



Lincolnway
SPECIAL RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025



Building a community without limits!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

KEITH WALLACE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close the 2024–2025 fiscal year, I am filled with pride and gratitude reflecting on the many accomplishments that make LWSRA such a special place. This past year was one of growth, innovation, and historic milestones—made possible by our dedicated staff, supportive families, committed partners and incredible participants.

Work began on some of our most meaningful projects including Hero's Village, a space designed to promote calm, exploration and connection for individuals of all abilities. Building on that momentum, we launched the Sensory Mobile Program, with renovations beginning to our oldest vehicle to re-purpose it as an inclusive sensory experience to bring directly into the community and reach people in new ways.

Athletes shined on the local, state, national, and international stages. Unified Volleyball captured its eighth consecutive state gold medal, with several athletes selected to represent Team Illinois at the 2026 USA Games. The Lady Hawks earned their third straight Special Olympics state gold medal in basketball. The Wheelchair Basketball Program reached historic heights—growing to nine teams, becoming the largest wheelchair basketball program in the United States. Even more impressive, the Hawks secured the first national championship in program history. Additionally, multiple athletes were selected to represent the United States in Men's and Women's Wheelchair Basketball, Quad Rugby, and Golf, showcasing the elite level of talent and dedication within our programs.

Program wise, we're especially proud of the continued growth of our many social and recreational activities with a record 493 different individuals participating over 5,700 times throughout the year. These numbers represent all-time highs for LWSRA and reflect what we truly believe—that we have built a place where people want to be. A place where individuals feel welcomed, challenged, supported, and inspired.

LWSRA continues to be a trendsetter and leader in the field of therapeutic recreation, and we are just getting started. As we look ahead to celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2026, we're excited for what's to come. You can expect LWSRA to continue dreaming big, pushing boundaries, and providing meaningful places to recreate for all abilities. Thank you for being part of this journey. The best is yet to come.

With gratitude,



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.

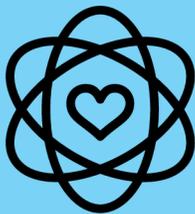
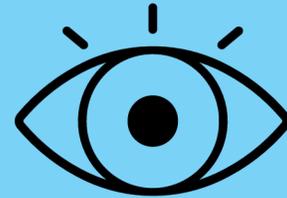
MISSION

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 24-25

WORK ON MAJOR PROJECTS

Renovations started on our oldest bus, transforming it into a sensory room on wheels to be brought directly into the community and provide a safe, inclusive space to benefit those with sensory needs at larger community events.

Hero's Village construction began as concrete work and shed assembly started to build a sensory play space for all at the LWSRC.



FAMILY & FRIENDS EVENTS

Increased our local presence by participating in more parades and inviting participants and families to march along with us.

Hosted a near sell-out family Cosmic Bowl event and actively participated in the sensory friendly time at Mokena's Halloween Hollow Carnival.



PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Newly focused skill-based program options for our traditional team sports saw increased participation and first athletes competing in regional Special Olympics skills competitions.

BDI Playhouse Children's Therapy "I Can Du It! Duathlon" hosted at the LWSRC in fall of 2024.

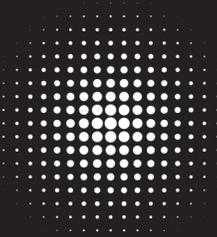


NEW IN 24-25

GROWING THE FLEET

Added two new 12-passenger Transit Vans to our vehicle fleet.

This addition allows for a more fuel efficient option when a full bus or wheelchair lift is not required as well as keeping the programs moving during busy weeks and weekends.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

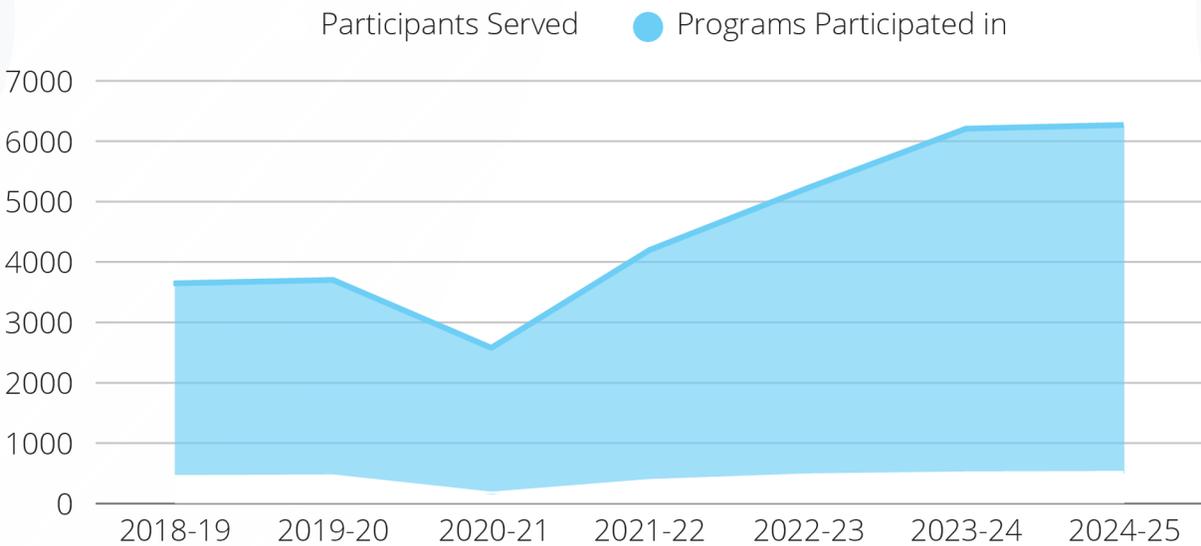


PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS



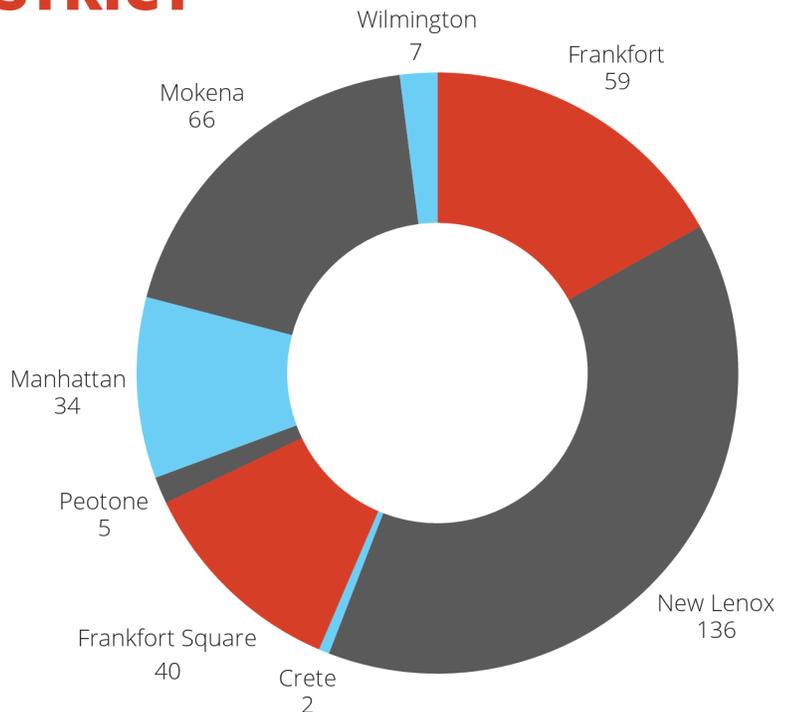
PARTICIPATION

LWSRA continued growing in FY 24-25. We welcomed **493 individuals** who participated in **5,777 program sessions**. The efforts to reach those in the community who could benefit from LWSRA’s recreation services have continued through various outreach and awareness events to further our mission!



PARTICIPATION 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 **31 youth participants** in more than 60 park district programs as part of its inclusion services.

COMMUNITY & FAMILIES

Community involvement has long been essential to LWSRA's success, and that partnership continues to grow. Our public events invite the community into LWSRA facilities to enjoy engaging experiences while learning more about the programs and services we offer. In turn, community support helps generate additional revenue that directly supports LWSRA programs and services for our members.



DAY WITH GRINCH

900 ATTENDEES

- ▶ Raised \$12,000 across four time slots

TRUNK OR TREAT

1000+ ATTENDEES

- ▶ Sensory friendly Hour
350+ attendees



FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY

146 ATTENDEES

- ▶ Giving tree provided gifts to all participants and youth siblings

PERFORMING ARTS FEST

400+ ATTENDEES

- ▶ Annual Showcase of drama club, art, dance, & music lesson students



Lincolnway Special Recreation
FOUNDATION



\$61,000 annual donation made to benefit LWSRA



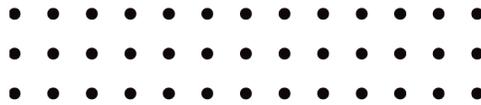
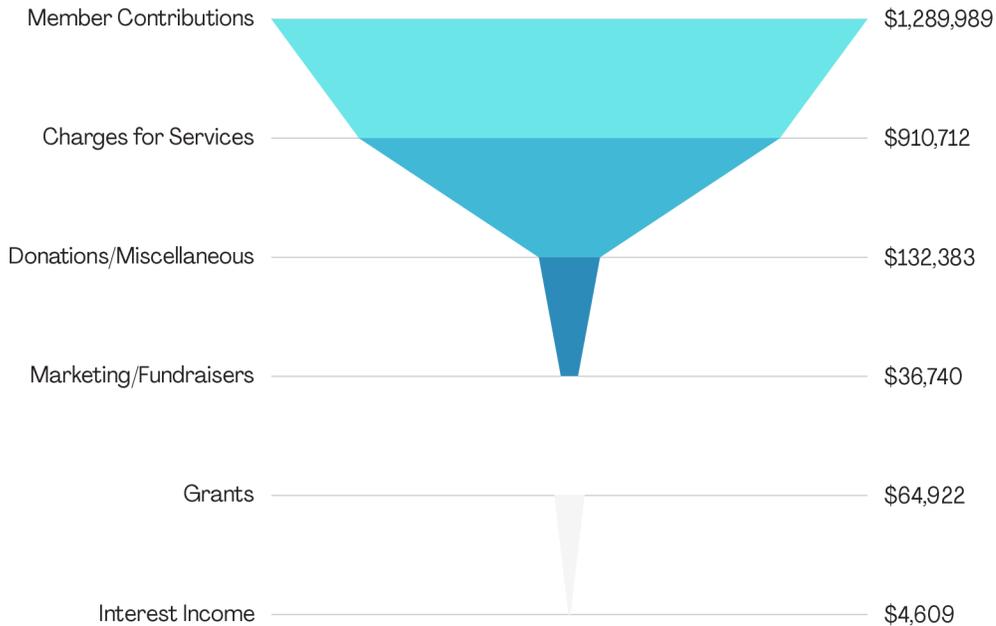
Two golf outings with 194 golfers and 63 sponsors raise \$39,000!



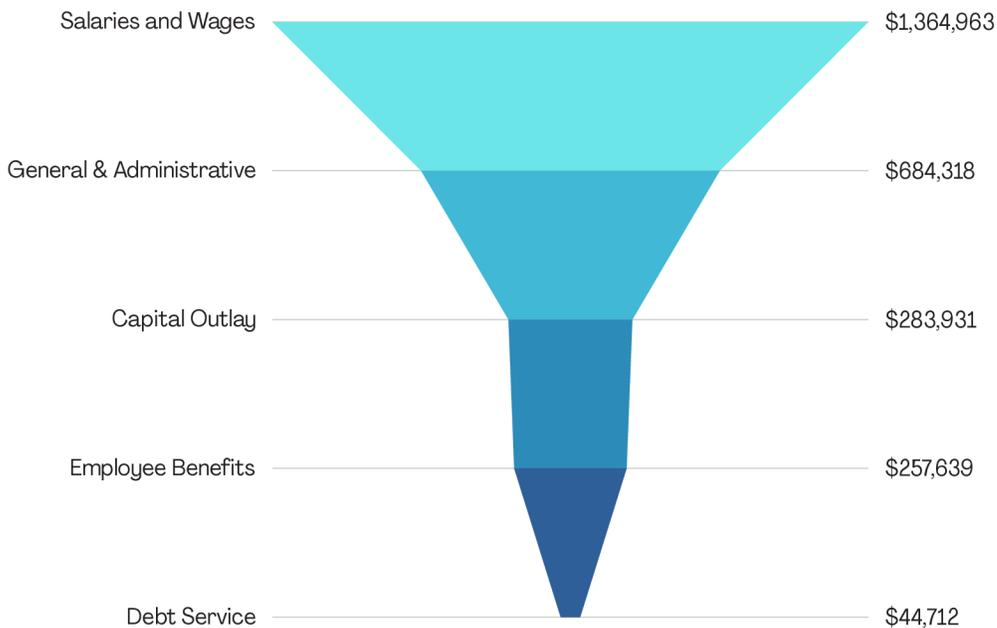
Bunny Breakfast featuring 618 attendees

FINANCIALS

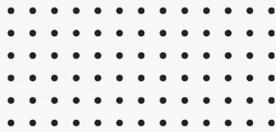
Total Revenues: \$2,439,355



Total Expenditures: \$2,715,649



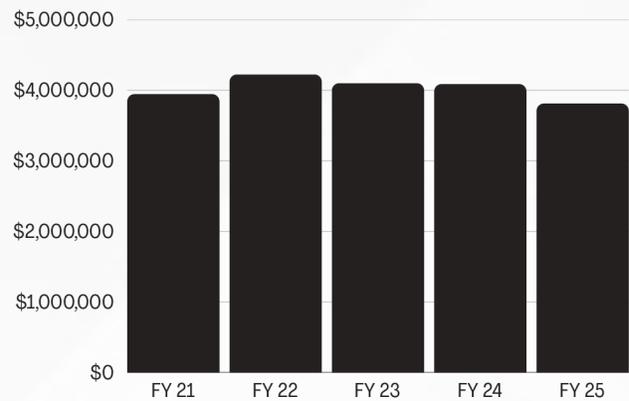
EXAMINING THE NUMBERS



NET POSITION

Current Assets	
Cash	\$456,749
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital Assets	\$3,743,040
Deferred Outflow of Resources	
Deferred Items - IMRF	\$125,219
Total Liabilities	(\$513,943)
Total Net Position:	\$3,811,065

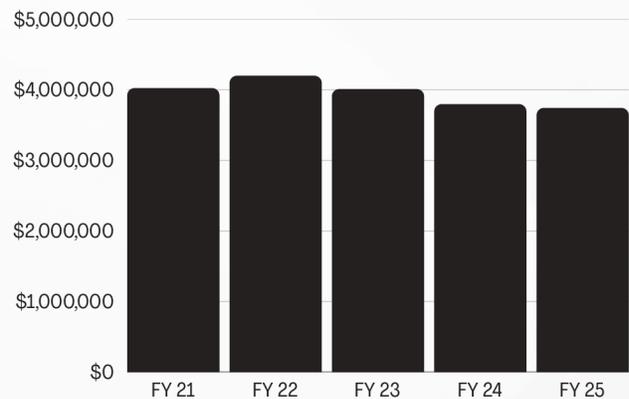
ANNUAL NET POSITION



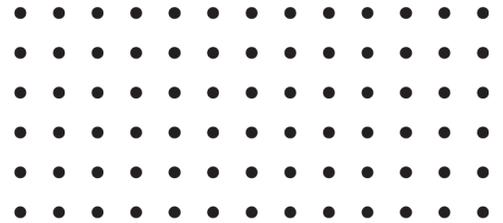
CAPITAL ASSETS

Non-Depreciable Assets	
Construction in Progress	\$8,675
Depreciable Assets	
Buildings	\$4,325,053
Vehicles	\$640,296
Improvements	\$221,236
Office equipment	\$79,883
Leased Asset (Building)	\$67,125
Total Depreciation	(\$1,599,228)
Net Capital Assets	\$3,743,040

ANNUAL NET CAPITAL ASSETS



2024 DONORS



Gold Donors

Dr. Karen Eisenbart | Frankfort School District 157-C

Silver Donors

CoVantage Cares Foundation | Walmart Community Grants
Double Good Kids Foundation

Bronze Donors

Exceptional Children's Charities, Inc | In honor of Sahasi Kumar Koduri
Bettenhausen Mobility | Susan Visser | Mokena Mayor Charity Foundation
St. Anthony Knights of Columbus | The Vogelsang Family
Brandon and Jennifer Wilson | BDI Playhouse Children's Therapy
New Lenox Knights of Columbus | Menasha Corporation Foundation
CCSD 146 Fulton Elementary School P.E. Takeover



Support from our donors, regardless of contribution size, continues to make a meaningful impact on our ability to foster an inclusive community. We sincerely thank all who believe in and support the mission of LWSRA. Together, we are making a difference.