SLI supports the efforts of individuals with diverse abilities to achieve independence and actively participate in the community.
President’s Message

SLI had a full and exciting 2018! In addition to continuous improvement in programs and services, there were numerous additions related to training, technology, security, safety and capacity to name a few.

SLI was fortunate to receive a grant from the FHLBank Topeka in 2017. This afforded us the ability to make upgrades to three duplexes including new lift chairs for the stairs, flooring, countertops, fencing, landscaping, deck and foundation work and many other upgrades. All of the remodeling and upgrades are expected to be finished in 2019.

Capacity was increased in a variety of ways including the addition of the Relias online training program, four transit vans obtained through a KDOT grant and increasing direct care professional turnover by nearly six percent. Our website was rebuilt to promote awareness and education of SLI, increase community involvement and more user friendly. The database was upgraded to capture all donor information, integrate with our special event, reduce duplications and increase accuracy and efficiency. Biometric readers, a simplified process for staff to clock in and out, were tested for staff timekeeping. This helps SLI manage, with greater accuracy, employee schedules, overtime and other payroll functions.

SLI purchased a neglected building south of our office that was determined not to be inhabitable. Since parking has been a challenge, the building was demolished to create additional parking. This will increase safety around SLI offices with better sight lines and additional parking. The green space will give the Community Integration Program additional space for gardening and recreation.

In accordance with the strategic plan and due to a three percent increase in Home and Community Based Services funding, starting pay for direct care professionals was increased. Employee satisfaction increased, KPERS 457 was added as an additional retirement benefit, SLI secured lower premiums for employee health insurance, added a hiring bonus and increased retention bonuses.

The Community Integration Program increased enrollment from 49 to 59 people. Participation in this program includes volunteerism, educational classes, arts and therapeutic programs, recreation, socialization and job training.

The University of Kansas partnered with SLI to deliver the “Stoplight Healthy Living Program” that offered classes focused on safe and healthy lifestyles. SLI had 25 clients participate in this program and it will be offered again in 2019 as part of the Community Integration Program.

E.S.C.A.P.E. (Empowerment, Socialization, Caring, Attitude, Positivity, Entertainment) was created by SLI staff to support women in our services.

Finally, SLI was awarded a three-year accreditation from CARF International, the highest award that can be earned. SLI has participated in the accreditation process since 1997.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our supportive corporations and community, without whom we could not achieve our mission to support those with diverse abilities to actively participate in their community and increase independence.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jackson
President/CEO
SLI Programs & Services

Community Integration Program

• **Community Integration Program (day services)** focuses on life-enhancing activities, active learning and community involvement. The program keeps 59 individuals engaged in activities, volunteering over 800 hours a month in the community, learning daily living skills and responsibility and job skills.

Community Living

• **Community Living** serves 97 men and women who live in 21 SLI homes with 24-hour staffing 24/7/365 days a year. Clients served range from mild to profound physically and/or mentally disabled. They are provided a safe home, trained staff, transportation, medical supplies, nutritional food and other supports as needed.

Independent Living

• **Independent Living** serves 33 men and women who have gained daily living skills and independence to live on their own with minimal assistance. Most of these clients have a part-time or full-time job.

Job Training

• **Job training** is provided for clients that have the ability to work. The program teaches appropriate behavior, work ethic, dress code, resume building and interview skills. As an incentive, clients are paid minimum wage when they participate in SLI’s janitorial, landscape and car detail crews.

Targeted Case Management

• **Targeted Case Management** provides case management for 186 children and adults. Case managers assist the client and their families to develop and implement the person centered support plan and to identify and maintain eligible state and federal funding. Case managers meet with their clients at least once a month.
Client Statistics

Community Living Program
- 97 Number of Clients
- 51.46 Average Age
- 18.47 Average Length of Service

Independent Living Program
- 33 Number of Clients
- 47.07 Average Age
- 16.22 Average Length of Service

Community Integration Program
- 59 Number of Clients
- 47.33 Average Age
- 7.03 Average Length of Service

Targeted Case Management
- 186 Number of Clients
- 37.54 Average Age
- 13.02 Average Length of Service
Value Every Single Life

As you read this story, please keep in mind that this captures only a small glimpse of Melissa’s life. We hope you will gain the ability to see a vivid picture of what it may have been like for her, what her current life is and what life will be like for others if we do nothing.

Melissa Smith was born in 1963 to Bob and Audrey Smith in Houston, Texas. It was early in infancy that her parents began to question their pediatrician that something was wrong with Melissa. At the age of eight months Melissa was hospitalized and a new pediatrician diagnosed her with congenital familial dysautonomia. Melissa’s doctor gave her father a medical reference book to read. The book had several columns of the documented information on the disorder that Melissa was diagnosed with. Even though Bob and Audrey had little information, they were relieved to finally find out what was happening with Melissa.

Congenital familial dysautonomia is a rare inherited disorder characterized by insensitivity to pain and an inability to sweat. Melissa needs to be cautious of exposure to extreme weather since she has no body temperature control.

“Melissa has no fear of anything, because she can’t feel anything,” said Audrey.

It was then recommended that Bob and Audrey institutionalize Melissa. This was the typical recommendation and practice at the time. Parents were not encouraged to keep their disabled children at home to raise. They were told that she had mental retardation, would go blind and deaf and be in a vegetative state. However, Melissa’s parents decided not to institutionalize her, but raised her and taught her in their family home.

In 1964, her parents were transferred to Philadelphia and a research doctor heard about Melissa and asked to do a study on her to find out more about her diagnosis. It was then that the correct diagnosis of congenital familial sensory neuropathy with anhidrosis was given.

Melissa learned to read, write and became quite educated. When Melissa was 18, she graduated from Topeka West High School and Bob and Audrey decided it was time to let Melissa grow and develop further independence away from their home. They heard about SLI (Sheltered Living, Inc.) and from then on Melissa has lived in a home with assistance and support from SLI.

Bob recalls that as parents it would have been more difficult for them to push Melissa to become more independent but with the support of SLI she was able to do that in a safe and secure environment.

With the help from SLI, Melissa was able to get a job on the production line at a book bindery company in Topeka. In order to get to work, Melissa had to ride a bus every day. This allowed Melissa the ability to be independent, which was a dream come true for her.

Melissa loved working and earning her own money. She was able to go on a cruise and pay for it with the money she earned working at the book bindery.

The services at SLI have allowed Bob and Audrey to be very involved in Melissa’s life and to have the freedom of a normal parent/adult child relationship and the security of knowing their daughter is safe, happy and secure.

Lisa Jackson, president/CEO of SLI, said “Melissa has touched many people at SLI; her friends, staff and roommates. She is a very tender hearted, strong willed and determined woman. Bob and Audrey made a decision years ago, despite what the doctors recommended, based on their values and love for their daughter. We are so thankful they did.”
Community Impact

Sponsors SLI Camp

Blanche Bryden Foundation and Cox Communication supported the SLI Camp making it possible for the organization to host a camp for our clients. Summer Camp is a very special event for SLI clients because their limited income does not allow for vacations and many have never taken a vacation. Our clients ask for so little...it is hard when a client wants to take a vacation and we have to explain he/she cannot afford it. At camp, the clients can participate in activities which many have never experienced such as archery, rock wall climbing, canoeing, paddle boats, riding a zip-line, leather making, pottery, fishing, swimming and a variety of others. The clients are in a dream world and very excited and grateful to have a “vacation” that includes so many new experiences.

SLI Transportation Fleet Partnership

Kansas Department of Transportation has partnered with SLI for many years in supporting our transportation fleet. The grant received made it possible to add four new transit vehicles to our fleet of 43 with 16 that are wheelchair accessible. SLI providing transportation for our clients gives them independence and the opportunity for community involvement. In 2018, we provided over 138,000 vehicle mileage for clients to the grocery store, work, day activities, shopping, church, medical appointments and community activities.

Safeguarding & Advocacy for SLI Clients

Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas Foundation supported our Safe Guard and Medical Advocacy Program that provides advocacy for SLI clients who can’t represent or speak for themselves. When a client is admitted to the hospital or emergency room, it is essential that SLI staff be with the client during this visit. If the client is nonverbal, the SLI direct care staff will explain to the medical team the problem and the history leading up to the hospitalization. A direct care staff member can keep them calm and explain to them what is happening. The support of Blue Cross Blue Shield is important for the welfare of the children and adults with intellectual disabilities we serve and our community.

You Can Make a Difference

We need your support to help children and adults with diverse abilities to achieve independence, actively participate in the community and so SLI can continue to provide client programs and services for our clients. Your donations also help with unfunded needs such as dental care, medical supplies, medical advocacy, contracted nurse for diabetic insulin shots and wellness checks and transportation for our clients.

For more information view the donate section on our website at www.slitopeka.org. Listed below are ways to make a difference in the lives of SLI clients who depend on our programs and services.

Ways to Support SLI

- Company Matching Gifts
- Corporate Giving
- Festival of Trees Sponsorship
- In Honor Gifts
- Individual Giving
- Memorials Gifts
- Planned Giving – Bequests/Wills
- Personal Property Gifts
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Time & Talent

Handmade quilts donated for SLI clients
Financial Highlight

**Revenue:**

- Federal: $3,853,288 (50.22%)
- State: $2,650,039 (34.54%)
- Local: $997,136 (13%)
- Fundraising: $123,940 (1.62%)
- Grants & other revenue: $47,655 (0.62%)

**Expenses:**

- Community and Independent Living Programs: $4,886,688 (70%)
- Administration: $990,798 (14%)
- Community Integration Program: $406,233 (6%)
- Targeted Case Management: $368,816 (5%)
- Transportation: $318,175 (5%)

**Unfunded Services/Expenses:**

- Transportation: $288,346
- Medical Advocacy: $182,271
- Nursing: $77,024
- Medical Supplies: $13,216
- Assistive Technology: $10,000
- Dental Care: $8,497
Leadership

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*Heartland Homecare Services, Inc.*

Executive Staff

Lisa Jackson  
*President/CEO*

Kathy Brayton  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Jo Ann Tate  
*Vice President of Development*
Volunteers

Many volunteers contributed this year through projects or client activities. Here are some ways the community supported SLI!

Softball Cookout with Washburn University baseball team

Westar Energy building new storage space for Festival of Trees

Volunteers at Nancy Perry Day of Caring

Festival of Trees committee created a float for Miracle on Kansas Avenue Parade

Client Holiday Party provided by Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association and the Civitan Club of Topeka

Silver Lake High School helping with yard work

Topeka Community Foundation staff volunteering at SLI

Volunteer with your Time & Talent

Your time and talent can make a difference. We have opportunities with our SLI programs and signature event, Festival of Trees. You chose what works best for you.

Please visit our website, www.slitopeka.org, for more details on how you can volunteer or call Jo Ann Tate at 785-233-2566. We welcome individuals, company employee groups, school groups and civic organizations.
Honor Roll of Donors

Michael Abasolo, Sr.
Leanne Adams
Jim Allan
Rosa Anguiano
Ray & Maggie Beers
Shirley Boudreau
Russell & Beth Ann Branden
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Phil Whalen
Dennis & Debra Wyckoff
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Sunflower Foundation
TEB Consulting LLC.
Topeka Community Foundation
Topeka Landscape
United Methodist Women
United Steelworkers, Local 307
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Westar Energy

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Brent Remington
Andrew & Jana Karim

Marc Couch
Lisa Jackson
Robert May

Kelly Hall
Douglas & Mary Hall

Melvin Jackson
Lisa Jackson
Rick & Jo Ann Tate

In Honor Of

David Beers
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