



CENTER FOR
ENRICHED
LIVING

*A Community of Friends and a World of Opportunities
for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.*

BOUNCING FORWARD



Mike, Joe, and Robert are friends in the Tuesday Night Art program. Together they created this piece that now hangs in our vestibule!

Impact Report for FY21 and FY22



After interviewing members, families, staff, and supporters, we UPDATED our Vision and Mission to better reflect who we are and aspire to be.



OUR NEW VISION!

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are empowered to realize their greatest potential, thrive within the community, and achieve their hopes and dreams.

OUR NEW MISSION

Enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by maximizing their opportunities for personal success, fun & friendship, employment, and community involvement.





STAFF ARE THE #1 REASON MEMBERS LOVE CEL

In recent interviews, nearly every member mentioned, "The Staff" as what makes CEL special!



“ I am included in things at CEL. I have freedom.”

Robyn, CEL Member

Our staff know members as individuals, understand their needs, learn about their interests, share a deep, mutual respect, and enjoy LOTS of laughter!



When I think of these past two years, 3 things come to mind –

- **Change is a constant**
- **Resilience & resourcefulness are key to our survival**
- **Relationship-building and trust are key to our success**



The joy of human connection, socialization, and belonging is the very foundation of who we are at CEL. We gain so much from human interaction. That connection brings greater meaning and purpose to our lives – along with greater success in our relationships with friends, within our own family, at our workplace, and within our community. Though our circumstances changed day to day, week to week, month to month – the constant at CEL was ensuring that our members stayed connected, both virtually and then back in person when the time proved right.

The emotional response to coming back to CEL was profound to staff, volunteers, families, and members alike – to all who came through our doors, it was like coming home again.

We tweaked our DREAM BIG Strategic Plan in response to the impact of COVID, adjusting our expectations and renaming our plan **Bounce Forward 2023**. Simply stated, by the end of June 2023, we want to rebuild what we lost from the pandemic, starting with our in-person programming, skill-building and social impact. Though virtual programs will always have a place in our program offerings – they were never meant to replace in-person activities.

To all of you who never wavered in your financial commitment to CEL, I am so grateful for your generosity. The strong donor, grantor, and community relationships we've built these past 50 plus years sustained us, and we ended the year financially strong. Together we will regain what we've lost, expand our reach with innovative programming, create a more diverse and inclusive culture, and leverage technology for easier access to CEL.

Thank you for being our partner in bouncing forward!

Harriet Levy, CEO



“ The joy of human connection is the very foundation of who we are at CEL. ”

Harriet Levy, CEO





CQI ACCREDITATION ELEVATES PERSON-CENTERED EXCELLENCE AT CEL

We have worked in partnership with CQI to continuously strengthen the quality of programs to enhance the lives of CEL members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The programs offered by CEL are not one size fits all. From your first interaction with CEL onward, our goal is to get to know YOU as an individual, learn about what YOUR goals and dreams are, find out what YOU have fun doing, and journey with you to get there.

“It’s one thing for CEL to just offer these services for their members - the people taking part in CEL’s programs - but another to actually see the positive impact they’re having on lives,” said Rebecca Kasey, CQI Special Projects Manager. “I experienced it first-hand during CEL’s recent accreditation. We heard from numerous members who shared how appreciative they are for CEL’s programs. They highlighted how many choices there are for programs that provide people with opportunities to participate in events that match with their unique interests.”

At CEL, we believe that we can always do better in making sure that members’ voices are heard and their choices are respected. CQI provides the tools to achieve even greater excellence in our service delivery of person-centered programs. CQI helps us look at every facet of what we do through the criteria of their Basic Assurances® - making sure there is continuous improvement in the health, safety, and security of members.

CEL is an organization that prides itself on establishing strong partnerships within the community. These partnerships greatly enrich the lives of our members and strengthen their connection to **community**. They help us see ourselves through a community lens in terms of the respect, dignity, and person-centered excellence under which we operate.



“Sometimes I am just ok at something, but I still like to try, and I have fun doing that at CEL!”

Brent, CEL Member



READ MORE ABOUT CEL'S ACCREDITATION

The Center For Enriched Living Builds Community In Illinois - The Council on Quality and Leadership



FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH CHALLENGES

The pandemic showed us how important human connection is and how lonely life can feel when you're cut off from the world.

We persevered through the challenges and relied on the strength of CEL staff, members, families, supporters, and a community who collaborated in creative ways to be together safely.

It was profound for members to return to programs and regain what they had lost. Elated hugs, high fives, and hellos echoed throughout the building as members returned to social programs and saw their friends again after a long, difficult time away.



“ This is my dream come true! ”

CEL member Ally, when she could return to programs and see her friend Becky again.



VIRTUAL PROGRAMS: KEEPING PEOPLE CONNECTED

For the past two years, virtual programs provided key connections for members to safely link to the world and their friends.

CEL staff developed a wide assortment of over 60 virtual program choices during the pandemic. Each day, members connected to each other and experienced new things: quiz shows and contests, making ravioli, dancing to their favorite songs, exploring the wonders of the world, learning about rights & responsibilities, and so many more.

Even as in-person programming resumed, hybrid programs connected those who could come to CEL with those who preferred to stay home.

Members like Michelle found that CEL's Virtual Programs gave her a safe place at home to make new friends.



“I can't believe how much Michelle has grown while participating in virtual programs!”

Parent of CEL member



JOBS BRING MEANING AND PURPOSE

A job is so much more than just a paycheck.

It's an opportunity to be part of a team, to showcase skills, and to have pride in the work you do. But too often, people with disabilities aren't included in those opportunities. Work adds value to members' lives, but these men and women also add so much to the workplace.

At CEL, we are committed to finding job opportunities that match each member's interests and talents, honing their skills, building long-lasting with committed employers, and ensuring that people with IDD who want to work, can.

When we started our Employment Opportunities Program in 2016, the unemployment rate for people with developmental disabilities was around 85%. In the middle of a global pandemic, that number jumped as high as 94%.

Employers still opened their doors to learn about our Employment Program, and more importantly, hired people with IDD!

Greg Hill, President at The Pet Factory in Mundelein, had heard about CEL at a Rotary Club meeting. When Greg's business saw an uptick due to more pet adoptions and time at home with pets, he needed to hire more people. He contacted CEL to see if we had any candidates who would fill a few positions, and our Employment team found solid candidates whose skills and interests matched. Now there are five CEL members who are employed at Pet Factory and do great work!

As Greg said, "When you find the right person for a role, they will be committed to the job and the organization. It's a good thing business wise, but it's a great thing community-wise."



Watch how the Employment Opportunities Program impacts members like Steve and Christine in this video:



“CEL helped me find a job, and I feel good about myself when I am doing my best at work.”

Jeff, CEL Member

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS

These local businesses understand the value of hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Amazon Fresh
- Bark University
- Blue Star Recyclers
- Brookdale Senior Living
- Buffalo Grove Park District
- Culver's
- Gigi's Playhouse
- Glencoe School District
- Heartland Animal Hospital
- Horizon Therapeutics/Eurest
- Jo-Ann Fabrics
- Kohl's
- Leider Nursery
- McDonald's
- Noggin Builders
- Pet Factory
- Riverside Foundation Safety
- Guard International
- Schaumburg Boomers
- T.J. Maxx
- Wild Roaster

CEL FACTS



History of Excellence

CEL was founded in 1968 and became an independent agency in 1984. In 2000 we opened our beautiful 20,000 sf ADA building in Riverwoods. Though CEL started as a social enrichment center, over the years we have grown to serve the many needs of teens & adults with IDD.

During a typical year we have nearly 500 members who participate in: dances, teen clubs, theater & arts, hobbies & games, fitness, technology, volunteering, summer camp, REACH adult day program, Community-based Employment/Internships & so much more!



Generosity of Friends

70% of our operating income is from fundraising: contributions, foundations, townships, events, corporate & business sponsorships.



Far

50%
home
live
com
their
the d
care



Universal Design

In 2016, CEL renovated our entire building to the standard of Universal Design. All who come here can navigate the entire building and grounds with greater ease & support.



Agency Partnerships

50% of CEL members come from area agencies such as Lambs Farm, Riverside Foundation, Glenkirk, Shore (and many more). CEL offers many ways to learn, meet new friends and experience new things!



Families Place Their Trust in CEL

90% of CEL members live at home with their families. Some live independently, others are married and live in the community. Our families place their trust in CEL, knowing that dignity, respect, safety and joy & happiness of their loved one is our #1 priority.



Connecting CEL Members to Community

CEL partners with more than 55 community partners - area schools, agencies, small businesses, major corporations, restaurants, museums, non-profits, libraries, first responders & more in opening doors and strengthening community connections for teens and adults with IDD.

CEL BY THE NUMBERS

FY2021



FY2022

MEMBERS

43

REACH
MEMBERS

54

9

SOCIAL/REC
MEMBERS

171

15

EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS

27

173

VIRTUAL*
MEMBERS

58

**Many virtual members returned to in-person programming!*



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION HOURS

FY21

11,673

FY22

16,727



MEMBERS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIP

FY21

75.6%

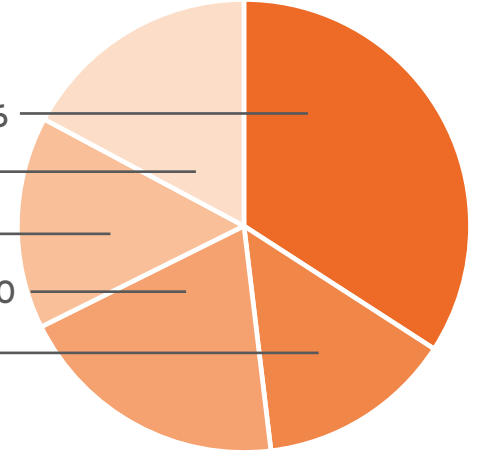
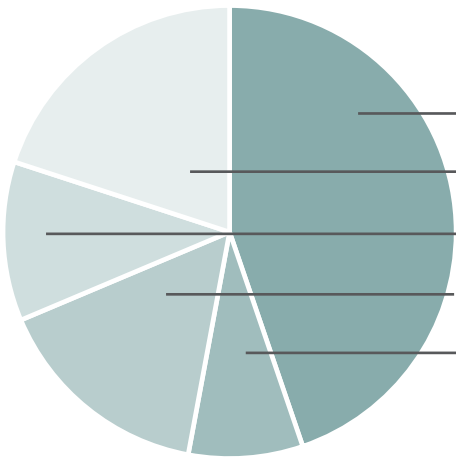
FY22

76.4%

Support & Revenue

FY2021

FY2022

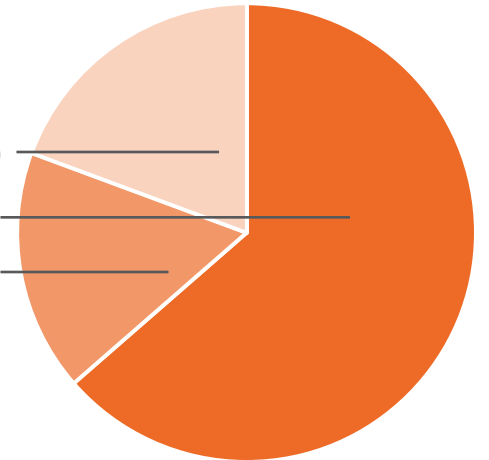
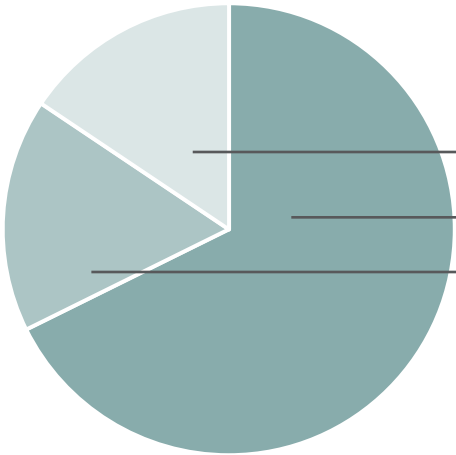


\$1,795,026	Contributions	\$1,708,266
\$801,349	Cares Act	\$860,058
\$455,926	Programs	\$758,804
\$630,357	Special Events	\$978,751.30
\$327,426	Grants	\$698,664.96

Expenses

FY2021

FY2022



\$532,336	Mgmt & General	\$571,850
\$1,749,612	Programs	\$2,482,048
\$469,502	Fundraising	\$612,945

FY2021

FY2022

\$106,126.61

SPECIAL EVENTS EXPENSE

\$158,225.31

\$7,485,601.88

ENDING NET ASSETS

\$8,476,573.06

\$598,216

AN INCREASE OF

\$1,351,747



**WE THRIVE AND OUR MEMBERS
FLOURISH (THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU)**



CEL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Your support helped raise more than \$413,000 to help people with developmental disabilities be fully included in community, achieve personal success, and enjoy a good quality of life through our work at CEL! A huge thank you to all of our golfers and sponsors who participated, including AIT Worldwide Logistics, our Title Sponsor, and Course Sponsors Arrow, Corel & Parallels, and IngramMicroNSP/Fortinet.



MONTHLY DONORS

"I give monthly because it's the most convenient, effective way to provide year-round support for this unique and special place. Monthly giving is easy and automatic, so I know I'm providing a foundation of stability that helps sustain programs that mean so much to our members." – CEL Board Member Kim Cysewski



CHEFS' NIGHT - BACK IN PERSON!

More than 500 friends celebrated CEL's mission and raised \$554,000. We are grateful to all the restaurants, attendees, volunteers from AIT Worldwide Logistics, and sponsorships from our generous friends at AbbVie Inc., BlueStar, Brandenburg, and so many others.



FOUNDATION & TOWNSHIP PARTNERS

Critical, responsive support is provided through many generous partners. For example, The Aigner Foundation funded music therapy; The Medline Foundation supports a wide range of virtual programs; The Coleman Foundation powered our holiday fundraising appeal. **Area Townships also have a long history of generous support of CEL!** We are grateful to all who sustain our long history of excellence, innovation, and person-centered programming.



VOLUNTEERS

Every week, we rely on dozens of volunteers for the sustenance and continuation of programs alongside our members and staff. They build meaningful relationships with members who feel the warmth of this dedication, and ensure high quality events and programs. Learn more about volunteering:
www.centerforenrichedliving.org/volunteer/

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

FY21 - FY22



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Cannon (President)
Howard Diamond (Vice President)
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Ira Singer (Treasurer)
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Susan Bersh
Miriam Campbell
Odette Christie
Deedra Darby-Jones
Lane Epstein
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Jeffrey Greenspan
Carolyn Kuperman
Kristin Malek
Vaughn Moore
Akash Pathak
Paul Sundberg

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Dan Ripes
Mark S. Robbins
Michael I. Rothstein
Richard Sheiner
Stephanie Slatkin

In Memoriam
Jeffrey A. Davis

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Byron Holden
David Kalfen
Gary G. Kash
Michael Krasny
Richard Worsak

In Memoriam
Robert S. Vihon



**Meet
the
FY23
Board!**

“ CEL is all about the members - their wants and needs, wishes and dreams - CEL is a connector that provides community, education, and support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

John Borta, CEL Board Emeritus

YOU MAXIMIZE THESE MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES:



Job preparation that includes resume building, job exploration, job coaching, and on-the-job support in a role that suits their skills and interests.



Creative arts classes where adults explore drawing, painting, watercolors, photography and more outlets for creative expression.



Teens spend nine weeks having fun in CEL's summer camp making new friends, creative arts, outdoor sports, cookouts, and games.



Fitness and wellness programs at CEL like weekly bowling, activities in the gym, and tips for members to stay healthy with exercise routines and good nutrition.



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280 Saunders Road, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015

www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org

**Volunteer or Intern
at CEL:**



**CEL is a great place to work.
See jobs:**



**Join our
Board of Directors:**



Keep up with CEL on social media

