

# Lincolnway

SPECIAL RECREATION  
ASSOCIATION



# ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 1, 2020  
through  
MAY 31, 2021



# ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1976

The Lincolnway Special Recreation Association has provided recreation services for individuals with disabilities since 1976. Operating as an extension of its seven member districts, LWSRA currently serves residents of the Frankfort, Frankfort Square, Manhattan, Mokena, New Lenox, Peotone and Wilmington Park Districts. Individuals age two through adulthood benefit from interest-based programs, social programs and inclusion services.

The benefits of recreation extend beyond our member communities through special agreements with the Village of Monee and Homer Township, as well as cooperative agreements with the South Suburban Special Recreation Association and Southwest Special Recreation Association.



## MISSION

LWSRA's mission is 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.

*Together*  
we can build it!



## VALUES

Community  
Opportunities  
Recreation  
Education  
Training  
Reliability  
Unity  
Safety  
Trust



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## What did June 2020 – May 2021 look like for LWSRA?

This year was one where we redefined our definition of "success." LWSRA, like so many others, faced challenges due to the continued regulations and restrictions implemented to combat the pandemic. Our staff navigated through many of these obstacles, and we were able to deliver quality recreation services.

Some of the highlights included our ability to transition traditional programs to virtual ones. Our full-time staff tirelessly created and implemented these programs to keep our participants active and engaged as best as possible. It also inspired some creativity in fundraising through take-home activity kits, which gave our community activities to do at home while bringing in some non-traditional revenue for the agency. As the year continued, light could be seen at the end of the tunnel with several in-person programs returning through a scaled-down approach.

We are grateful for our participants, staff, volunteers, and donors that continue to make LWSRA *family*.

We could not do it without all of you!

## FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 The Evolution

JUNE  
2020

The reality that the pandemic was here to stay, led office staff members to create a structured monthly schedule of virtual program offerings.



JULY  
2020

Virtual programs continued with another monthly installment, including weekly activity kits for virtual TITANS and summer camps.



AUGUST  
2020

A glimpse of normalcy becomes reality with the return of five small in-person programs coupled with the monthly virtual options.



SEPTEMBER  
2020

The monthly program offerings are extended to span two months, with increased in-person programs offered in addition to virtual.



NOVEMBER  
2020

An increase in new COVID-19 cases leads to new restrictions and the cancellation of the in-person program sessions just two weeks in.



JANUARY  
2021

Greater knowledge of the virus leads to more certainty in planning and offering programs. The brochure returned to cover a four month period.



MAY  
2021

Spring weather signaled the return of many popular in-person activities as well as several virtual programs shifting to hybrid style.



FISCAL YEAR  
2021-2022

The momentum of spring carried forward with the return of part-time staff and many in-person programs leading into summer.



# THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE



## VIRTUAL

The Coronavirus pandemic impacted many of LWSRA's traditional programs, but from that, we embraced the world of virtual programming. Our TITANS and Summer Camps pivoted to Zoom and activity boxes, while still providing interactive and safe experiences for all. Program designs and implementation were facilitated by LWSRA's office staff. Although communication was predominantly held through screens, interactions and relationships continued to strengthen. An added benefit included reconnecting with participants and families who moved out of state.



## YOUTH

Popular programs like Drama shifted from a completely virtual platform to a hybrid format. Hybrid programs accommodated participants wanting to perform from home but still provided a safe social outlet for those preferring in-person programming. From this, we realized how screens didn't have to pose a barrier but more so could create inclusive opportunities as participants and staff naturally adapted to this new style of programming. Whether in-person or at home, participants and staff engaged in music, singing, and dancing.



## TEEN & ADULT

Teen and adult programs thrived off cultural arts. New and improved drawing and painting classes led to masterpieces that participants would proudly frame and hang up at home. Although classes were originally held via Zoom, ironically enough, many remained on Zoom due to participant preferences! As it turned out, many participants found a whole new world of inspiration by being in the comfort of their own home, utilizing materials around the house or provided through a supply kit, and viewing step-by-step directions on Zoom.



## SUMMER CAMP

What once was a six hour program filled with socialization, new experiences, and community outings was creatively redesigned into a virtual program that met twice a week for two hours. This reformatted program included laughter, hands-on activities, and virtual fieldtrips connecting weekly themes like going on a safari, exploring under the sea, and traveling in space. Kits were created with supplies organized into labeled bags. Activities were facilitated by energized staff via the screen, and just when a screen break was needed, suddenly dance parties became the new trend.

# REINTRODUCING IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

## PROGRAMS



### ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Our adult day program found success in activity kit-inspired virtual programs. Participants engaged in book club, music mania, crafty creations, and hawks HIIT to stay active throughout their days at home. As the pandemic improved and comfort grew, many participants began to slowly return to the socially-distanced in-person adult day program offering one day of field trips and two morning and afternoon sessions each week. The camaraderie among participants and staff picked up exactly where it had left off pre-pandemic.



### SPECIAL EVENTS

Weekly Friday night Zoom special events were consistently well attended with programs reaching as high as 50 participants per event. Participants loved being spotlighted for their best moves during the widely popular dances and would make great use of packaged glow sticks, leis, or other special accessories in their goodie bags. Themed trivia and bingo events incorporated inclusive picture bingo cards and entertainment by LWSRA office staff. Holiday craft nights brought participants together as they made beautiful creations using supplies provided in an activity kit.



### ADAPTED

Restrictions in place for the pandemic greatly limited the adapted program offerings. A small group of wheelchair softball players showed their dedication by continuing to practice their skills outdoors, despite a season with no competition. The ever-popular wheelchair basketball program saw athletes itching to get back on the court. The program was reintroduced with "small group" sessions that allowed 5 athletes at a time to hit the hardwood to continue developing ball and chair skills. While many teammates missed in-person socialization, they stayed connected digitally.



### ATHLETICS

Workout and athletic program participation increased significantly during the pandemic as participants used items from their homes such as soup cans, pots, and pans for weights during program. Many enjoyed helping lead programs by picking different exercises, counting off repetitions for their group members, and being a part of a consistent fitness club that met virtually three times per week. The pandemic forced the cancellation of many indoor sports seasons, but once the winter weather subsided, several outdoor athletics practices regained the team atmosphere.

# GETTING INVOLVED

## PARTICIPATION

149

### TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED



CHANGE FROM  
PRIOR YEAR  
-65.7%

The pandemic greatly impacted the number of individuals served, reducing those who participated from the previous year's 434.

2,429

### PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



Through one-time virtual programs and short weekly sessions, engagement remained high and kept this rate at 75% of last year's total.

CHANGE FROM  
PRIOR YEAR  
-25.7%

This statistic examines how many times an individual registers for either a weekly program session or special event each year.



### PARTICIPATION BY DISTRICT

Member District	# of Participants	Decrease from FY19-20	# of Programs	% of total Participants
Frankfort	30	-59%	569	20%
Frankfort Sq.	16	-53%	240	11%
Manhattan	6	-79%	35	4%
Mokena	24	-65%	471	16%
New Lenox	36	-63%	769	24%
Peotone	1	-75%	24	1%
Wilmington	1	-88%	38	1%
SSSRA Co-Op	7	-56%	50	5%
Non-Resident	28	72%	233	19%

### Community Events and Fundraisers



Valentine's  
Activity Kits  
600 sold



Bunny Basket  
Activity Kits  
Foundation Event  
458 sold



Grinch  
Activity Kits  
430 sold

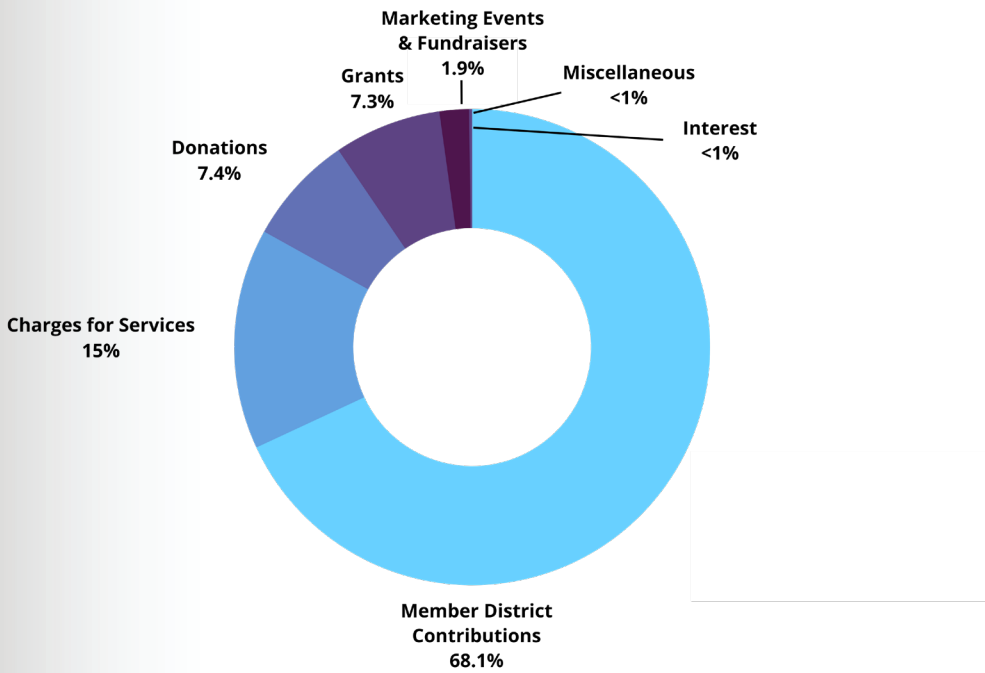
### COVID-19 Cancellations

- LWSRF Golf Outing
- Trick or Trot 5k
- Trunk or Treat
- Lunch with the Grinch
- Family Holiday Party
- Jumpfest
- LWSRF Bunny Breakfast
- Ability Awareness Fair
- P.E. Takeovers, assemblies & disability awareness events

# EXAMINING THE NUMBERS

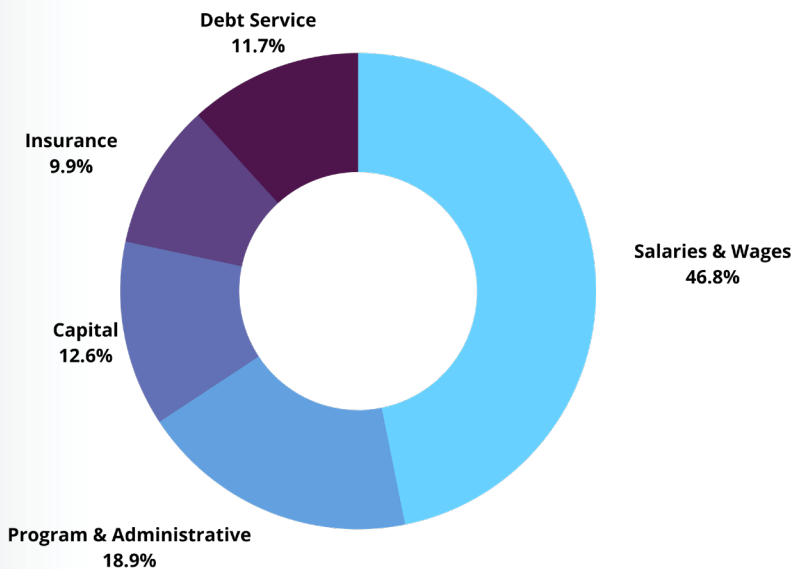
## FINANCIALS

**TOTAL REVENUES: \$1,445,981**



<b>MEMBER DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$984,311</b>
<b>CHARGES FOR SERVICES</b>	<b>\$216,759</b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$107,578</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>\$105,400</b>
<b>MARKETING EVENTS &amp; FUNDRAISERS</b>	<b>\$28,914</b>
<b>MISCELLAENOUS</b>	<b>\$2,857</b>
<b>INTEREST</b>	<b>\$162</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$1,352,636**



<b>SALARIES &amp; WAGES</b>	<b>\$633,521</b>
<b>PROGRAM &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$255,717</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$170,437</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$134,049</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>\$158,912</b>

\*Figures based on final audited amounts from the May 31, 2021 Annual Financial Report.

# LEIGH CREEK SOUTH **PARK**

Opened for play in November 2020 with finishing touches wrapped up in May 2021!



Universal Design Playground ~ Sensory Path ~ Walking Trail ~ Warrior Pods ~ Gagaball Pit  
Bankshot Basketball ~ Half Court Basketball ~ Pavilions ~ Firepit ~ Bocce Court ~ Grass Softball Field  
Wheelchair Softball Field ~ Communication Board ~ Sensory Garden (coming soon)

