

ENGAGE ACHIEVE ATTAIN



AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS



Dear Friends,

VGS, like so many organizations and institutions, found 2021 to be a year of rebounding, rethinking, and restructuring. In 2021, we fine-tuned programming to address current needs of our participants, many of whom had not returned from social isolation following March 2020; we engaged with the individuals we serve to identify their current goals, as they too were rethinking their future; and we explored how we could best help businesses address their staffing and labor needs in a difficult labor market.



As we adapted, grew, and envisioned what a community that includes individuals with disabilities in all facets would look like, our day-to-day work continued. VGS is proud to have helped more than 700 individuals with disabilities work toward their goals – whether they were seeking social and basic skills building; paid work experiences; or employment with businesses that operate in the community. The work and perseverance of the VGS team in 2021 inspired the organization to adopt the tagline “Engage. Achieve. Attain.”

We hope that the individuals featured in this 2021 Annual Report make you proud of your support of VGS and inspire you to continue and deepen your support for Ohioans with disabilities.

Thank you to each of our supporters, to each donor, each event attendee, and each volunteer – you make disability inclusion in the community and in the workforce a possibility. VGS, the individuals we serve, our leadership, and our staff are endlessly grateful for all that you make possible.

Susie Barragate
President & CEO

Matthew Joyce
Board Chair

2021 STATS OUR IMPACT

served
717
individuals


\$13.40
average starting wage


221
placed in jobs


74 students served
in Summer Youth
Work Experience


75 partnerships with
businesses and
organizations

DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE

56% Black
40% White
4% Hispanic
4% Other

AGE

14 - 25	208	29%
26 - 40	194	27%
41 - 60	242	34%
60+	73	10%

DISABILITIES

37% Cognitive
38% Psychosocial
17% Physical
5% Hearing or visual impairment

FINANCIALS

NET ASSETS

2020: \$25,823,830

2021: \$25,799,089

TOTAL REVENUE & PUBLIC SUPPORT

2020: \$20,643,745

2021: \$17,071,519

TOTAL EXPENSES

2020: \$19,668,696

2021: \$17,536,293

2021 REVENUE

**GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM FEES
AND GRANTS**

22%

**BUSINESS
INDUSTRY
SALES**

68%

**DONATIONS AND
FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

5%

OTHER

5%

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/SERVICE PROVIDER



Accredited by the Commission on
Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities



This report summarizes the 2021 activities and accomplishments of Vocational Guidance Services and its affiliates, VGS, Inc. and Vocational Services Inc.

ENGAGE:

"PARTICIPATE OR BECOME INVOLVED IN"



SUPPORTERS

Fulfilling our mission of “creating pathways for individuals with disabilities to engage in the community, achieve greater independence, and attain employment” is only possible because of our supporters. We are grateful for the connection our volunteers and donors have with our program participants - from virtual dinners to in-person pizza parties; pumpkin decorating judging to piece-work completion; fundraising to becoming friends.

The VGS Board of Directors have, and continue to be, our program participants’ most ardent cheerleaders. We are so grateful for their unwavering support during our slow “reopening” post-COVID restrictions and their willingness to show up and connect with our participants as soon as it was possible.

The Sunbeam Board, which celebrated their 131st anniversary in 2021, remains a cornerstone of who we are and who we serve. Sunbeam provided program participants access to virtual connections early in the year and closed it out with the return of the in-person Sunbeam Holiday Boutique, which shattered attendance records and raised its highest dollar amount to date.

ACHIEVE:

"SUCCESSFULLY BRING ABOUT OR REACH BY EFFORT, SKILL, OR COURAGE"



TERRANCE

Change can be challenging, but it can also provide an opportunity to achieve new things. VGS' work spaces and classrooms looked different in 2021 than they had before the COVID-19 pandemic - teams were smaller to accommodate social distancing and because participants returned at different times following our reopening, they were frequently working with peers with whom they had not before.



When VGS reopened our doors to participants, Terrance found himself on a smaller team with a new mix of skills and strengths. He began actively volunteering to take on a larger variety of work, seeking to expand his skills beyond roles in packing and assembly. As he learned new skills and took initiative, he emerged as a leader. Taryn, his VGS supervisor, took notice and supported his growth. Terrance worked his way up into the position of Material Handler. His responsibilities include dispersing project materials to the team, quality control, and logistics.



Terrance has a great eye for detail and is effortlessly thoughtful. He sets a quick, but not hurried, pace for his team, and is never unwilling to help his coworkers. Terrance recognized an opportunity, took initiative, and achieved his goal.

ATTAIN:

"TO COME OR ARRIVE BY MOTION, GROWTH, OR EFFORT"



LeAsia

LeAsia came to VGS seeking permanent employment after several unsuccessful attempts on her own. LeAsia developed an eye condition as a child and by her teens she was blind. While she was able to advance to the interview process, employers were unwilling to take a chance on her. She and her VGS job coach, Donna, were determined to find employment. After an interview with a local food packaging company, Donna and LeAsia did a test run with the employer and LeAsia was offered a job on the spot. Donna made sure LeAsia could navigate the building, clock in and out, and obtain reliable transportation to and from work. LeAsia is thriving at her job and is proof that anyone with a goal can reach it with the right support and attitude.

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2021

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* * A NIGHT FOR
Brighter
FUTURES



A NIGHT FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

An Evening Benefiting Vocational
Guidance Services

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

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Wednesday, November 3 - Friday, November 5

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