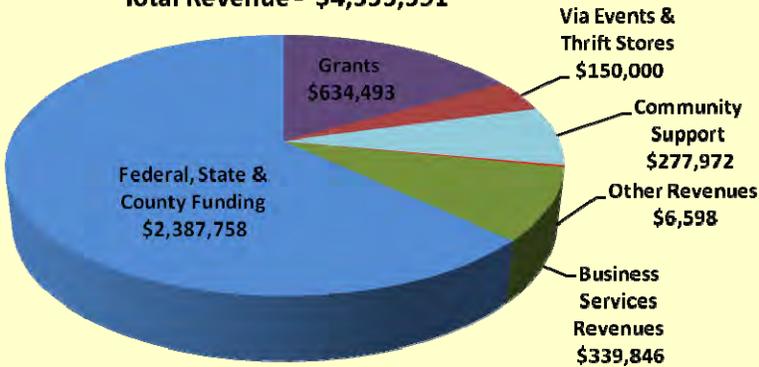
There is much to be done and we, Via board and staff, are up to the challenge. Why not join us? To learn more, call or email our Interim Executive Director, Karen Forbes, at 484-893-5372 or K.Forbes@ViaNet.org.

Respectfully Yours,

 Eugene M. Lennon, Via Board Chair

Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Financial Statement - Year Ending June 30, 2009

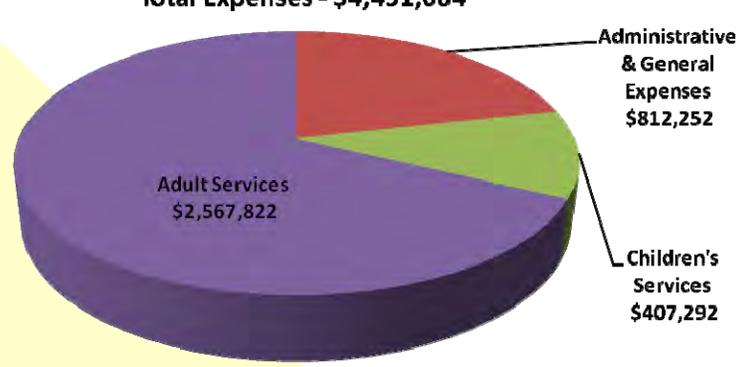
Revenues

Total Revenue - \$4,355,591



Expenses

Total Expenses - \$4,451,064



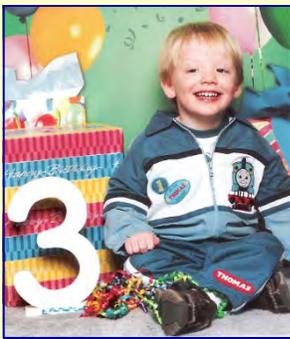
*Via Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise and invest funds for the benefit of Via of the Lehigh Valley.
 Via Events is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise funds through sales at Via's four thrift stores and through income from events*

Board of Directors, Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Eugene Lennon, Chair | Joseph Kempfer |
| Steve Bailey, Vice-Chair | Lorinda Macaulay |
| Mark Bacak | Maryanne Schluckebier |
| Jim Backer | Paul Pierpoint |
| Sarah Eyster Berger | Jerry Somers |
| Larry Center | Donna Taggart |
| Barbara Davies | Kerry Wrobel |
| John Diamant | |
| Thomas A. Hutchinson | |

Via of the Lehigh Valley Leadership Staff

- | | |
|---|--|
| Karen Forbes, interim executive director | of program development |
| Anthony Fili, chief operating officer | Lisa Walkiewicz, director of communications |
| Randall Letterhouse, chief financial officer | Marisa Nimtien, director of Children's Services |
| Marianne Bear, vice president of programs | Lisa Musselman, director of Community Connections |
| Gerry Yasso, vice president Via Foundation & Via Events | Corey Smith, director of Employment Services |
| Jeannette MacDonald, director | Terry Laudenslager, manager of Transitional Employment |



Creating Success Every Day



Gracie – Early Intervention



Two-year old Gracie and her older brother's arguing seemed to be just a part of family life. However, Gracie had extreme difficulties communicating and was frustrated in her interactions with those who love her most. After evaluation by the Via's Early Intervention program, it was discovered that Gracie's speech

development was slower than that of most children her age. This discovery helped the family understand that Gracie's temper tantrums and arguments with her brother were a result of her frustration of not being able to communicate her feelings using speech.

Via began working with Gracie and her family on a weekly basis. The change has been dramatic since Via started working with her. Gracie's speech has improved and she has learned how to tell her family what she needs and wants without frustration.

Travis – Community Employment



Travis, a student at Bangor High School, wanted to be sure he was prepared for adult life after school. His school brought Via in and began working with him through a process called discovery, providing him opportunities to volunteer and job shadow in the community.

Through this process, Travis narrowed down his interests and likes to continuous interaction with people and organization. Through job shadowing, he learned organization and communication

skills. In addition, Travis' hard work and dedication earned him a part-time job at CVS. Travis stays busy outside of work and school, volunteering at a local rehab center, assisting at his church and volunteering at his school. Travis' opportunities for success continue to grow with his dedication to volunteering and love for his job.

Taren – Community Connections



As a volunteer at the Crayola Factory in Easton, Taren works with hundreds of children every day. Taren's shy and quiet demeanor disappears once she puts on her volunteer smock and starts handing out craft projects to the children. When Taren started volunteering, she was shy and rarely talked to anyone other than her Via Community Coach. But over the past two years, Taren's sense of independence has grown and so has her confidence.

Now she readily initiates conversations with other volunteers and interacts with staff, her volunteer director and the children and families at the Crayola Factory. Taren was recently recognized with The Crayola Factory Spirit of Volunteerism Award. She is a valuable member of her team, giving of her time to support the community and working with hundreds of children every day.

Alan – Community Connections



Alan was focused on his routine and didn't want to do anything to alter his daily activities. Fast forward to today and you can catch Alan at any number of community sites volunteering with his friends. Alan requests certain sites that involve activities he enjoys most like clerical work and any site that involves working around other people.

Alan's sense of humor has flourished and he's always ready to joke around with his friends and other volunteers with one of his one-liners. Alan continues to develop communication and other life skills needed for independent living and through Community Connections has developed bonds and relationships within his community.

Jacob – Early Intervention



Dear Ms. Kathy,

We greatly appreciate all you have done in your work with Jacob. It is obvious that his improvements are because of your hard work with him. We believe Jacob would not be as advanced in his developmental milestones if not for your patience, kindness and love for your work and the children you serve.

You have gone beyond the expectations that are required of you and Jacob has made such excellent progress in not only the occupational therapy area but also social expression, development of individual interests, personality development, and expression of wants, needs and feelings.

Thank you for all of your efforts and know that you have brought joy to our family every week.

Our deepest thanks, Jacob's family

Bruce – Community Employment



After doing production work as part of a school program, Bruce wanted to pursue the same type of job after graduation. Cigars International gave Bruce the opportunity to participate in a work assessment and after two days, offered him a part-time job on the packaging line.

Bruce's coworkers have been very supportive and were quick to recognize his

talents and capabilities. His manager went out of his way to provide opportunities for Bruce to learn more responsibilities.

After five months on the job, Bruce was offered a full-time position. Bruce has found Cigars International to be a great place to work and his coworkers have made him a part of the team.

The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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