

# Beyond 261

IMPACT REPORT 2021



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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This past year has been a wonderful, exciting year for Beyond26. The amazing part is that it's all happening during a pandemic. What makes it exciting is a lot of firsts for our young organization. First "Gathering Place" social event at Marge's Donut Den, first "B26 Gala," and our first Thanksgiving social.

We also opened a second document shredding location in partnership with Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven and expanded our Grand Rapids location to employ more jobseekers. In 2021 we placed 39 jobseekers in jobs around West Michigan, usually in their own community. We added 15 business partners to our growing list of participating businesses. Our volunteer list continues to grow every year, helping with job coaching, sending birthday cards, praying for our jobseekers, and pick-ups for our document shredding program.

We were blessed to receive a grant for purchasing a new/used van. Local grant funders are blessing us with other needed equipment such as commercial paper shredders and air purifiers. Our budget was met and surpassed by these means and the generous community we live in. The beauty is that we can offer our services to our community for *zero* cost to families or caregivers.

I believe 2022 is going to be a phenomenal year. Beyond26 is gaining traction because of all of you! Keep spreading the word! We will continue to "Put Faith to Work"!



**DIRK BAKHUYZEN**

Executive Director

# OUR MISSION

Aging out of Michigan's education system results in a critical time for individuals with disabilities. While the next step should likely be employment, unfortunately these opportunities are often few and far between. Beyond26 bridges this gap between local businesses and a community of excited and available jobseekers through networking and advocacy.

Our goal is to identify and overcome barriers to employment, and support our jobseekers as we work with them before, during, and after the employment process.

# THE IMPACT

We are delighted to report that, by all accounts, we have had our most impactful year yet! Thirty-nine jobseekers throughout West Michigan were connected with employment and volunteer opportunities this year, bringing the total jobseekers served across four years to ninety-seven. West Michigan businesses are catching our vision. Community members from neighboring counties are asking, "How can we do this in our community?"

Keep reading to see how our impact has grown, review financial information, and celebrate additional highlights along the way!



# JOBSEEKERS: BY THE NUMBERS



39

New Jobseekers  
Served (2021)

90%

Job Retention  
Rate (2021)

97

Total Jobseekers  
Served



JOBSEEKER HIGHLIGHT:

# MATT

Matt came to us with a dream of working at an auto shop. His past job experience and his passion for working on his own truck seemed to make him a perfect candidate, but he needed some guidance and a supportive employer to help him overcome his anxiety.

Wonderland Tire turned out to be that employer! Matt's goal was to work up to full time employment, and thanks to his work ethic and the support of his supervisor he was able to do so in just two short months. On follow-up visits, his supervisor has told us that they are very pleased with his progress, and that he is known to happily stay after his shift to finish up a task. The increase in his confidence is visible, and his mom says that he has a "new lease on life!"



# ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

It's been a busy year for Beyond26 as we work to increase opportunities for our supporters and jobseekers alike! This year we had a lot of fun establishing some new initiatives:

**Exploring Beyond26:** This year we were able to have our first in-person fundraising dinner ever! We appreciate everyone who was able to come out to meet us and hear from our amazing guest speaker, Jon Krieger. It was so wonderful to have so many people in one room that support our jobseekers and our mission. We can't wait for next year!



We also hosted a **Thanksgiving Social** to let our jobseekers and our supporters all know how grateful we are for them. It was a blast and it was so great to give everyone a chance to get to know our jobseekers!



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:

# THE B26 GATHERING PLACE

Jobs are a great source of social interaction for anyone, but we all need some personal time to connect with others as well. We often hear from our employed jobseekers that they would love somewhere to connect with others outside of work as well.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, we were able to launch the B26 Gathering Place which meets every two weeks for a guided activity (such as watercolor painting or bingo), giving everyone a chance to learn a new skill and have some social time!





# BUSINESS PARTNERS: BY THE NUMBERS

Part of our vision is not just placing jobseekers, but also showing employers and community members all of the amazing assets that our jobseekers bring to their roles. Business partners and customers gain an enthusiastic employee who wants to work, which is something that benefits everyone. It seems that West Michigan is catching our vision quickly!

21

New Business  
Partners (2021)

46

Total Business  
Partners

13

Total Business  
Sponsors



BUSINESS PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

# MARGE'S DONUT DEN

We are humbled by the graciousness of Marge's Donut Den which has supported our mission on multiple levels.

Not only did they partner with us to provide a position for Zach (pictured right), but they also have opened their doors to provide the first official venue for our new Gathering Place program.

What we do relies so heavily on the support of our business partners, and to have such a community-oriented business supporting our jobseekers is a blessing beyond words! Thank you Marge's Donut Den!

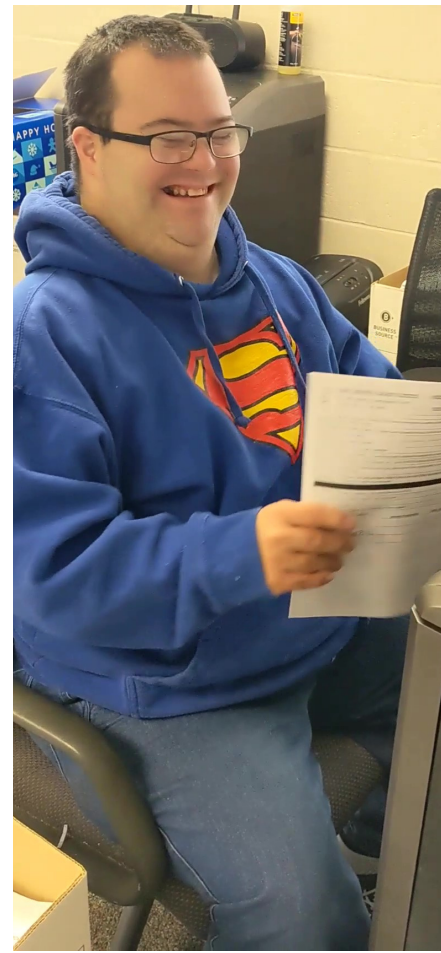


PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

# BEYOND26 DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Beyond26 Document Shredding has seen huge growth this year! We received a donation of six gently used document shredding machines from a local business, a grant for a brand new document shredding machine from Kent County Medical Society Alliance, and an extremely generous grant from the Cook Foundation for a van!

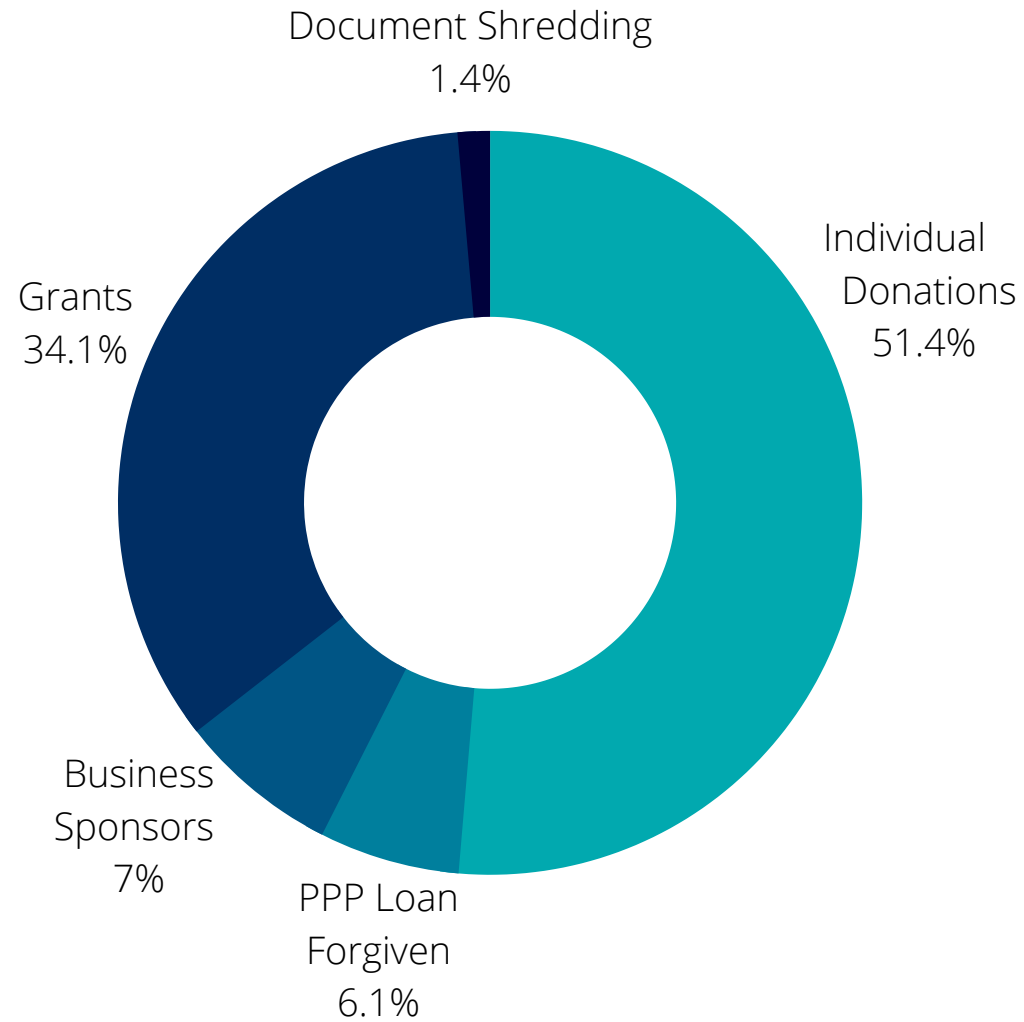
If that wasn't amazing enough, some very enthusiastic community members in Grand Haven have started a lakeshore branch of our program to service individuals in Ottawa County. We are extremely excited about the momentum that has been gained this year!



FINANCIALS

# REVENUE

Like any nonprofit, donations are fundamental to what we do. But for Beyond26 donations are truly vital. Why? Most nonprofits receive over 80% of their revenue from fees charged for their services as well as government funding. As you may know, we do not charge for our services and we do not accept government funding. A huge part of our mission is to keep everything barrier-free for our jobseekers. Cost of services and government-enforced eligibility requirements are two of the most common barriers that our jobseekers face. That's why our donors mean so much to us! Thank you for keeping our services free!



- Individual Donations - \$122,179
- Grants - \$81,192
- Business Sponsors - \$16,700
- PPP Loan Forgiven - \$14,600
- Document Shredding - \$3,410

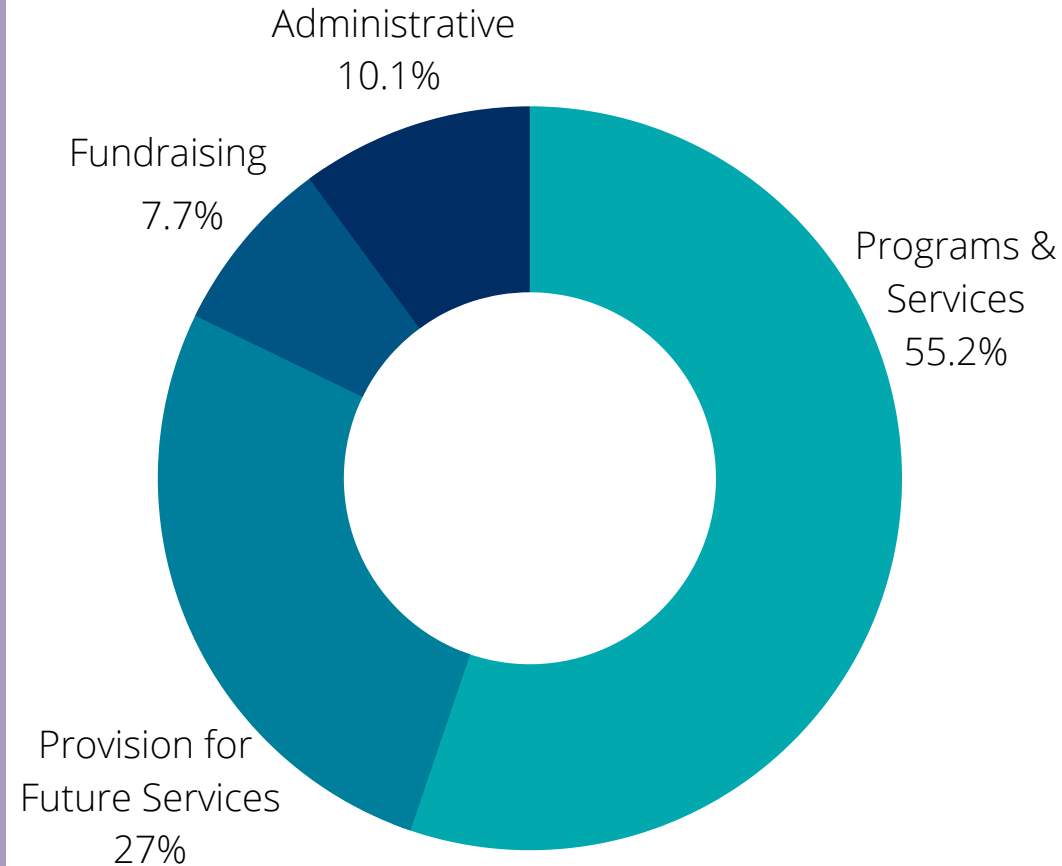
TOTAL | \$238,081

## FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES

What started as a somewhat uncertain year turned into a year of unprecedented growth. Due to an outpouring of support and some surprising year-end gifts, we were able to surpass our budgetary needs which allowed us to open a money market account that will provide for future services and offer us stability for years to come.

We expanded our programs and services by adding a full time job developer to network and advocate for our jobseekers. In addition, we doubled the number of jobseekers served by our document shredding program.



- Programs and Services - \$131,327
- Provision for Future Services - \$64,245
- Administrative - \$24,157
- Fundraising - \$18,352

TOTAL | \$238,081

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Wondergem - President  
Gary Courtright - Vice President  
Ed Bueche - Treasurer  
Mary VanOeveren - Secretary  
Dirk Bakhuyzen - Executive Director  
Jennifer Bakhuyzen  
Kyle Bueche  
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Vicki Wondergem

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