



Lincolnway
SPECIAL RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

June 1, 2023
through
May 31, 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Building a Community Without Limits!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

KEITH WALLACE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close another fiscal year, the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association celebrates a period marked by substantial growth, increased community engagement, and unwavering commitment to our mission. This report highlights the achievements of our programs, our success in fundraising events, and our continuous effort to expand and enhance the services we provide to our community.

Our programs have seen unprecedented participation rates this year, setting new records in our history. We attribute this success to our commitment to diversity in programming and our responsive adaptation to the needs of our community. We reached 484 participants, with those individuals participating in 5,725 program sessions, reflecting 19% growth.

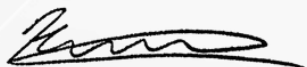
We continue to foster inclusive opportunities for all individuals from various park districts illustrating the scope and impact of our efforts.

Our community events and fundraising efforts have not only been successful in raising funds but have also served as vital community-building activities. Special thanks to the Lincolnway Special Recreation Foundation, whose significant contributions have been a cornerstone of our financial and operational success.

We are proud to have fulfilled 100% of financial assistance requests, thanks to the generosity of our donors. This support has been instrumental in ensuring that no participant is turned away due to financial constraints.

As we look to the future, LWSRA remains dedicated to enhancing our program offerings, expanding our community reach, and continuing to provide exceptional experiences to all our participants. We are grateful for the continued support of our staff, donors, participants, and community members, whose contributions make our success possible.

LWSRA is more than just an organization; it is a vibrant community dedicated to fostering inclusivity, joy, and enrichment through recreation. As we move forward, we remain committed to redefining the scope of what we can achieve together.



Keith Wallace, CPRP
Executive Director



ABOUT LWSRA

Since 1976, the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) has provided recreation services for individuals with disabilities through a cooperative agreement with its eight member park districts: Crete, Frankfort, Frankfort Square, Manhattan, Mokena, New Lenox, Peotone and Wilmington Park Districts. Participants enjoy active, healthy and more independent lifestyles through a variety of recreational and social opportunities.

MISSION

To provide recreation and leisure services for individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities while promoting greater disability awareness in the community.



VISION

A community without limits for individuals with disabilities.



VALUES

Community | Opportunity | Recreation | Education
Training | Reliability | Unity | Safety | Trust



SERVICES

Proudly offering social programs, interest-based programs and inclusion programs to our member districts and beyond.

NEW IN 23-24

GROWING THE FLOCK

Promoted several veteran program leaders to Program Specialist roles, assisting with our youth age group, teen/adult programs and inclusion services.

Welcomed two part-time administrative team members assisting with registration and administrative tasks.



INCLUSION IMPROVEMENTS

Hawking Champions program started to team up a peer buddy with participants for a more inclusive experience.

inclusion services implemented a more formalized inclusion process to better serve those enrolled in park district programs.



PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

included a new age group for ages 19-22 in our Pre-TITANS summer camp.

Differentiated programs based on interests and goals.

Caregiver & Me programs introduced for youth age 2-6.



NEW IN 23-24

STORY PATH AT THE LWSRC

The latest addition to the LWSRC and Leigh Creek South Park is located on the walk leading from the park to the rec center.

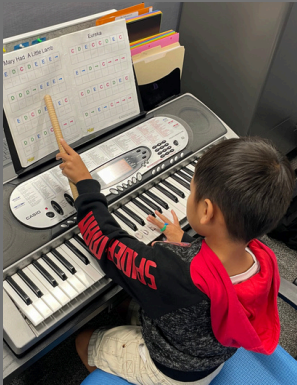
Read along to the book, *Included*, written by Megan Prendergast. Each of the story posts features visuals and video/audio narration from LWSRA participants.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

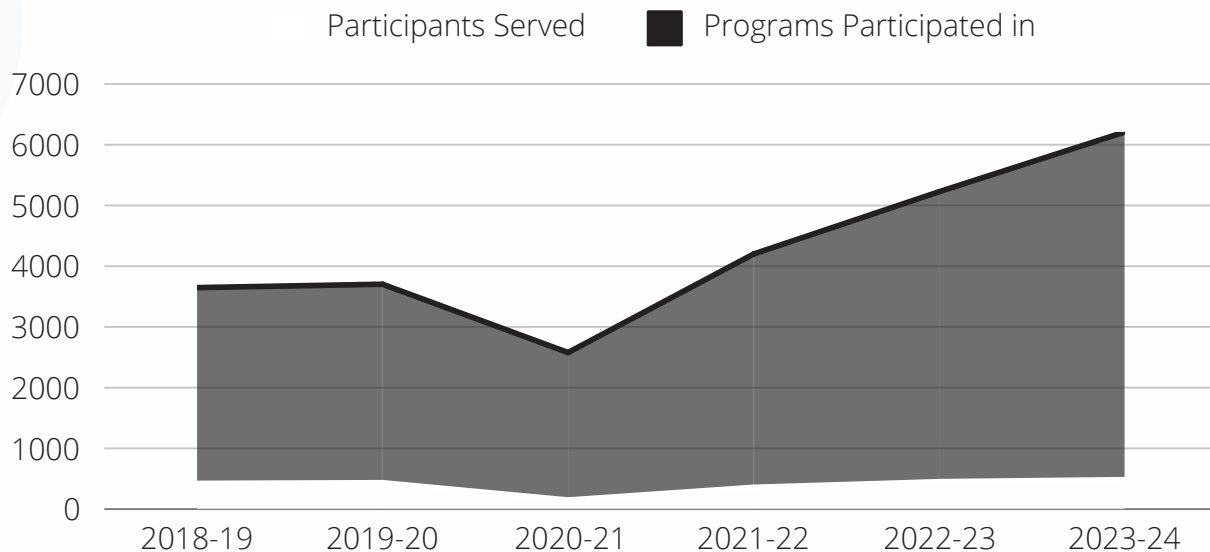


PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS



PARTICIPATION

The growth at LWSRA soared to new heights in FY 23-24. We welcomed **484 individuals** who participated in **5,725 program sessions**, marking a 20% increase from the year before. This growth is a testament to the unwavering dedication and passion of our participants, staff, and community supporters.

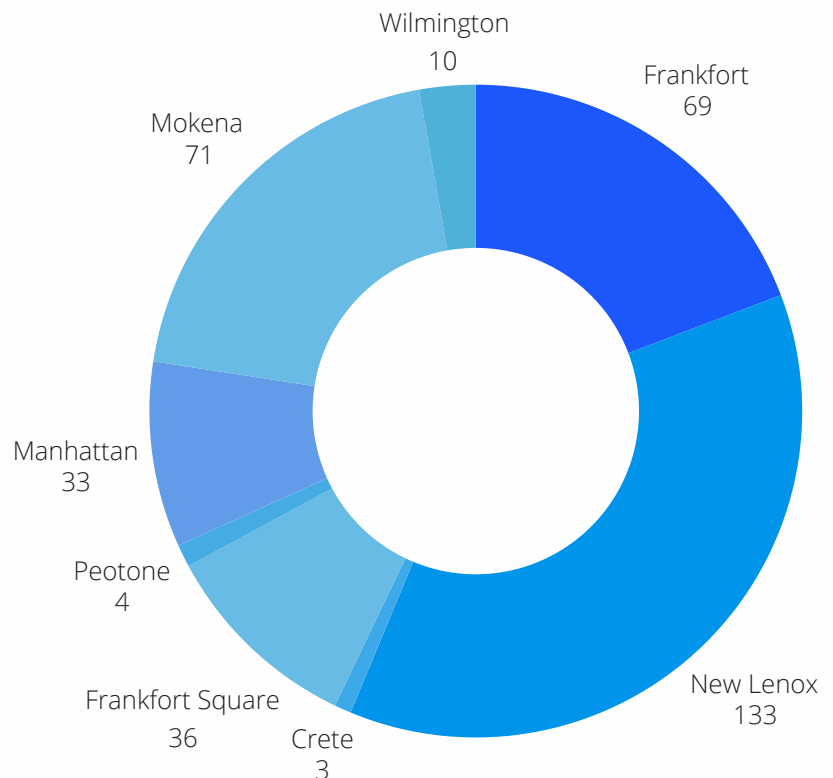


BY DISTRICT

LWSRA's member districts vary in size with the smallest serving just over 4,000 residents and the largest over 40,000. However, all have continued their commitment toward increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in their community.

INCLUSION

In addition to LWSRA's own programs, staff provided support to **22 youth participants** in more than 40 park district programs as part of its inclusion services



COMMUNITY & FAMILIES

Community involvement has always been critical to LWSRA's success and that relationship continues to thrive. Our public events allow for the public to step inside LWSRA's facilities for exciting events while learning more about the services available. In return, the community support allows for additional revenue generation to assist in providing LWSRA programs and services to its members.



DAY WITH GRINCH

945 ATTENDEES

►► Raised \$11,000 across four time slots

FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY

119 ATTENDEES

►► Giving tree provided gifts to all participants and youth siblings



TRUNK OR TREAT

1000+ ATTENDEES

►► Sensory friendly Hour 300+ attendees

PERFORMING ARTS FEST

740 ATTENDEES

►► Drama Club, art, dance, and piano raised \$8,500



Lincolnway Special Recreation FOUNDATION



\$60,000 annual donation made to benefit LWSRA



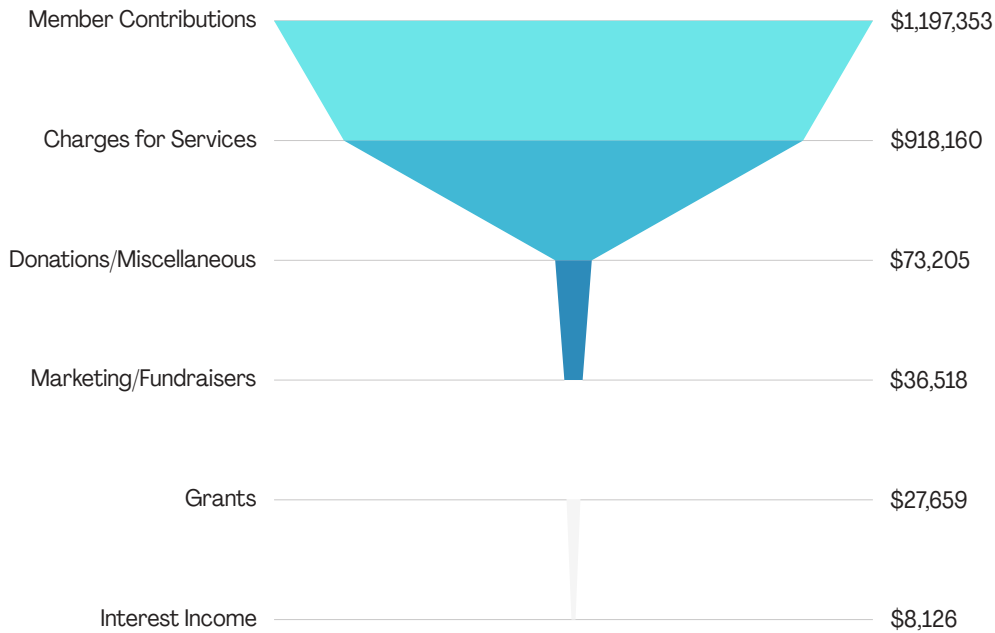
Two golf outings with 240 golfers and 60 sponsors raise \$43,000!



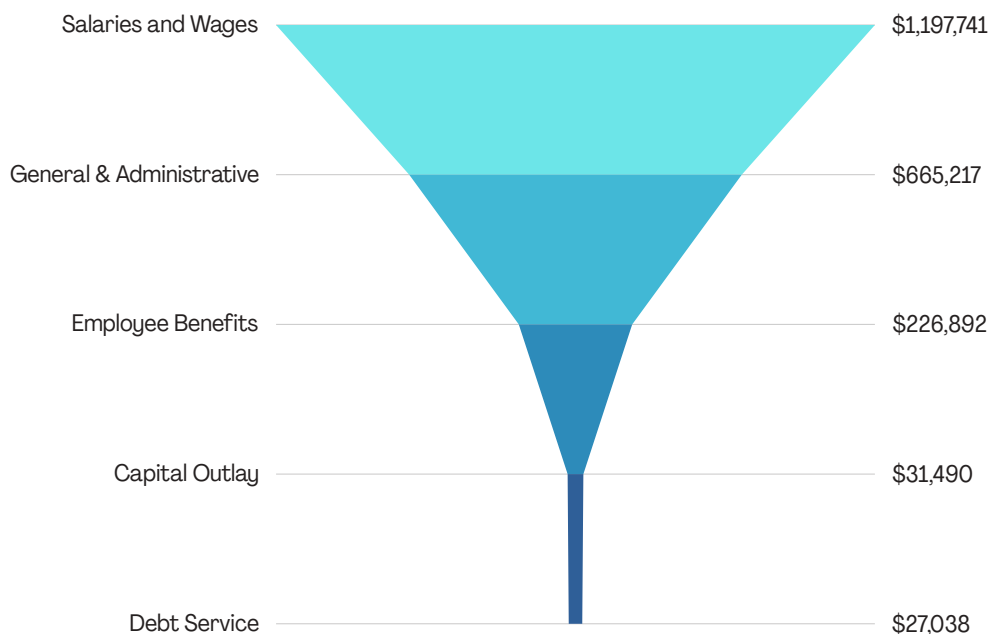
Bunny Breakfast featuring 675 attendees raising \$9,000!

FINANCIALS

Total Revenues: \$2,261,021



Total Expenditures: \$2,273,023



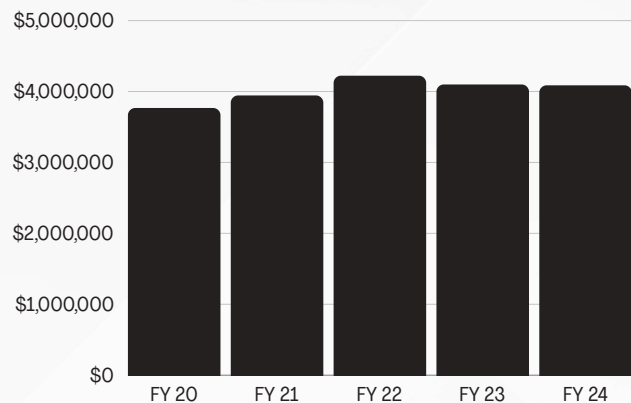
EXAMINING THE NUMBERS



NET POSITION

Current Assets	
Cash	\$503,192
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital Assets	\$3,796,550
Deferred Outflow of Resources	
Deferred Items - IMRF	\$151,324
Total Liabilities	(\$363,707)
Total Net Position:	\$4,087,359

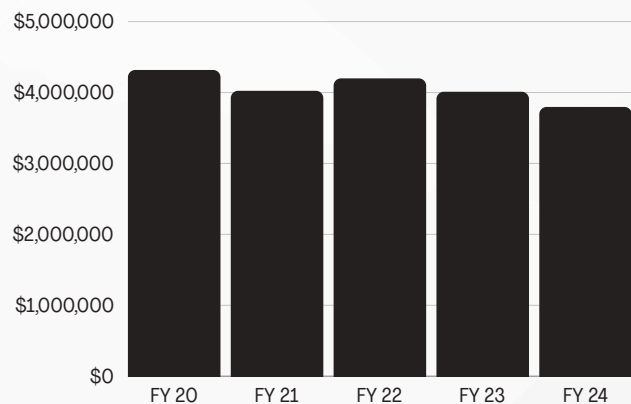
ANNUAL NET POSITION



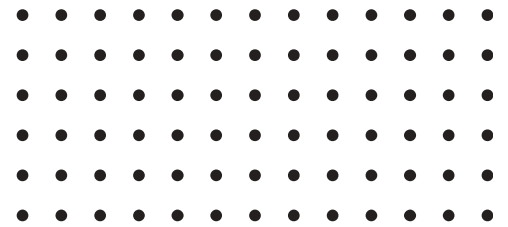
CAPITAL ASSETS

Non-Depreciable Assets	
Construction in Progress	\$8,675
Depreciable Assets	
Buildings	\$4,325,053
Vehicles	\$523,740
Improvements	\$221,236
Office equipment	\$79,883
Leased Asset (Building)	\$67,125
Total Depreciation	(\$1,429,162)
Net Capital Assets	\$3,796,550

ANNUAL NET CAPITAL ASSETS



2023 DONORS



Gold Donors

Wendy and Peter Trainor | Frankfort School District 157-C

Silver Donors

Double Good Kids Foundation | Suburban Service League

Bronze Donors

Mokena School District 159 | New Lenox Knights of Columbus
The Filosa Family | Exceptional Children's Charities, Inc | OPA Bar Crawl
Murphy Family & Rock Bottom Restaurant | Special People in Need
Ronald J. Grotovsky Mayors Charitable Foundation | The Vogelsang Family
Sons of the American Legion Squadron 697 | In memory of Len Chudzik
Menasha Corporation Foundation | New Lenox VFW Post 9545



The support provided by our generous donors, regardless of the size of their contributions, continues to greatly influence our efforts in creating an inclusive community. We express our sincere gratitude to all who have supported the vision of LWSRA. Together, we are transforming lives.