

Senior Sing A - l o n g

Engaging minds,
memories, and
movements



2020
Annual
Report



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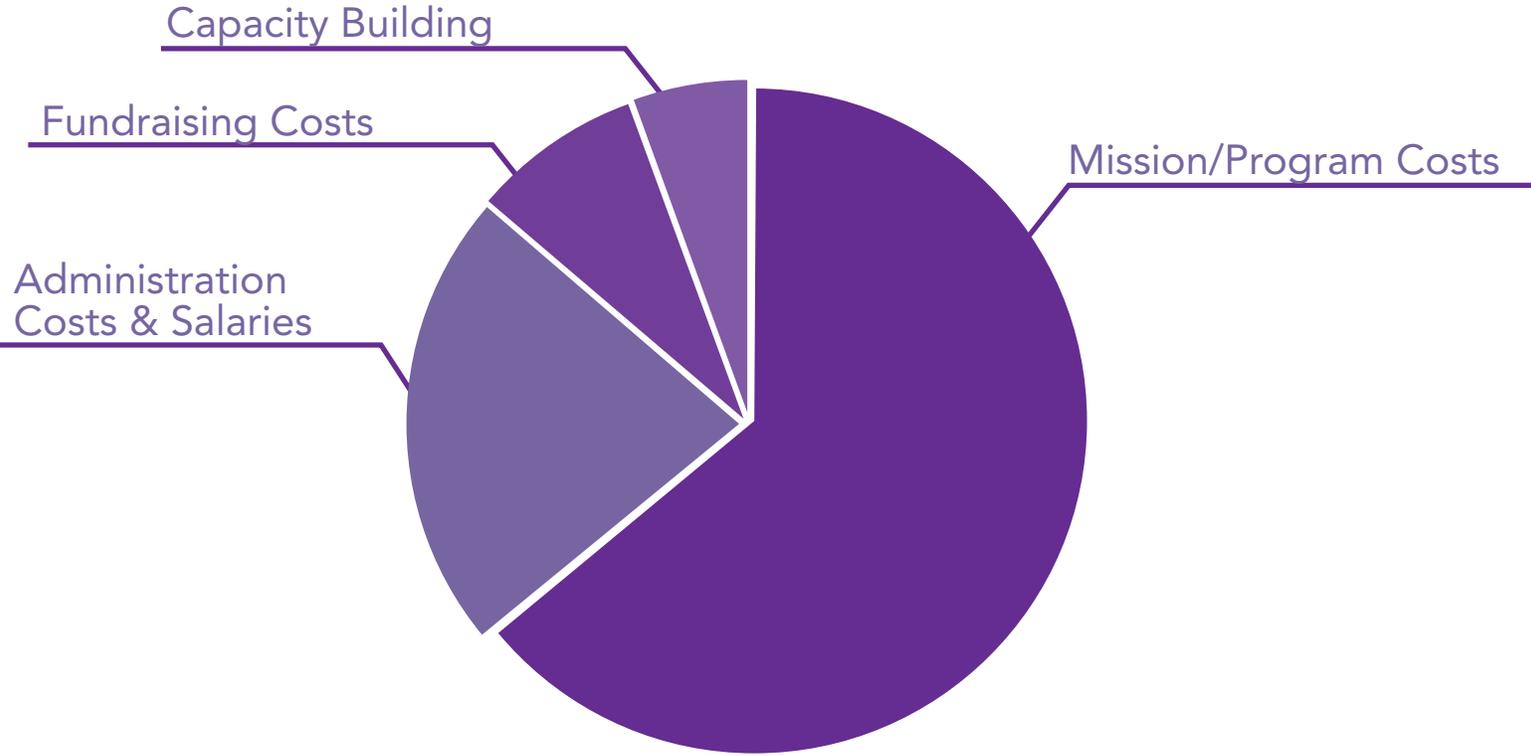
Donation Made in Memory of Henry Verbrugge
David & Lori Verbrugge

Donation Made in Memory of Ken Van Haaften
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2020 Expenses

Mission/Program Costs	—————	\$84,834
Administrative/Salary	—————	\$29,369
Fundraising Costs	—————	\$10,765
Capacity Building	—————	\$7,300
		<hr/>
		<i>\$132,268</i>



*We apologize if any information is not correct. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein. If an error has been made or information has been omitted, please notify: Jill Dover at 2967 Byron Center Ave. Wyoming, MI 49519 or jdover@grar.com

Virtual Music Therapy Spotlight



Your support allowed us to transform music therapy from in-person to virtual! Thanks to you we provided a valuable lifeline to many of our communities as we struggled with isolation and loneliness during the pandemic closures. Jodi Walker, Life Enrichment Specialist at Edison Christian Care, went into the virtual music therapy idea with much uncertainty. She was unsure how her residents would embrace the idea. What would they think about music therapy on a screen? Over a short amount of time the residents understood that Libby was at home, but they would still get excited and happy when Jodi would tell them that “Libby will be on this morning”.

Your donations make “Libby Day” at Edison Christian Care possible. The residents’ moods improve knowing they have something to look forward to and the staff feels the same way! Jodi often hears the staff in the hallways singing along to songs even after the session is complete.

Virtual music therapy is more than Libby on a screen. It’s personal, it’s social, it’s engagement and connectivity. She greets them each by name, she waves to them and they wave back, she gives them high-5’s and they hi-5 back. It’s a chance for residents to see their neighbors they can no longer see during the COVID closure restrictions. A chance for good friends to say hello, to share a laugh, and send a smile! Her work is so uplifting that family members wish they could hop on the zoom with their loved ones! We are touching so many lives, even if it’s not in our traditional ways...all thanks to donors like you!

Virtual Music with Dave Strumfeld



Sure, virtual performances are not “the same” as in-person, but we are so grateful for your support so that we were able to continue music in every way possible during the pandemic restrictions. We asked Dave Strumfeld to share his experience...

“I have had some wonderful experiences doing virtual performances. Most surprising is how easily people have engaged with it. Even through a screen, the energy from the music comes across. It is incredibly rewarding to see people tap their feet and bob along, but my favorite is always those who get up and dance. There are always a few activities directors who pull residents up to their feet to groove along. It’s a lot of fun to watch them enjoying the show!”

Dave shared how the COVID restrictions led to one of his most gratifying performances...

“Just before Christmas, I did a show for some of the members at Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Due to COVID they were isolated in their rooms, unable to gather. I connected via Zoom on an iPad, the staff took me door to door, and I could do several 10-15 minute individual shows over the course of an hour. Playing for people one on one was an incredible experience, and a really unique and personal way to connect via music. I’m still excited to play some more classic rock for them in person soon!”

We know that connections have been different in 2020, but your support of Senior Sing A-Long is creating moments like these from Dave and seniors right here in West Michigan.

Exciting New Grant News!



We are thrilled to announce the receipt of grant funding from the West Michigan Alliance for Veterans. WMA4V provides for the well being of Michigan Veterans and their families to aid in their comfort, education and welfare not provided from the State of Michigan or Federal agencies of the US Government.

This funding allows Senior Sing A-Long to continue music therapy services to members at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Special Deliveries for Seniors with Sponsors, AARP Grand Rapids



AARP® Real Possibilities
Grand Rapids

Over the past two years we have developed a partnership with AARP Grand Rapids. We are

grateful for their sponsorship of our Special Deliveries for Seniors Virtual event held over the past several months. The sponsorship along with your donations created the opportunity for us to make special deliveries of plants, flowers and cards to dozens of our partnering communities over the winter months. AARP's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all as we age. AARP Grand Rapids and Senior Sing A-Long recognize the science and

benefits of music and brain health. We continue to look for new ways to work together. For more information on AARP Grand Rapids, check out the website at <https://local.aarp.org/grand-rapids-mi>.