

# STRIVE



## ANNUAL REPORT

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# A Letter from the CEO

I am immensely proud of STRiVE team's continued positivity, compassion, and resilience over the past year, which was a year that saw many changes within our organization as we shift towards more inclusive services for people who experience an intellectual or developmental disability. We have accomplished many things over the past year and have many more incredible opportunities on the horizon.

Over the past year STRiVE has focused on providing high quality and innovative care to individuals we support across programs, increased the number of relationships within our community that will provide even more meaningful opportunities for the people we support while focusing on inclusion, and continued to adapt to the growing needs and demands for service in our community regarding our Early Intervention services providing developmental supports and services to families.

We continue to be excited by the momentum around the changing service landscape that is drawn towards providing meaningful employment opportunities and true community inclusion that is driven by forming positive relationships throughout our community. We are eternally grateful for the relationships and partnerships we've fostered and grown over the last year with Colorado Mesa University and CMU Tech, Innovative Textiles, Enstrom's Candies, Trim Wright Farms, Sugar & Ice, the City of Grand Junction Parks and Rec and Events Management, Community Hospital, CSU Western Colorado Research Center, the Community Foodbank and School District 51. These are just a few of the growing number of businesses and organizations in our community that have welcomed, with open arms, the inclusion of the amazing people we support.

We look forward to another year of innovation, and bettering the lives of those we support and our community as a whole.





# Agency Focus

## Operations & Employment



***STRiVE continues to ensure that our mission of supporting people who strive to reach their full potential and that our Vision that every person we serve is included in all facets of the community, where they are free to exercise the greatest degree of personal independence and are empowered to pursue their individual goals and dreams, resonates throughout the organization and community.***

***We are constantly working to make our community more inclusive for people who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability. True community inclusion is always central to everything we do. With that in mind, we are continuously looking to expand partnerships and building relationships within our community. We started this past year by welcoming students from Colorado Mesa University's (CMU) Occupational Therapy Department and Digital Filmmaking interns from CMU-Tech (previously Western Colorado Community College) to participate within STRiVE programs. Our friends at CMU have also welcomed a team of STRiVE supported individuals and staff onto their campus to work alongside their team, helping keep the campus beautiful.***

***We have also entered into a new partnership with School District 51 and Community Hospital to provide job coaching through a national, evidenced based employment program called Project Search. This incredible program prepares young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment. These partnerships highlight the value of the people we support and expose more members of our community to their immense value.***

***We also continue to make investments in inclusive opportunities within our organization. This past year we entered into a partnership and franchise agreement with Sugar & Ice. We have purchased their food truck, which we will use as an employment program while traveling throughout our community selling amazing coffee, shave ice and other delicious offerings.***

***This year saw the expansion of existing relationships and opportunities as well. You may have seen our team operating concessions at dozens of events throughout the year at Stoker Stadium and Suplizio Field with staff from the City of Grand Junction, keeping the grounds clean at St. Mary's Hospital and Valour Tactical Innovations, or ran into us at the Downtown Grand Junction or Palisade Farmers Market's selling our AMAZING products made by the people we support at Alida's Fruits.***





# Accomplishments

We continue to ensure that our Mission and Vision resonates throughout our organization and the community and remains at the heart of what we do.

With the Pandemic coming to an end early in 2023, we have learned to adapt and adjusted to the many new challenges that face organizations like STRiVE. It's well known that sufficient staffing is an issue even in normal times within this industry. However, we have begun to see an upswing in hiring trends. We have spent a lot of our time thinking creatively and have adapted the way we operate and staff programs, which has shown to be transformative over the past year. Our new approach will have great outcomes for the people we support and will provide more meaningful experiences.

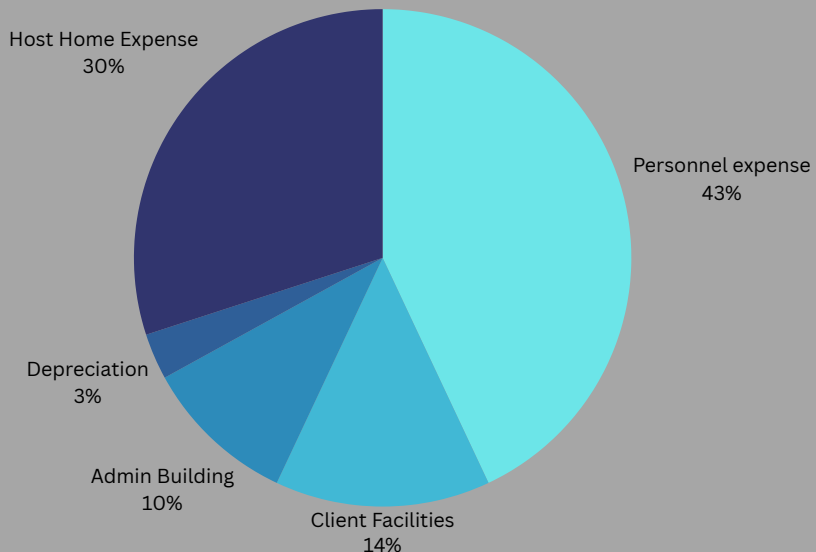
Through our struggles during this period, we gained some valuable insight and changed the way we provide residential services and supports. Our remaining group homes have now transitioned to what we call Host Home Plus. This service offers staffing assistance to providers who care for some of the more medically fragile or high acuity people we support on an as needed basis. The transition to this from group homes was very successful with some individuals remaining in their natural environment. This not only has made the people we support happy, but parents and guardians are pleased with the new arrangement.

We continue to work on one of our long-term goals of making our community vastly more inclusive for people who experience an intellectual or developmental disability. As previously reported, increased the number of businesses we partner with who have committed to providing inclusive opportunities for the people we support. These collaborations have also created full-time employment opportunities for individuals outside of our services and supports.

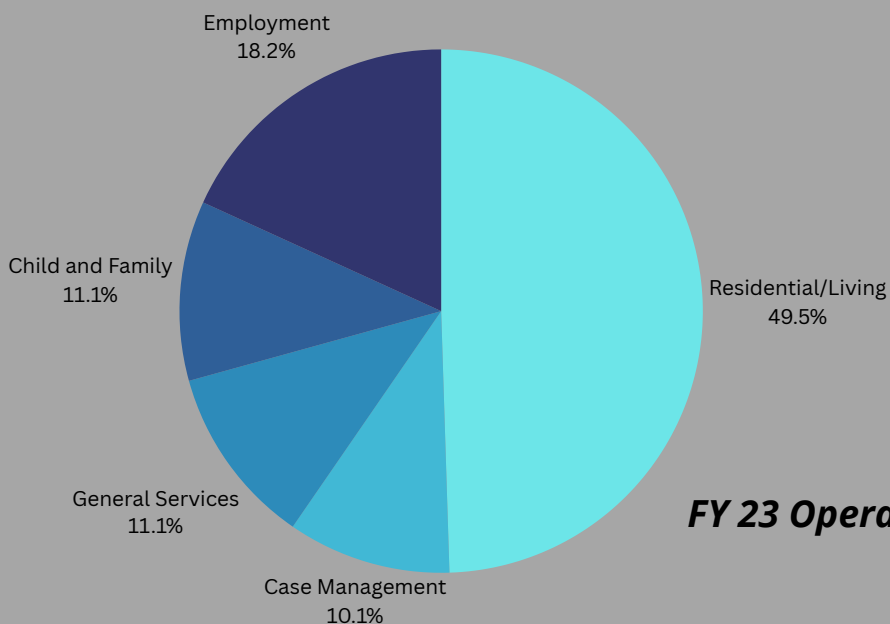
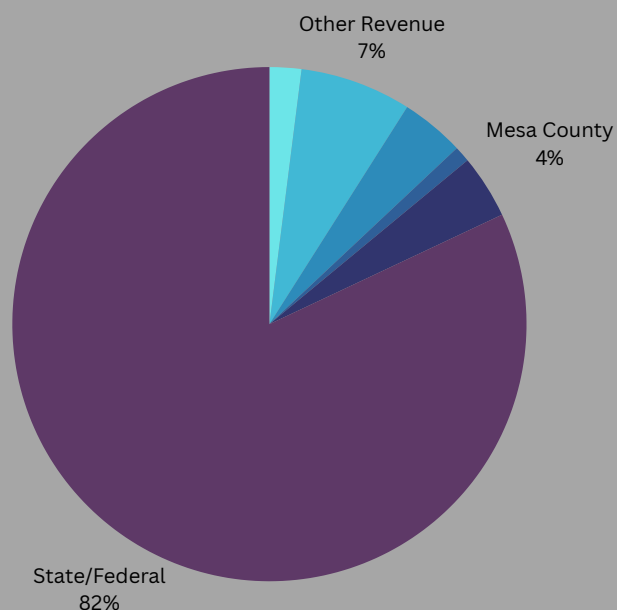
Over the past year our team has worked diligently to come into compliance with numerous new Federal and State guidelines that were implemented through what is called the Home and Community Based Services Settings Final Rule. We have revamped day programs to fall within those guidelines but also moved away from more traditional settings to numerous opportunities within the community. We have increased our focus on true community inclusion opportunities across all programs.



## ***Functional Expense summary***



## ***FY 23 YTD Revenue***



## ***FY 23 Operating Costs***

## ***Community Awareness/Education and Advocacy Activities/Events***

- ***The Foundation Board held their 9th Annual "Tulips and Juleps Derby Party" , in May. We netted \$86K and developed new connections within the community.***
- ***The 3rd Annual "Harvest Illuminated at the Gardens " This was a unique event highlighting on various pumpkins carvings done by artists that competed on Food Network's "Outrageous Pumpkins". Ticket sales were over 835 and netted over \$32K for the children and adult programs. A Christmas light display was offered to the public at no charge. This was very successful and are looking to expanding this in the future.***
- ***Strive maintains significant positive media presence with ongoing coverage of services and supports provided, education about various developmental disabilities, and highlighting the work and employment potential of individuals in services on various media platforms.***
- ***Focus groups with various community leaders, family members and stakeholders are conducted to further educate the community on individuals with developmental disabilities and address any concerns and/or comments they have. Presentations are also being given to various clubs and businesses throughout the Grand Valley. This has led to community stakeholders contacting the organization wanting either additional information on services or wanting to be more involved within the organization.***
- ***The CEO/President is a participant in the Mesa County Health Leadership Consortium.***

