A Year in Review (2015-16)

- 776 consumers received services
- 18 people with multiple disabilities received licensed assisted living services
- 20,160 hours of service were provided
- 12,000 hours of direct service were provided to consumers

The Rehabilitation Center graduated 12 students in its first year of operation.

Hours of service went up 46% and hours of direct service went up 56% from the previous year, mainly due to the launch of the Rehabilitation Center's intensive 40 hour per week program.

Since 1905, The Iris Network has been supporting independence for people who are blind or visually impaired.
Dear Friends of The Iris Network

2016 was a momentous year of growth and development for The Iris Network. In addition to being the first full year of operation of the Rehabilitation Center, clients were served through our community-based Vision Rehabilitation Services program throughout the State of Maine. Also, our Access Technology and Employment Services program, the Low Vision Clinic, and a resident support program at Iris Park Apartments served many clients experiencing low vision or blindness.

In collaboration with our contract partner, Maine's Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), our programs enable people, many newly experiencing vision loss, and many seniors aging in place – to live independently in their communities. We provide the blindness compensatory skills needed by transition-age students and working-age adults to enable them to successfully compete in the job market. For senior citizens, we provide the independent living skills they need to avoid or delay unnecessary and prohibitively expensive institutionalization. Each of our programs is strengthened by our deep partnership with DBVI. Our collaborative relationship enables us to work as part of an integrated team of dedicated professionals.

Designed to combat the 70% rate of unemployment and under-employment among people with low vision and blindness, the Rehabilitation Center offers individualized residential rehabilitation through several programs ranging in length from two to 20 weeks. These programs are designed to meet the primary vision rehabilitation needs of transition-age youth and working-age adult clients from Maine and across the U.S. who want to enter the competitive employment market and reclaim their lives after vision loss.

James Phipps, President and Executive Director

The launch of the Rehabilitation Center was made possible by DBVI with funding from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration. Significant start-up costs during the first year of operations were funded in large part by our foundation supporters and generous private donors. The new Center required significant investment in program start-up expenses that were underwritten by our generous philanthropic investments. We are profoundly grateful and deeply appreciative of their ongoing support and confidence in our work.
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Community Events

The Iris Network held special days this past year. The Low Vision Clinic coordinated several "Demo Days" to demonstrate equipment designed to support daily functioning for people who are visually impaired. In addition the Clinic holds regular Clinic Days where eligible patients, usually referred by their eye doctor, are seen by an Ophthalmologist, Optometrist, and/or Occupational Therapist or Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. Other special events include BonTon Community Days held twice a year, where coupon booklets are sold to support local charities. Proceeds from the weekend sales at the BonTon store at the Maine Mall in South Portland go to support these charities including The Iris Network; Leonardo’s Pizza has been donating partial proceeds from their pizza sales in Portland to The Iris Network in the month of May for the last six years; and we won $1,000 from the Bangor Savings Community Matters More voting contest in the month of February; The Portland SeaDogs also donated as a result of a challenge won by the Lee Goldberg team from WCSH6; the Knights of Columbus from Biddeford generously donated proceeds from their Bingo Night. UNUM invited us to their mini-golf tournament and donated baseball tickets along with the SeaDogs, J.J. Nissen, U.S. Cellular.
Employees of the Year

Laura Vittorioso has been working with The Iris Network for over 30 years. Laura has a great depth of knowledge that she shares willingly with all staff and is very open to working with newer staff in the low vision field. Laura re-certified as a Low Vision Therapist to assist clients of the new Rehabilitation Center. She consistently stays abreast of trending topics in the field and works diligently, beyond her scheduled time, to share new knowledge with the Iris team. Laura represents the field as a strong professional and advocates tirelessly for client’s needs while maintaining high professional standards.

Amber Mooney is fairly new to The Iris Network but has taken a leading role in the launch and coordination of the Rehabilitation Center. Her work ethic is second to none. She comes in early, stays late, and is always quick to respond to any situation. Amber is fearless. She will do anything that she is asked to do, even if she is uncomfortable with it at first. Her cheerfulness, great sense of humor, and positive outlook mask a relentless determination to get her job done to the best of her ability, no matter what gets thrown at her. She loves her job, and it shows.

Dream Come True!

Roland Derosier, a lifelong SeaDogs season pass holder, got to throw out the first pitch in a game during the 2016 season!

After throwing the pitch, Roland Derosier was escorted off Hadlock Field by volunteer Bob Wakefield
In Honor

Fredda Brennan - Margie & Barry Afergan
Kathryn Grendell Bolton - Dauna Binder
Ellen Finley Flach Tribute - Michael & Rosemary Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Mann - Constance Barker
Charlie Prinn
Janice McCormick
Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
James Phipps - Dorothy Bean
Richard Plaisted - Mary & Martin Gavin

Financials

**REVENUE**

- General Contributions $203,465
- Fees for Service $1,868,066
- Grants & Foundations $137,251
- United Way of Greater Portland $20,049
- Event Income $32,324
- Adaptive Equipment Sales $55,318
- Other Revenue $299,301
- **Total Income** $2,615,774

**EXPENSES**

- Program Expenses $2,246,778
- Fundraising $248,270
- Management & General $310,197
- **Total Expenses** $2,805,245

**Change in Net Assets** ($189,471)
In Memory

Richard Benshimon
Wendy Matthews

H. Clifford & Pauline Berry
Phillip & Darlene Caverhill

Venney & Roland Bolduc
Joseph and Rebecah White

Robert Crouse
Martha Cavin
Maxine Crouse
Phyllis Powers Fenderson
Ann Brandt
Waynflete School

James Forestell
Mary & Bill Keith

John L. Johnston
William Johnston

Marion L. McGinley
Rosemary Nelson & Family

Robert Merchant
Theresa Merchant

Lynne Murray
Eileen Adams
Paula Beverage
William Carr
Phoebe Chandler
Kevin Concannon
Aaron Kiander & Julie Doughty
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