



SHARED VISION



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Members of Maxo Joseph's family attending the first annual Direct Care Award event named in his honor.

A VISION FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

While still struggling to deal with the challenges posed by a world pandemic, MAB Community Services is proud of the bold steps we've taken to advance each of our programs over the past year.

Recently we celebrated the 31st anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, reminding us of what MAB's mission is all about. Everything MAB does is focused on making the world a place where individuals with disabilities can be full participants and helping participants acquire the skills necessary to drive the bus of their own lives. While we point with pride to the areas where the world is better now—individuals living in the community who would have been institutionalized years ago—we can never become complacent.

Our Adult Disability Services division for adults with intellectual disabilities and brain injuries expanded its residential program by 35%, opening two new residential homes in Central Mass and MetroWest and three new apartments. These new residences allow individuals to move out of nursing homes after surviving a brain injury. We are strengthening the rehabilitation focus of these programs thanks to a generous gift by Lawrence Summers. By integrating occupational therapy into these homes—teaching residents to become independent and teaching staff to support residents rather than doing things for them, participants regain agency over their lives.

In the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, we continued to expand Access Technology training across the state. This was made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Ellenbogen family. But we can only teach people to use technology that's accessible. So, we have now turned our attention to working with businesses and non-profit organizations to make sure their platforms are digitally accessible. This will prevent individuals with disabilities from being locked out of commercial, educational, recreational, and employment opportunities.

We thank Joel Rosenhaus, who retired from directing the Ivy Street School, for all that he did to improve outcomes for our students. In January we welcomed Brandon Cardet-Hernandez as the new Executive Director and are amazed at how he's transforming the school. Building on Ivy Street's strengths as a top therapeutic school, Brandon is enhancing the academic experience for our students and enriching the curriculum to engage the most academically advanced. He is also working to launch a Family Empowerment and Learning Academy that will support families in providing consistency between home and school, as well as an environment where students continue to thrive after graduation.

And we never forget that it's the quality of our staff that is at the core of MAB's success. So, it was a special delight to celebrate the first annual Maxo Joseph Awards in which eleven of our best direct care staff, nominated by their peers and the families of the individuals they support, were honored for their work. These staff were given \$50,000 in awards funded by the Patricia W. and Alfred E. Farah Charitable Gift Fund. We are additionally grateful to Talya Nevo-Hacohen, Bill Schenker, the Emello Family as well as Elaine Sisman and Martin Fridson for their generous support.

We will always strive to do better. That is what makes the work exciting!



Barbara Salisbury
Chief Executive Officer



Stephanie Fidel
President, Board of Directors

MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAB Community Services is committed to creating opportunities and transforming the lives of individuals with a range of disabilities. Since 1903, MAB has focused on providing the support, programs, and services necessary for everyone to live full and satisfying lives.



MABVI receives \$276,204 grant from the Massachusetts Community Health and Aging Funds, the largest in our history, to support

healthy aging initiatives. Thanks to this investment, MABVI is working to ensure that there is equitable access to care and services for older adults who are blind or visually impaired.



Peter Sagal, host of NPR's Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me, and a TWAV guide, kicked off Boston Marathon week with a livestreamed virtual program celebrating the accomplishments of Team With A Vision.

Adult Disability Services opened a new residential home in Southborough moving individuals out of nursing homes, providing housing and services for adults with brain injuries.

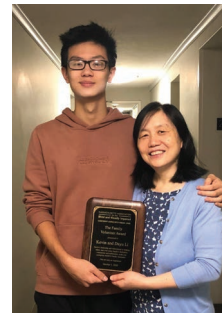
JULY

AUGUST

The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) committee launched, solidifying a commitment to making MAB a more anti-racist and inclusive organization.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER



MABVI honored its volunteers during the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. In addition to honoring all of the volunteers, the Lee Family of Brookline was given the Family Volunteer Award for their years of outstanding service and support.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

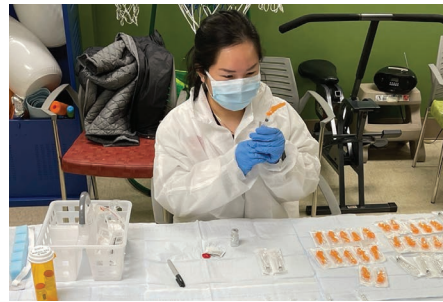


Ivy Street School held the Ivy League Induction Ceremony by celebrating students for excellence in classroom engagement and academics.



The winning solution to the Community Transit Design Challenge was awarded a \$10,000 prize. MABVI partnered with Boston University's Innovate@BU to create a challenge for students which set out to solve community transit accessibility challenges.

MABVI partnered with the City of Boston to arrange for older adults with vision loss to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The effort was coordinated through the Boston Public Health Commission, City of Boston's Age Strong Commission, and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.



Ivy Street School, in partnership with the Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, launched its Reversing Course series of forums addressing the future of learning.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Family empowerment, social connectedness, and transforming outcomes for our students were part of a new strategic plan launched by Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, the new Executive Director of Ivy Street School.

MARCH

APRIL



31 teams and 160 participants internationally raised over \$60,000 to benefits MABVI's Team With A Vision and United in Stride in the first annual Coast to Coast Distance Challenge. Walkers, and runners logged over 16,316 miles.

MAY

JUNE

MAB Adult Disability Services announces the first recipients of the Maxo Joseph Direct Care Award for Excellence in recognition of the outstanding work that direct care staff does.



HONORING PARTNERSHIPS THAT EMPOWER AND TRANSFORM LIVES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & FOUNDATIONS



Boston University for partnering with the Ivy Street School on the Reversing Course series of forums addressing the future of education with the BU Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, and with MABVI on the Community Transit Design Challenge with the Innovate@BU program.



Liberty Mutual Foundation for their continued support for MABVI's accessibility and inclusion initiatives in Greater Boston. The foundation has supported MABVI for a total of \$131,500, over six years for helping older adults who are blind or low vision. We will grow our occupational therapy, volunteer, and access technology training programs thanks to this generosity.



The Boston Athletic Association for their ongoing support and commitment for local nonprofits through their Official Charity Program and for providing MABVI invitational entries to the Boston Marathon to raise funds. Since its inception in 1989, the program has raised more than \$400 million combined with John Hancock's Non-Profit Program.

MABVI volunteers provide critical support to individuals who are blind or visually impaired from performing household tasks, reading mail, helping with errands, access technology training, as sighted guides for fitness activities, and helping to combat social isolation and loneliness.

MABVI Supporting Healthy Aging

MABVI is committed to ensuring that the voices of those who live with blindness or low vision are included in Massachusetts' Age & Dementia Friendly efforts, policies, and practices.

In July 2021, MABVI received a 5-year grant from the Massachusetts Community Health and Aging Funds to support our healthy aging work, focused on reaching underserved seniors who live with blindness or low vision. This partnership advances the work we began thanks to a 2020 investment from Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

While some efforts paused to address pressing COVID-related matters, strong progress was made over the past year. Notably, we are now partnering with Leading Age LTSS Center @ UMASS Boston to conduct a formal evaluation of our Age & Dementia Friendly initiative. LTSS conducts research designed to help the US address challenges and seize opportunities associated with a growing older population.

MABVI continued to build awareness of low-vision issues among health, city office, and elder care staff.



Key achievements include:

- Offered accessibility and digital accessibility consultations.
- Distributed accessibility self-assessments to city and elder service partners.
- Provided web accessibility guidelines to ensure digital information can be accessed by all.
- Developed best practices toolkit items including a Blindness & Low Vision Resource List; Screening Questions for Referral to Vision Rehabilitation Occupational Therapy; and Principles of Print & Digital Accessibility.
- Worked to address vaccine access for older adults with vision impairment, as highlighted at www.mabvi.org/resources/healthyaging

250

COVID-19 vaccines
administered

54

participants returned for onsite
day programming

36

COVID-19 themed piñata
parties for participants

12

national recruit candidates
moved to Boston

1

tiny library built by a
residential participant for the
Church Street Home



HELLER'S VISION



Dear Friends,

I returned to ADS as executive director of Adult Disability Services during the most challenging year in our 48-year history. As we entered July

of 2020, we had just endured a ravaging three-month period of Covid-19 infections that took the lives of several participants and one staff member. Many others fell seriously ill. Lengthy quarantines became a routine occurrence. It was a year of loss, heroism, creativity, and survival.

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19, the division has grown and persevered.

- We opened two new residential programs in the MetroWest and Central Mass regions and three apartments. Multiple people have now been placed, moving them out of nursing facilities into community-based programs through the ABI waiver. We also completed our licensing with distinction from the Department of Developmental Services.
- We are reopening our day program and have been able to increase enrollment and we have expansion plans for our MABVoc program.

- We have held multiple vaccine clinics for participants and staff. Weekly testing ensures safety protocols are implemented immediately if there is a positive case. To date, 99% of our staff and 85% of our participants are vaccinated against Covid-19. As of October 1, all staff will be required to be vaccinated.
- We celebrated our amazing staff! The first annual Maxo Joseph Direct Care Award—honoring a beloved staff who lost his battle with the Coronavirus—highlighted direct care staff who go above and beyond for our participants. We are proud to continue to step up for our hard-working direct support staff, raising entry wages from \$15 to \$17 per hour.

It was a tumultuous year for ADS, and no other team could navigate all of this with such grace and care! There are many new and exciting opportunities and programs in the coming year, and we are looking forward with hope and optimism.

Heller Shoop
Executive Director,
MAB Adult Disability Services

MAB ADULT DISABILITY SERVICES

Adult Disability Services provides orientation and mobility training, residential supports, and vocational/day habilitation programming for individuals with developmental disabilities or brain injuries so they can live full and satisfying lives.



The school serves day and residential students with autism spectrum disorder, brain injury, or behavioral health challenges. The caring staff focuses on the skills each student needs to make a successful transition to adult life.



BRANDON'S VISION



Dear Friends,

It has been an honor to join the Ivy Street community at an exciting time in the school's history and the world of education. I knew

immediately that this team was ready to meet the moment and advance equity and access during this complex time. I have been struck by their integrity, compassion, creativity, inspired by the commitment to care that shapes every relationship, and moved by the ingenuity that drives program design and service delivery.

I have taught students with disabilities, led a district strategy for failing schools, run a turnaround public high school in the South Bronx, and most recently, served as the Education Advisor to NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio. I have visited hundreds of schools and few have shown the grit, vision, and outcomes-driven modalities of Ivy Street.

In my first few months, we have:

- Launched our 3-year strategic plan informed by hundreds of conversations with parents, alumni, students, stakeholders, and team members.
- Created a new leadership structure to help realize our big goals, continue transforming our students' lives, and reimagine what education can do.

- Launched our first-ever Family Learning Academy for skill building for caregivers, community building, and therapeutic supports.
- Restructured our education program and added new enrichment programming to deepen a love for learning and strengthen connections.
- Created a clear pedagogical framework for each division, focusing on project-based learning and authentic experiences.
- Introduced new supports in our Foundations Residential Program to help strengthen independence.
- In partnership with Boston University, launched Reversing Course a webinar series with education leaders discussing the future of education and our response to learning during this challenging time.

While we are managing through difficult times—our work to reduce shame, nurture healing, and structure skill development remains our top priority!

It is a gift to shepherd the organization into its next chapter.

Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, MEd
Executive Director, Ivy Street School



156

prom dresses collected for students from a donation drive launched by board members Stephanie Fidel and Suzanne Kaitz

68

students served

32

residential hours weekly with an Occupational Therapist supporting programming

26

electives offered this quarter

10

peaks hiked by the 10 Peaks Club

1

new Expressive Arts Teacher joined Ivy Street School community

2,289

virtual access technology training sessions provided, (either 1:1 or group format)

1,113

individuals with vision loss were served statewide

377

older adults attended 2,080 remote support group sessions

350

hours of PEP groups meetings conducted

200+

medical and elder services providers learned about the growing needs of MA older adults with vision loss through MABVI's state Age-Friendly effort

1

day named by the City of Boston in honor of Diane Berberian for her years of enthusiasm and support for MABVI's Team With a Vision



SASSY'S VISION



Dear Friends,

The pandemic challenged us all this year. I am in awe of MABVI's exceptional staff, who continued to go above and beyond. Older adults with vision loss have been especially vulnerable, not simply because of health risks or access to information or basic needs, but because they were forced into even greater isolation. Over a prolonged period, social isolation is extremely dangerous to one's health, which we took very seriously.

We succeeded in keeping all six MABVI programs going virtually and/or in-person... thanks to many generous funders. This year's accomplishments include:

- Connected consumers with hundreds of community volunteers. We also sustained 36 peer support groups...all by teleconference!
- Virtually trained hundreds of people on accessible technologies so they could stay in touch with family, friends, and resources throughout the pandemic.
- Expanded MABVI's approach: very few organizations offer such a comprehensive approach with licensed social workers on staff and integrated mental health and technology services embedded across programs. Most of our program leaders have

lived experience with blindness and are recognized nationally as experts.

- Formalized virtual access to services as a permanent option, which reduces barriers such as transportation.
- Elevated blindness and promoted accessibility best practices in local and national conversations through our Age & Dementia Friendly Initiative.
- Shaped healthy aging policy and practice on issues ranging from digital accessibility to strategies for increasing social connectedness.
- Promoted services among older adults of color and those who speak languages other than English.
- Improved COVID-19 vaccine information and access thanks to strategic partnerships including MA Department of Public Health, City of Boston, and Health Care for All.

MABVI's strategic partnerships are critical to meeting the need as the number of older adults experiencing vision loss increases. We are grateful to everyone who has helped sustain and expand MABVI's important work this year and beyond.

Sassy Outwater-Wright

Executive Director, Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

MABVI empowers older adults to continue to lead full lives, whether they are experiencing vision loss or have been blind since childhood. Vision rehabilitation, access technology training, volunteer help, counseling, and peer support services are comprehensive, cost-effective and high-quality services.





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$250,000+

Elaine Ellenbogen
 Julie and Michael Ellenbogen
 Massachusetts Community Health &
 Healthy Aging Funds

\$100,000+

Memorial Foundation for the Blind
 Elisa and Lawrence Summers

\$50,000+

The Barbara Epstein Foundation Inc.
 Marc Casper
 The Highland Partners Charitable Fund
 Sara Elizabeth O'Brien Trust, Bank of America,
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 Jenny Netzer and Ellis Seidman
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\$15,000+

Anonymous
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\$5,000+

Alice C.A. Sibley Fund of Greater Worcester
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\$1,000+

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Wampanoag Road Runners

\$500+

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Will Ayers
Carliss Baldwin and Randolph Hawthorne
Jessica Bearer
Penelope and Victor Bernstein
Boston Athletic Association
Malaina Bowker
Julia and Daniel Brody



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Caroline Toomey-Gitto and Scott Hyney

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Vedere Bio
Eric Waterman
Susan Whalen
Martin Wileman

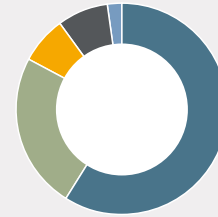
\$250+

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Saneel Amin
Anonymous
Alma Antoniotti
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Joan and John Barkan
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Caroline R. Baumal and Jack Bardy
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Claude deSouza-Lawrence
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Kathleen Enos
Margaret Fernandez
Pamela Goodman and Michael Shwartz



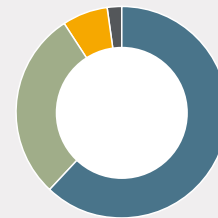
YEAR END 2021

FINANCIALS



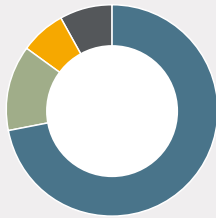
Total Expense by Program **\$32,938,366**

- Adult Disability Services 59%
- Ivy Street School 24%
- Mass Association for the Blind 7%
- Administration and Marketing 8%
- Fundraising 2%



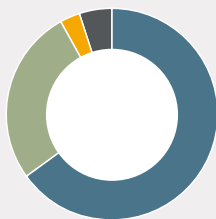
Total Revenue by Program **\$33,317,616**

- Adult Disability Services 62%
- Ivy Street School 29%
- Mass Association for the Blind 7%
- Unrestricted 2%



Total Expenses by Cost Center **\$32,938,366**

- Payroll 72%
- Housing/Rent 13%
- Direct Program Support 7%
- Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc. 8%



Total Revenue by Source **\$33,317,616**

- Government /Insurance 65%
- Reimbursement 27%
- Tuition 3%
- Fundraising 5%

	ADS	ISS	MABVI
Total Expenses	\$19,336,939	\$7,880,187	\$2,332,590
Payroll	72%	76%	69%
Housing/Rent	15%	12%	3%
Direct Program Support	6%	5%	21%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.	7%	7%	7%
Total Revenue	\$20,827,616	\$9,671,052	\$2,455,180
State Contracts	93%	NA	NA
Federal Contracts	6%	NA	37%
Insurance Reimbursements	NA	NA	17%
Tuition	NA	99%	NA
Fundraising	1%	1%	46%



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
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Blind and Visually Impaired

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