



# A Word From Luana Vaetoe

Chief Executive Officer

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we find ourselves out in the community more, and are better equipped with both the tools and technology needed to facilitate genuine relationships, we are finding that we are experiencing far fewer transactional encounters. Instead, the social, volunteer, and employment encounters between the people we serve and their individual spheres of influence are becoming progressively more intentional, and are building on the foundation of belonging.

Social engagement begins from the moment we are born, and, ideally, this engagement continues and develops throughout our lives. At BI, we recognize the importance of utilizing intentional community engagement as a natural classroom. Each time we come together, we work closely and individually with many of the people we serve to discover where they want to go. If, that day, their path towards enrichment begins in a yoga class, it's because they've chosen to add this to their life. Each time they choose for themselves the people and

places they allow into their lives, their sense of belonging deepens.

Volunteerism is an important part of any strong community's culture. The volunteer relationship is by nature transformational, not transactional. The volunteer understands that, as a community, we are stronger if we aim to advance each other's goals. For example, when our teams are working with Meals on Wheels to deliver food to the elderly in our neighborhoods, they aren't making these connections out of necessity, because they think they have to. They continue to thoughtfully complete this community service out of a desire to invest in the well-being of their fellow citizens.

Meaningful employment – real work for real pay – contributes significantly towards a sense of fulfillment. Not only does it provide an opportunity for financial advancement, but it also offers the chance for each of us to flex our talents and contribute towards the advancement of our colleagues and employers. Finding success in a job is a universal longing, helping each unique person find

a greater sense of belonging and economic empowerment, and thanks to an ever widening set of business relationships, more people are finding success securing meaningful jobs.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is at the crux of community; the core of belonging. The understanding that, while each of us carries within us an innate and beautiful individuality, we also possess an instinctual drive to find our tribe. We have intrinsic value within ourselves, but when we come together, whether in social situations, while volunteering, or on the job, our individual contributions combine to become something greater than they otherwise would be. The people we serve are missed when they can't make yoga class, or their rounds delivering meals. When they can't join their colleagues at work, they are missed. They are missed, because they belong.

Sincerely,

Luana Vaetoe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Becoming Independent

## Volunteerism

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Support



## 2017–2018 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.

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

People Served

1,164\*

Wages

\$1,037,065

Hours of Work

92,075

Hours of Service

531,694\*\*

Hours on Inclusion

369,500

Rate of Satisfaction

94%

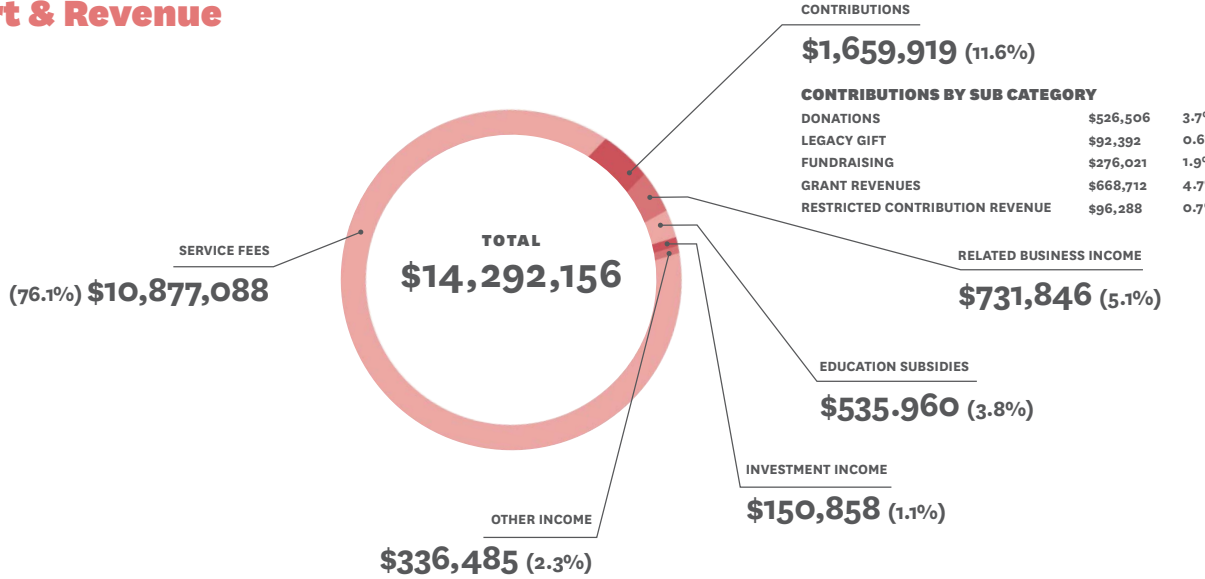
\*Includes an average of 114 attendees per month during this fiscal year served at community dances hosted by Becoming Independent at Steele Lane Community Center and The Flamingo (50% of which are counted as non-BI).  
\*\*Includes 3,321 hours of service during this fiscal year for service through community dances.

## Employment

At Work in Sonoma County



## Support & Revenue

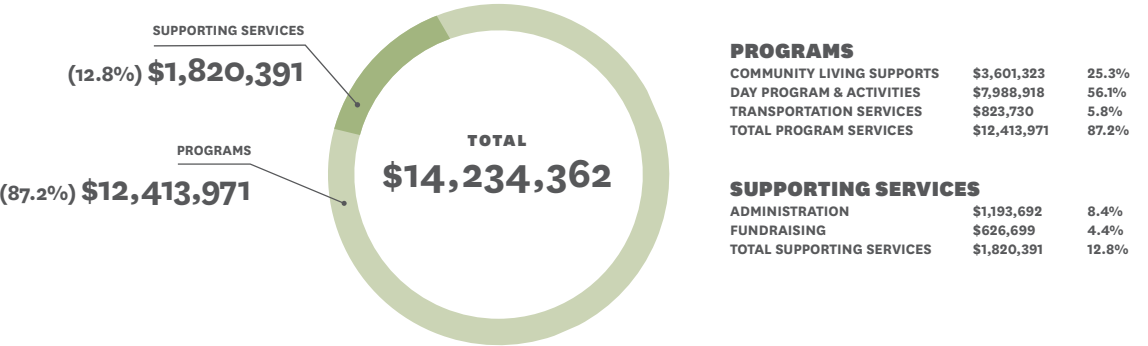


## Social Engagement

Comic Book Club at Outer Planes



## Expenses





## Many Thanks

Becoming Independent thanks the following for their support and generous donations throughout the 2017–2018 fiscal year.

Anonymous (2)	Buckley-Reynolds, Colleen	Danopoulos, Vickie and Constantine
Acclamation Insurance	Bufano, Vikki	Darling, Elaine and Lawrence
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Browne, Jill	Daniels, Jim and Peggy	Fatdoggs Productions
Browning, Debbie	Danner, Susan and James	Fell, Ron and Kathy

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Jones, Jana	Grav South Brew Co.
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Greenman, Jill and Robert	Gwin, Julie and Gerald
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Epicenter	Hall, Gwen
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Lisa Folsom-Ernst	Hamel, Jayne and Pete
Ernstner, Matthew and Danielle	Harmon Vineyards
EScrip	Hanley, John and Linda
Estlines, Amy	Hanley, Keith
Evans, John	
Evans, Whitney and Jeanette	
Exchange Bank	
F.C.M. Mechanical	
Fabiano, Jerry and Susan	
Falco, Bob and Sue	
Farrow Vineyards	
Fatdoggs Productions	
Fell, Ron and Kathy	

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### The June Waite Legacy Circle...

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Sproat, Kimberly and Ron
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St. Francis Winery and Vineyards
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Tucker, Kristen and Tavis
Turner, Dan
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Wirth, Larry
Wiseman, Dr. Richard and Sherrie

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Wright, Kathy and Jay
Wright Contracting, Inc
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### Our Purpose

Elevating human abilities for the mutual benefit of our Community.

### Our Vision

Becoming Independent is a community of innovative partnerships, fostering authentic human connections.

### Who We Are

Leading innovators in the field of human services.

### Our Values

Human Dignity  
Empowerment  
Integrity  
Community  
Innovation

Becoming Independent™

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