



# A Word From Luana Vaetoe

Chief Executive Officer

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

History is often used as a tool for imagining the future. When we interview a prospective employee, we ask about their employment history. Anyone who has gone through the loan application process has had past financial decisions scrutinized. Even television networks rely on the previous season's ratings when determining whether to renew a show. History, both good and bad, can be a reliable predictor of future outcomes.

The history of the human services field for adults with developmental disabilities is rich with examples that range from fear-based, to well intentioned, to innovative re-imaginings. The mid 1900's were defined by institutionalized living. In the years that followed, we recognized a desperate need for change, and found successes moving from institutional living to sheltered workshops, to community-based programs by consulting history and asking ourselves: How can we do better?

A look into Becoming Independent's own more recent

history includes our 50th year of providing services to adults with developmental disabilities. This milestone year started off with a record-breaking gift from the Finley Foundation, which fueled our ability to begin our exodus from sheltered, congregate settings and into an inclusive community experience.

Our recent history included our exciting debut into national television, as the PBS series, Visionaries, arrived on campus to film our organization. This series, hosted by Sam Waterston of the acclaimed television show Law & Order, captured the magic that happens at BI every day, and they will be sharing that magic with our nation this year.

A few months later, the guests at our annual gala were able to view a sneak peak of the Visionaries footage. The abbreviated segment was played during our Paddle Pledge portion of the evening and it was clear that our guests were inspired by what they saw. Last year, BI had the largest amount of individual gifts made during the Paddle Pledge in the gala's 25 year history. Icing on the cake: The whole event took place in our beautifully

redesigned garden at our Santa Rosa campus.

Nearly 70 years ago, with a handful of determined parents at the helm, a national movement was sparked. These parents rallied and engaged their peers and community officials on behalf of their children with developmental disabilities. Becoming Independent joined this movement at our inception twenty years later. We have rallied and engaged our communities, and over the decades, we have proven to be innovators in our own right.

Becoming Independent's history is a proud one. It's a history of transformation, innovation, and service. We have set a standard for others to follow, and we have laid a foundation that will support our future. And if history is any indicator, we can expect the next 50 years to be the best ones yet.

Sincerely,

Luana Vaetoe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Becoming Independent

## Winter Formal

The Flamingo Hotel



## 2016-2017 Outcomes of Becoming Independent Services

Success and progress experienced by individuals served by Becoming Independent are measured in real terms. BI tracks the number of people served, how many hours of service they received from staff, the number of hours of work they performed and wages they earned, and their level of inclusion in mainstream community activities. BI also gauges overall satisfaction with the Becoming Independent experience.

### People Served

1,037\*

### Wages

\$754,465

### Hours of Work

101,847

### Hours of Service

546,064\*\*

### Hours on Inclusion

524,794

### Rate of Satisfaction

93%

Becoming Independent's most recent audited financial statement and tax return are available at [BecomingIndependent.org](http://BecomingIndependent.org)

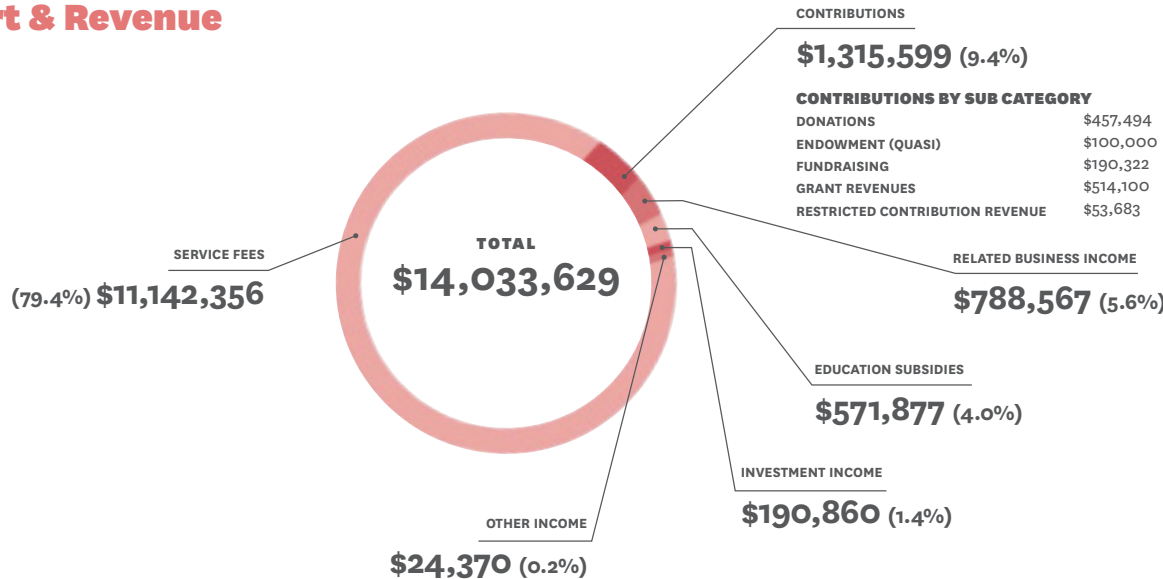
\*Includes an average of 90 attendees per month during this fiscal year served at community dances hosted by Becoming Independent at Steele Lane Community Center.  
\*\*Includes 2,700 hours of service during this fiscal year for service through community dances.

## Talent Show

Finley Community Center



## Support & Revenue

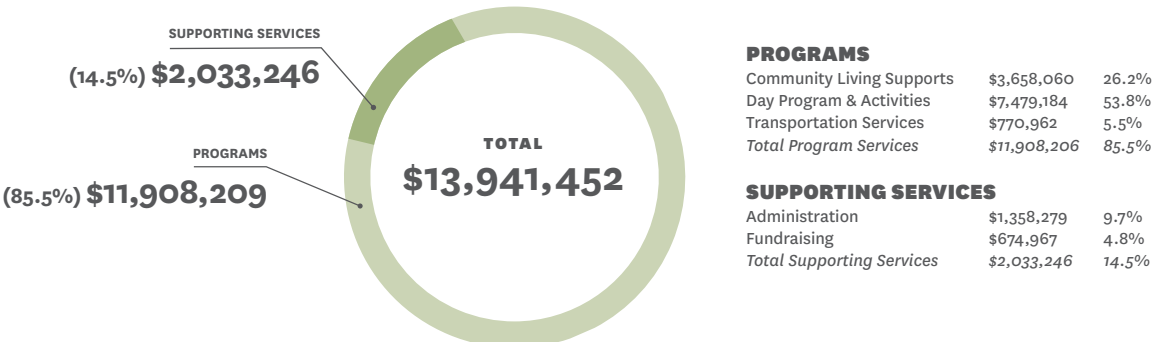


## Olympics

Santa Rosa Junior College



## Expenses





Becoming Independent thanks the following for their support and generous donations throughout the 2016–2017 fiscal year.

Hoffman, Mary  
Holm, Gary & Karen  
Hopkins, Steve  
Hopper, David & Joan  
Hopper, Randal & Deana  
Hops & Hominy  
Horvat, Denese  
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House, David & Claudia  
Howard, Amy and Edward  
Howard, Charles  
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Kaiser Permanente  
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Michael G. Hinrichs  
Lamb, MD, Ken & Linda  
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Maintenance  
Landreth Family Trust  
Larson, Carol  
Law Offices of Vincent P. L.  
Leach, Dr. Robert S.  
Legge, Vida  
Lehr, Ben

## The June Waite Legacy Circle...

Many thanks to the following individuals who have included Becoming Independent with a legacy gift in their estate plans, most often through a bequest in a will:

Anonymous (4), Eileen Adams, Tony Apolloni & Maria Mar, Norman Chalmers\*, Shiah Cherney, Glenn Dewick, Geneva Scheihing Folsom\*, Lisa Folsom-Ernst & Richard Ernst, Jayne & Peter Hamel, Cami Kahl, Sandy Madsen, Lucia Milburn & Joseph Como, Jack T. Morris\*, William Morris, Lené & John Prior, Ed Rimbaugh, June Waite\*

\*Deceased

Petersen, Melvin & Karen  
 P&G Foundation Matching Gifts  
 Pierre, Abigail  
 Pierre, Tina  
 Pierre, Edward  
 Pierre, Tim & Kathy  
 Place, Michele  
 Plante, Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.  
 Pola, Sarah  
 Powers, Freda  
 Powers, Ted & Pamela  
 Presidio Social Club  
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 Rodriguez, Stephanie & Romero  
 Roper, Sharon & Ruth  
 Rosenblum, Arthur and  
 Maureen Rumford  
 Roskam, Andrea  
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 Ross, Sarah & Shaun  
 Rossner, Peter & Kathryn  
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 Santa Rosa Entertainment Group  
 Sanville, Ax  
 Sanville, Betsy & Bob  
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 Weissgerber, Susan  
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 Williamson Wines  
 Wine Country Decorative Artists  
 Wine Road  
 Winograd, Barry  
 Wollman, Eric & Debbie  
 Wisteria Manor  
 Wittenberg, Eric & Rachel  
 Wolfe, Mary  
 Wolford, Jeff & Cathleen  
 Wollman, Eric & Debbie  
 Wong, Lynette  
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 Wright, Jack & Debbie  
 Wright, Kathryn & Jay  
 Wright, Susan  
 Yamamura, Edie  
 Zabroff, Lawrence  
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 Zamora, Shirley and Jeffrey Barrett



# Becoming Independent™

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Elevating human abilities  
for the mutual benefit of  
our Community.

Leading innovators in the  
field of human services.