



TOWARD MAXIMUM
INDEPENDENCE
TRANSFORMING LIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020





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Our MISSION

To provide personalized services to those who require support, enabling them to make informed choices regarding how they live, work and function productively and independently in the community.

Our VISION

That all people enjoy full inclusion in the workplace, community and society in general.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has brought us all unprecedented events challenging our health and well-being: a devastating pandemic, economic instability, record-breaking unemployment rates, civil unrest, and political divisiveness. I realize that many individuals have uniquely felt the impact of our current climate, and my heart remains heavy for those who have faced tragedy or loss.



As we anticipate the future, I am deeply moved by all who remain committed to advocating, supporting, and genuinely caring for those we serve. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Only in the darkness can you see the stars." I see many stars shining vibrantly, lighting our paths along the way. Stars like our incredible community partners and supporters who stepped up to provide monetary and PPE donations. Stars like our Direct Support Professional essential staff who have sacrificed their own welfare to protect our vulnerable clients' health and safety. Stars like our Executive Team, Managers, and supportive Board of Directors who have worked tirelessly and endlessly to make sure we remained united and strong. And stars like the Department of Developmental Services and our Regional Centers that stood by our side every step of the way. We also appreciate every glimmering star that advocated for our clients at the state and federal level.

The powerful demonstration of passion, resilience, and courage by the TMI community fosters great hope. I am thankful for each of you and acknowledge that the journey ahead may be unsettling, but even in the midst of darkness, we can continue to look to the stars.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Rachel L. Harris".

RACHEL L. HARRIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Private Client Manager
at Silvergate Bank

Christopher Walters, Vice Chair

Lawyer, Walters Law Group

Jocelyn Gonzalez, Treasurer

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Consultant

Alice Campbell, Secretary

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at MMA Insurance

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Program Manager

Tom Colligan

Lawyer

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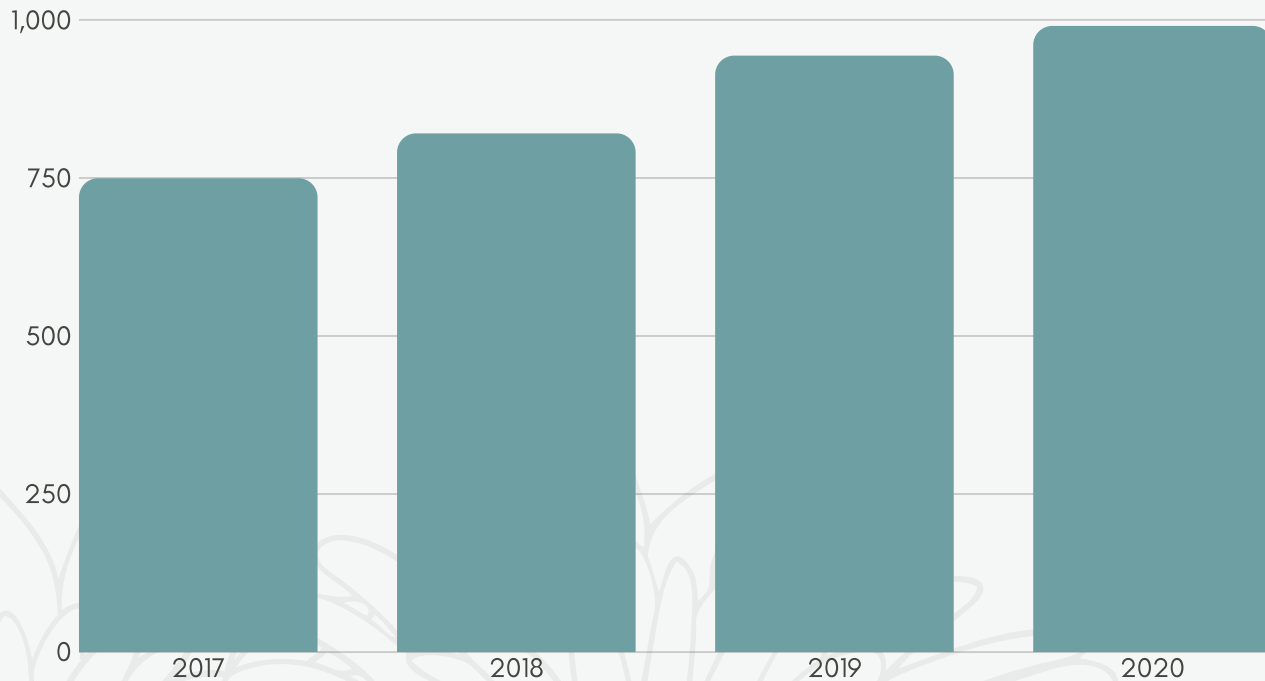
Mental Health Professional

Brent Ramsey

SE Division Manager
Staff Representative

Donaven Yousif

Financial Advisor
Edward Jones

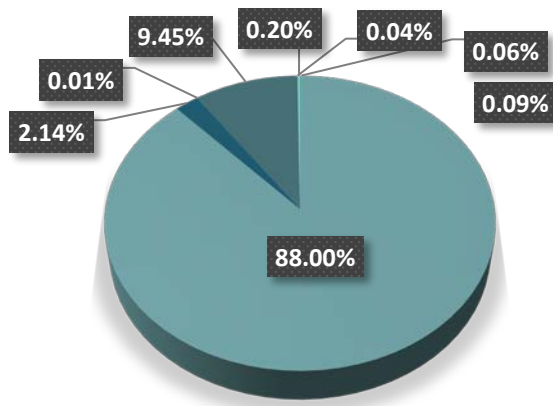


2019/2020 FY NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), TMI created an employment program for veterans with disabilities.
- Supported Employment assisted 89 individuals (an agency record) to obtain gainful employment (earning \$13 an hour or more).
- Assisted 10 individuals to find their first ever affordable housing and to live with minimal supports as they enjoy their new found freedom.
- 100% of parents/advocates who answered our survey reported that they are happy overall with TMI Community Living Services (CLS).
- 100% of clients who answered our survey reported that they are happy with the supports they receive from their CLS Facilitator/Roommate.
- TMI completed a comprehensive Disaster and Emergency Action Plan that greatly enhances the overall safety of all employees and clients.
- TMI received the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.
- 100% of all donations went to our TMI Julie Casey Honorary Fund to directly assist our clients. TMI issued more than \$12,000 to clients for needs including rent, food, medication, clothes, and much more.
- TMI developed a staff wellness program (mind, body and soul). In the final quarter of 2019 it grew by 540% since its inception in early 2017.
- TMI provided more than 100 clients with community social activities and events through a program we created in 2016 called CONNECT.

2019/2020 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL RESULTS

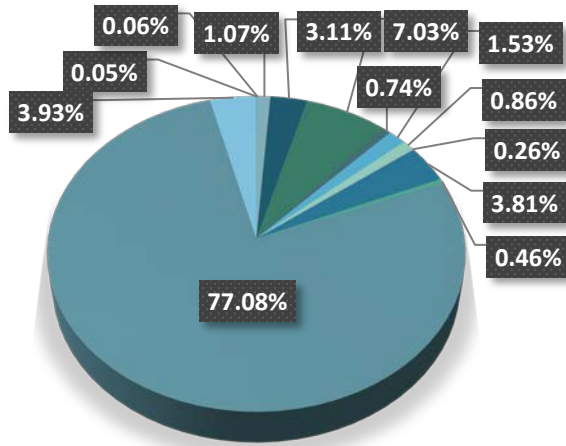
INCOME



- Development, Fundraising, Contributions
- Investment Revenue
- Program Revenue - Department of Developmental Services
- Program Revenue - Department of Rehabilitation
- Program Revenue - Private
- Program Revenue - San Diego County
- Program Revenue - San Diego Public Schools

Development, Fundraising, Contributions	\$17,075.97	0.09%
Investment Revenue	\$12,381.10	0.06%
Program Revenue - Department of Developmental Services	\$16,932,653.87	88.00%
Program Revenue - Department of Rehabilitation	\$411,233.82	2.14%
Program Revenue - Private	\$2,525.27	0.01%
Program Revenue - San Diego County	\$1,818,924.13	9.45%
Program Revenue - San Diego Public Schools	\$7,616.00	0.04%
<u>Rental Revenue</u>	<u>\$38,775.00</u>	<u>0.20%</u>
Consolidated Income	\$19,241,185.16	100.00%

EXPENSES



- Consultants
- Development and Fundraising Expenses
- Facility Expenses
- Family Support Consultants
- Family Support Stipends
- Insurance
- IT Expenses
- Rent - Offices
- Training
- Transportation Expenses
- Uncollectible Expenses
- Wages and Benefits
- General And Administrative Expenses

Consultants	\$8,928.75	0.05%
Development and Fundraising Expenses	\$11,626.83	0.06%
Facility Expenses	\$200,382.92	1.07%
Family Support Consultants	\$579,118.68	3.11%
Family Support Stipends	\$1,311,365.77	7.03%
Insurance	\$138,505.85	0.74%
IT Expenses	\$284,534.08	1.53%
Rent - Offices	\$160,889.06	0.86%
Training	\$49,309.01	0.26%
Transportation Expenses	\$709,510.77	3.81%
Uncollectible Expenses	\$86,564.07	0.46%
Wages and Benefits	\$14,369,365.81	77.08%
<u>General And Administrative Expenses</u>	<u>\$732,885.87</u>	<u>3.93%</u>
Consolidated Expenses	\$18,642,987.47	100%

NEW PROGRAM: VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Achieving Goals



The TMI Veteran Employment Services program is designed to assist veterans with disabilities to choose, obtain, and maintain employment commensurate with their career choice and vocational interests within San Diego County. Individual strengths and abilities, prior work experience, and career preference will be integral factors in determining placement. Vocational assessment, as well as social, psychological, communication, environmental, and medical needs will also be considered. The goal is to pre-screen and match qualified individuals with employers. TMI is confident that veterans with disabilities can achieve their employment aspirations with our assistance.

We are here to help veterans find fulfilling employment opportunities. If you are a veteran with a disability or a business looking to partner with our services for veterans, please contact us at: info@tmi-inc.org.

OUR PROGRAMS

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Independent Living provides up to 80 hours/month of one-on-one support to adults with disabilities living in their own home. Services are focused on skill development.

Supported Living assists people with cognitive and/or physical challenges to live independently or with a roommate. Personalized supports are dictated by a person's needs. We provide up to 24 hours a day of one-on-one support that may consist of live-in staff, shift staff or a paid neighbor who stops in on a daily basis.

A FOCUS ON FAMILY

As a licensed Resource Family Agency (License #370603102), TMI helps parents manage difficult decisions and obtain the relief and support they need. **Resource Family Services** are available for youth with disabilities who are unable to remain with their family of origin temporarily or permanently. **Family Focused Services** are designed to keep families together. Individuals thrive when they feel safe, secure and loved. This is the drive behind our belief that "all youth belong in families!"

INCLUSION MATTERS

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can absolutely enjoy the rewards of being a contributing member in society and have the satisfaction and pride that comes with having a job or volunteering. TMI's **Supported Employment** and **Integrated Work/Community Integration Services** programs work with individuals to secure and maintain gainful employment in the community if desired and also work in collaboration with local businesses to develop volunteer opportunities for our clients.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

TAILORED DAY SERVICES (TDS)

TDS clients are encouraged to self-direct and participate in determining their program day. We are here to help our clients plan their day their way. With the anticipation of maximizing life satisfaction, this exciting program tailors our client's day based on their personal choices, hopes and dreams.

ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)

Our AIS program is designed to provide person-centered services to individuals within the context of family homes, group homes and independent living arrangements. AIS staff, with input from the Interdisciplinary Planning Team, provide youth and adult participants, families, support staff and/or caregivers the tools necessary to help manage, reduce, and/or extinguish targeted behaviors.

EVOLUTION TO INDEPENDENCE (ETI)

The goal of ETI is to provide the 'NEXT LEVEL' of business and educational services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The major emphasis of ETI services are 'Real World Ready' employment education that addresses the needs of individuals that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, have difficulty with the mental processing of information, as well as 'first language' communication needs.

PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (PIP)

The PIP is designed to encourage competitive, integrated employment (CIE) for our clients. CIE is full or part time work for which an individual is paid minimum wage or greater in a setting with others who do not have disabilities. The purpose of the program is to increase the vocational skills and abilities of our clients to gain experience and skills for future paid employment, or for the internship itself to lead to full or part time paid employment in the same job.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019/2020 FY DONORS

JORGE ACEBO
SELOM ADJIBOLOSO
NICHOLAS AGUILAR
LEEA D AGUIRRE
KIMBERLEY ALBIN
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VICTORIA NAVARRO
ADRIENNE NEARS
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LAURIE NORIEGA
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CARLEIGH ORTH
LAURA OSUNA
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ANDREW PALASCIANO
DALE PARKER
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JOHN PEMBERTON
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FABIANA PEREZ
FRANCES PEREZ
JASMINE PEREZ

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JESSE PETRULIS
MARINA PINEDA
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ADAM PRICE
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BRENT RRAMSEY
DESARAY RENO
ANGELA REYNOLDS
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GREGORY RICKARDS
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KAREN RITCHIE
JESSICA RIVERA
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JANICE ROCHA-GRAFSKY
KARLA RODRIGUEZ
STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
TERESA ROMAN
BIANCA ROMERO
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LESLIE RUNYON
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GABRIELA SANCHEZ
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DANAY WINSTON
DULCELINA WOLD
JESSICA WOOD
ELSA ZAPIEN
ISRAEL ZARAGOZA
ALAN ZITTEL
CECILIA ZUMAYA

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR IN-KIND DONORS

ACT II
AIR CONDITIONED LOUNGE
ANTHONY'S FISH GROTTO
AQUA PROS SWIM SCHOOL
AQUARIUS/EDGEWATER/COLORADO BELL
BARONA RESORT & CASINO
BELLY UP
BELMONT PARK
SHARON BIRES
BOOMERS - EL CAJON
CAMERON FITNESS
CAMP BOW WOW - EL CAJON
CERAMICAFE ART LOUNGE
AURORA CHAVEZ
CITY OF TEMECULA
COHN RESTAURANT GROUP
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DEER PARK WINERY & CAR MUSEUM
DEL MAR THOROUGHBRED CLUB
DESERT ADVENTURES RED JEEP TOURS
KIM DIHN
DREAM DINNERS - TEMECULA
EAST COUNTY COMMUNITY TIMES
STEVE EDDY
EMERALD ISLE GOLF COURSE
FARMERS INSURANCE
FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO - SAN DIEGO
MINI GOMEZ
GRAPELINE WINE TOURS
GRUBBY'S POKE & FISH MARKET

CINDY HARTFORD
H & M LANDING
HOME OF GUIDING HANDS
HOTEL DEL CORONADO
HORNBLOWER CRUISES & EVENTS
BILL HOUSTON
INDIAN JOE BREWING
IN-N-OUT BURGER
J & M'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
JULIAN TEA & COTTAGE ARTS
KEARNY MESA BOWL
KPBS
LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE
LITTLE SAIGON FOUNDATION
LIVING COAST DISCOVERY CENTER
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MIRACLE SPRINGS RESORT
MOONLIGHT STAGE PRODUCTIONS
JANE MOORE
MULLIGAN FAMILY FUN CENTER
MURDER N'MAYHEM: MURDER MYSTERY PARTIES
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART - SAN DIEGO
MARGO O'DONNELL
OLD TOWN TEMECULA - COMMUNITY THEATER
ON THE BORDER MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA
PRP WINE INTERNATIONAL

RUBIO'S
SAMMY'S WOODFIRED PIZZA & GRILL
SAN DIEGO AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM
SAN DIEGO BALLET
SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF MAN
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CENTER
SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE
SAN DIEGO SOCKERS
SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY
SAN DIEGO STATE AZTEC ATHLETIC FOUNDATION
SENIOR GRUBBY'S - CARLSBAD
SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN
STARWOOD RETAIL PARTNERS - PARKWAY PLAZA
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
STUDIO DINNER - SAN DIEGO
SYCUAN CASINO-RESORT
TEMECULA CREEK INN
THE CENTURY CLUB
THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART
ASHELY NELL TIPTON
LINDA & GEORGE TOUSSAINT
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
URBANE CAFÉ
USS MIDWAY MUSEUM
WENDY VERDIN
VOM FASS
WD-40
RON & TONI WHISMAN
WINE & CANVAS
WORLD CURRY



BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

Building a better tomorrow

There are many reasons why it makes good business sense to have TMI clients be contributing members of your organization either as paid employees or volunteers. Here are just some of the many benefits for businesses:

- The Department of Rehabilitation offers a training stipend to employers to off-set the cost of training our clients
- Our clients are supported in the workplace by a professional TMI Job Coach to ensure their success
- San Diego Regional Center clients are eligible for the Paid Internship Program
- Financial support is available for any specialty items required by our clients for employment such as tools or uniforms
- Our clients are provided with transportation costs to ensure that they are able to work
- Our clients are eager and motivated to work
- Improved overall employee morale
- Non-binding agreement that can be terminated at any time
- Employer tax incentives may be available

Additionally, the TMI Evolution to Independence (ETI) program offers San Diego and Riverside County based businesses and employers the ability to utilize ETI ASL Interpreting and Educational services to enable them to tap into this under-utilized workforce.

To get started with having a TMI client join your team, please contact us today. We look forward to working with you to meet your needs and further inclusion for people with I/DD and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in our society. Thank you!



CONNECT

ESTABLISHED 2016

CONNECT provides an opportunity for our clients to connect with friends and meet new ones, as well as learn and advocate on their own behalf.

Prior to the pandemic, our clients enjoyed CONNECT events such as a spring dance, bowling and movies. CONNECT shifted to online Zoom events in June 2020. Our clients have since enjoyed online art classes, games and much more!

CONNECT is growing with each passing day. It is wonderful to see so many of our clients getting involved and having fun while doing it!

*For more information,
please contact:
connect@tmi-inc.org*



Thu, Lacey, and Haile



TMI EXPANSION INTO DOWNTOWN RIVERSIDE BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES & INVALUABLE FRIENDSHIPS

In 2019, our first Integrated Work group started volunteering in downtown Riverside. Thu, Lacey and Haile, with the support of their TMI Job Coach Jennifer Wortman, make an amazing team! Two of the ladies have limited verbal abilities, but all have learned to communicate with each other to get the job done!

When Jennifer first came to TMI and met with these young women she was determined to help them find work sites that they would not only enjoy, but that could teach them skills in an environment aimed at people of their own age group. The group volunteer at Downtown Apothecary, a bath, body and home shop, and MP Couture, a women's clothing and accessories store, in downtown Riverside, as well as at The Grove Community Church restaurant in Riverside. The bond they have formed is evident in their work ethic and improved social skills. The ladies love working together!

"These ladies have become very bonded and are thriving in their current work sites," said Jennifer. "They operate almost as a perfect machine in harmony, naturally picking up where the other left off or filling in if a group mate can't complete something."

TMI's Temecula office opened in April 2008 and in April 2016 our Corona office opened. TMI now serves nearly 300 clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome and

cerebral palsy, throughout Riverside County, with services for more than 1,000 clients throughout San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties.

"Working with the girls has been a wonderful experience," said Sarah Becker, owner of MP Couture. "They catch on to every task very fast!"

"Lacey is now approaching customers and greeting them with 'how are you?'" added Jennifer. "Haile used to primarily perform sedentary tasks and is now able to move about the store and work. I am very proud of the growth they have made in such a short period of time."

Lacey radiates joy wherever she goes and her smile can light up any room! She grew up loving The Wizard of Oz and collects Oz memorabilia. Lacey absolutely adores her favorite character, Dorothy. She loves to dress up as Dorothy and sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Lacey enjoys watching stage productions of her favorite movie online, but her favorite activity is attending live musical theatre as often as possible. A highlight for her was appearing on stage with a Riverside youth theatre group - she loved every minute of it! Lacey also enjoys listening and singing to music, playing a variety of sports with Bill's Special Kids, dancing, and shopping. She also spends time painting and sold some of her artwork at a TMI art show that featured many of our talented clients.

(continued)



"It's wonderful to see the success of this group! Jennifer has made it a priority to find work sites that are a good match for her clients," said Linda Hunt, Lacey's mom. "We appreciate her seeking out places of employment and store owners that provide such a positive environment for the whole group. Lacey absolutely loves going to work and interacting with her amazing friends from TMI and the Riverside community! The addition of retail businesses to their schedule has introduced new opportunities to learn valuable work and social skills. We are grateful to business owners, Sarah Becker (MP Couture) and Tonya Harper (Downtown Apothecary), who have created meaningful and purposeful work for them to accomplish. Lacey and her friends also look forward to the group's participation in a weekly Zumba class, thanks to Jeri and Debbie's Z-Stars who offer an adaptive dance class each Wednesday in the city of Perris. A big thank you to Lacey's former TMI Job Coach Angelina Rodriguez for a wonderful four years together and who will always be remembered with love and gratitude."



Thu loves the movie Frozen and dressed up as Elsa for Halloween. She enjoys singing along to the songs on her way to job sites! Thu talks a lot about her home life and how much her family loves her. She often talks about helping her mom cook and prepare for family gatherings. Thu takes on challenges head on. She loves to complete all of her work and takes great pride in it. Even with more relaxed activities, such as sports, she really puts in 100% and keeps trying and trying and does not give up. She has greatly improved at basketball. Her determination is admirable!

"Thu is like the mom of the group," said Jennifer. "No one can cough or sneeze, including myself, without her being concerned and asking if we are OK. She has impressed me greatly. She is so patient with her group mates who aren't as verbal. She picks up on body language and other cues and doesn't skip a beat. Even when she doesn't understand something, she takes the time to ask again and very patiently tries to understand. It really is such a pure and beautiful friendship she has with Haile and Lacey."



Haile, who has Down syndrome, is the dancing queen according to her mom Kim Sherwood. She loves to dance and workout. Haile, who also participates in Bill's Special Kids, enjoys sports including bowling and basketball. She loves to dress up her Barbie's, as well as use calculators and toy cash registers to add up the costs of clothing for each. Haile also enjoys going to the beach to walk or run along the shore, shop for clothes and go to the movies.

"I appreciate TMI so much," said Kim. "They have really helped our family to learn more about Haile's abilities and for her to be more challenged, as well as become more independent; precisely moving toward maximum independence. The program is more than we could have hoped for. Jennifer helps her to meet and exceed new challenges. Haile has mild autism, which affects her verbal communication, but since joining TMI her self-esteem has gone up and she is now communicating more. It is wonderful to hear about her day."

Great job, Thu, Lacey and Haile!

(Editor's Note: This story was written prior to the pandemic.)



LILY FINDS HER FOREVER FAMILY WITH TMI RESOURCE FAMILY



From the first day Lily entered the Arguello home it became her home. Lily was placed with TMI Resource Family Juan and Judith Arguello on January 18, 2018. They knew right away that Lily was meant to be with them. Shortly after Lily moved into her new home, her health turned around for the better. Juan and Judith strongly advocated for Lily to obtain all of the medical and therapeutic services she needs, as well as to get all of the educational services she deserves. She steadily grew stronger and stronger with each day and has absolutely thrived under their care.

We are incredibly happy to announce that Lily was officially adopted by the Arguello family on May 28th, 2020. Lily's world has greatly opened up since moving in with her new family. They have visited Mammoth, Santa Barbara, museums, parks, beaches, and have gone on many family outings. The family is from Costa Rica and has extended family there. As soon as the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, they plan on taking a family vacation to Costa Rica so the entire family can meet Lily.

"Lily is now a very social teen who initiates interaction with others, walks long distances using her walker, and is such a happy and bubbly teenager," said TMI Social Worker Sandy Gonzalez. "Seeing how far she has come and seeing her joy for life is just wonderful!"

Congratulations to Juan, Judith and Lily Arguello, as well as their entire family, on a successful adoption. Nothing makes us happier than when we can assist foster youth with finding their forever family!

As a licensed Resource Family Agency (Foster Family Agency) (RFA License #370603102), TMI strives to find Resource Families for foster youth (the period between childhood and adult age) with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are unable to remain with their family of origin. Youth thrive when they feel safe, secure and loved. It is our goal to recruit Resources Families that can offer these comforts that should be afforded to all youth.

We have youth waiting for a caring home. These youth have a variety of needs, but all require families concerned with their overall well-being. Some placements are temporary, while others could lead to adoption and family for life. You can make a lasting impact in a youth's life, as they will in yours.

If you are interested in becoming a TMI Resource Family, please contact us at (800) 877-5452 or info@tmi-inc.org.

We thank you in advance for making a difference. We look forward to hearing from you!



TMI CLIENT WITH AUTISM SHINES ON STAGE WITH JASON MRAZ

Growing up, Paela, who is on the autism spectrum, would have never guessed that she would perform on stage with Jason Mraz in his new musical *Shine*. She was always incredibly shy, so the thought of even being on stage, let alone with Jason, was so hard to imagine that when it actually came true she couldn't believe it. The opportunity pushed Paela out of her comfort zone and helped her to make huge strides with facing her fears, which she knew she must do to seize this amazing opportunity.

In 2017, Paela joined Banding Together in San Diego, Jason Mraz' hometown. Jason was inspired to give back to local nonprofits by creating a musical based on the singer-songwriter's catalog of songs including "I Won't Give Up," "I'm Yours," and "The Remedy." The musical presented by the Jason Mraz Foundation featured performances by local arts education nonprofit groups from Jason's own backyard including Banding Together, who brings music opportunities to individuals with special needs. Paela first met Jason when he joined Banding Together on stage at the Belly Up in Solana Beach for a Banding Together fundraiser.

In February 2020, Paela performed two sold out shows with Jason, Banding Together and other local nonprofit groups at the Spreckels Theatre in San Diego. Paela, who is inspired by Jason's work, as well as by Justin Bieber (who plays guitar and drums), performed on the drums. At first, performing made her feel embarrassed, but with each rehearsal her confidence grew and she found the courage she would need to perform in front of an audience of nearly 1,500 for each show.

"Each of these organizations was chosen because of their commitment to inclusive arts education and the advancement of equality," said Jason. "By shining a light on these programs serving our local community's youth, I want to underscore the importance of access to arts programming for all children in all communities – no matter their gender, race, ability level, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status."



Paela performing on stage with Jason Mraz and after her performance

Paela was first exposed to drums through Banding Together, which sparked her interest in taking lessons. She now takes drum lessons at Avant Garde Studio. It took some effort to get Paela to focus and engage in her classes, as well as to get her on stage to perform at the recitals, but she has now performed in three and did a great job!

In addition, Paela also takes classes at Southwestern College with the assistance of her TMI Facilitator Lorinda Elder. Paela is with the TMI Tailored Day Services program, which tailors the client's day based on their personal choices, hopes and dreams.

"When I first met Paela she was so shy," said Lorinda. "Since then, she has made remarkable progress. She challenges herself daily to move past her shyness. It was wonderful to watch her on stage and see how much her confidence has grown."

Paela plans to continue facing her fears and to "smile and dance." Congratulations on your success, Paela!

(Editor's Note: This story was written prior to the pandemic.)



TMI CLIENTS WITH I/DD KEEPING BUSY AT HOME DURING PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TMI was required to temporarily close several of our programs. While TMI continues to provide in-person essential services, many of our clients who generally receive services in the community are at home with their families.

One such client is Irene C., who has Down syndrome and is with the TMI Community Integration Training Program (CITP) in the Hemet/San Jacinto area. During her stay-at-home, she is enjoying putting together puzzles, as well as drawing, gardening and watching movies with her family. Irene C. also helps with preparing meals, organizing cabinets and walking the dogs.

"TMI has continued open communication with Irene C. and all of our clients and families to ensure their safety and to offer our support and encouragement that we will get through this together," said TMI Executive Director Rachel Harris. "Many of our clients are confused and asking when they can return to their community program. We will make that happen as soon as it is deemed safe by Governor Newsom."

Irene C.'s mother, Norma, who became a TMI Job Coach a couple of years after Irene C. joined TMI, is grateful for the continued communication with TMI.

"TMI is wonderful," said Norma. "I'm happy about the open communication and that they are thinking of our children and their well-being during this time. It makes me happy to know that they are there."

Irene Balderas is Irene C.'s TMI Job Coach. Prior to Governor Newsom's stay-at-home order, Irene B. assisted Irene C. with volunteering in the community at Sunny Senior Health Care, Valle Vista Calvary Church, Salvation Army, Ramona Rehabilitation, Valle Vista Library, as well as at the San Jacinto Senior Center and Bread Basket Food Pantry, which are two of her favorite volunteer sites. At the Senior Center, Irene C. helps prepare meals for seniors in Hemet and San Jacinto and at the Food Pantry she helps organize and move food products for people in need.

Irene B. said that she is proud of the major changes that Irene C. has gone through since starting in her group. Irene C. needed a lot of encouragement to start tasks, because she was shy, but also because she lacked motivation. After several months in the program, Irene C. became a self-starter, open communicator, and when she finishes tasks and has nothing else to do she asks her co-workers in her group if they need help. Irene C. misses her co-workers, TMI staff, and the community sites.

"The TMI program has helped in developing Irene's confidence, drive, and independence," said Irene B. "I look forward to getting back out into the community with our clients to continue to assist them with being the best that they can be. I miss them."

When things go back to normal, Irene C. can't wait to join her TMI group to once again do their volunteer work. We look forward to when we can all be together again!



A SAD FAREWELL TO A TMI CLIENT OF MORE THAN 10 YEARS

We said a sad final farewell to our client, Randy, who passed away in the early morning on January 19, 2020. A TMI Independent Living (IL) client for more than 10 years, he was a funny, respectful and very proud gentleman who took great pride in his independence. The TMI IL program assists individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible at home with the necessary support. TMI assisted Randy with receiving Social Security, Medi-Cal and Medicare benefits, and helped him with finding his first new apartment.

"Randy is someone that crosses your path for a moment and leaves his prints for the rest of your life," said TMI Case Manager Keltoum Cherki. "He looked forward to his quarterly and annual meetings with his TMI support team. Randy used to send text messages to his IL team reminding them that he is looking forward to seeing them."

Randy worked on a military base for eight years loading food on to the naval ships. He was a very dedicated and hard worker, who loved his job. It allowed him to live independently for the first time. He was able to manage his own household until he passed away. Randy was a huge fan of dining out and loved spending the holidays with his family. Randy is survived by his father and two sisters.

"Randy had a great sense of humor and could always put a smile on your face even during his last moments," added Keltoum. "He will never be forgotten."

May he rest in peace.



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