

ENGAGE. ACHIEVE. ATTAIN

20

ANNUAL REPORT

23





LETTER

FROM SUSIE BARRAGATE, PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2023, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides VGS has made in our mission to “create pathways for individuals with disabilities to engage in the community, achieve greater independence, and attain employment.” We have seen remarkable growth and progress, and it is my pleasure to share these accomplishments with you in our Annual Report.

One of our most significant achievements of 2023 was the increase in the number of individuals we have served and employed. I am thrilled to report that we have expanded our reach and impact by over 15%. This growth is not just a number—it represents more lives transformed, families supported, and communities enriched by the involvement of individuals with disabilities.

Our success in 2023 is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners. Together, we have fostered an environment where every person we serve is valued and empowered. We have strengthened our programs to ensure they are the highest quality, enabling individuals to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Creating opportunity is at the heart of everything we do at VGS. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to participate fully in their community and to pursue their dreams. From enhancing our programs to building stronger partnerships with local employers, we have worked tirelessly to open doors and create new opportunities.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future and the possibilities it holds. We are committed to continuing our mission with renewed vigor, expanding our services, and finding innovative ways to support and empower individuals with disabilities. We know that the journey to full inclusion and opportunity is ongoing, and we are dedicated to leading the way.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community leaders. Your generosity and belief in our mission have been instrumental in our success. Together, we are creating a world where individuals with disabilities are valued for their unique contributions and have the opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.

With gratitude,

A stylized blue ink signature of Susie Barragate.

Susie Barragate

President & CEO of
Vocational Guidance Services

RAYMERE

AN INSPIRING JOURNEY OF SUCCESS AFTER TRAMA



Just before his 19th birthday, Raymere was involved in a severe car accident that resulted in a collapsed lung, permanent scarring, and a life-altering traumatic brain injury. He had previously graduated from Cleveland's Rhodes High School of Environmental Science, had been an honors student, and had worked at Taco Bell, in construction, and as an administrative assistant at the Cleveland Clinic through a student program. Now his future plans were complicated by the accident and subsequent injuries. Raymere was hospitalized for several weeks during his recovery; in that time, he reflected on his faith and inspired to embark on a better path in his life.

Raymere's journey took an important turn when his mother encouraged him to pursue employment at VGS. He enrolled in a three-week custodial training program, and upon completion, he began his job search. Donna, his assigned Business Engagement Specialist and Pat, VGS' Service and Support Coordinator, who completed Raymere's initial intake, helped him explore his options. One of those options was an open custodial position with VGS – he got the job!

“RAY HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONAL ADDITION TO THE VGS FAMILY. HE GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VGS AND DOES ALL THIS WITH A SMILE. RAY IS A DELIGHT TO HAVE AROUND.”

TYRONE M. - AREA MANAGER

Raymere has been a full-time Custodial Cleaner at VGS for three years and he continues to thrive. He credits Donna and Pat for helping him get to where he is today. Because he experiences memory loss due to his injury, he and Donna created a “Job List” for him to reference, including the details of specific tasks and the location of supplies. His “Job List” is just one example of how the VGS team helps our program participants to succeed in their work. It is often the simplest actions that ensure job retention and growth.

Donna is proud of Raymere, not just for his success on the job, but because he has thrived personally after an unimaginable tragedy. What is truly unique about Raymere, says Donna, is that “he has become an advocate for others, he believes people should not be treated differently because of a disability.”

OUR COMMUNITY

VGS supports individuals with disabilities and builds thriving communities where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered.



"I am fortunate to work with a team that not only is dedicated to their work but also brings joy and positivity to our daily work routines. They are a part of my family and together we are a community! I will continue to support, advocate, and help them navigate any challenges they may face - because I love my team and VGS."

Sonita W. - Rehabilitation Specialist

OUR TEAM

"Volunteering at VGS is a profoundly rewarding experience for me. I truly enjoy getting to know each individual, as their kindness and eagerness to help are incredibly inspiring. Their joy is contagious, and it brings me immense happiness to connect with them on a personal level and celebrate their unique qualities."

Annie M. - Sunbeam Board Member



OUR VOLUNTEERS



"We are thrilled to be able to partner with such a great organization that gives people with disabilities the opportunity to make a difference each day by working and becoming a part of our community. The smiles they share with our staff and guests are overwhelming and create a more welcoming environment."

Laura K. - Community-Based Employer Site Manager

OUR PARTNERS

STATISTICS

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS



**SERVED 770
INDIVIDUALS**

ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES

**296
INDIVIDUALS**

RECEIVING VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION SERVICES



**88 JOB
PLACEMENTS**

WITH AN AVERAGE
STARTING WAGE OF
\$12.75

**SIX COMMUNITY
WORKSITES**

EMPLOYING 52
INDIVIDUALS



**PAID MORE
THAN \$4M IN
WAGES**

TO PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

**250 CUSTODIAL
EMPLOYEES**

WORKING AT 30
CONTRACTS

**330 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED A
PAYCHECK**

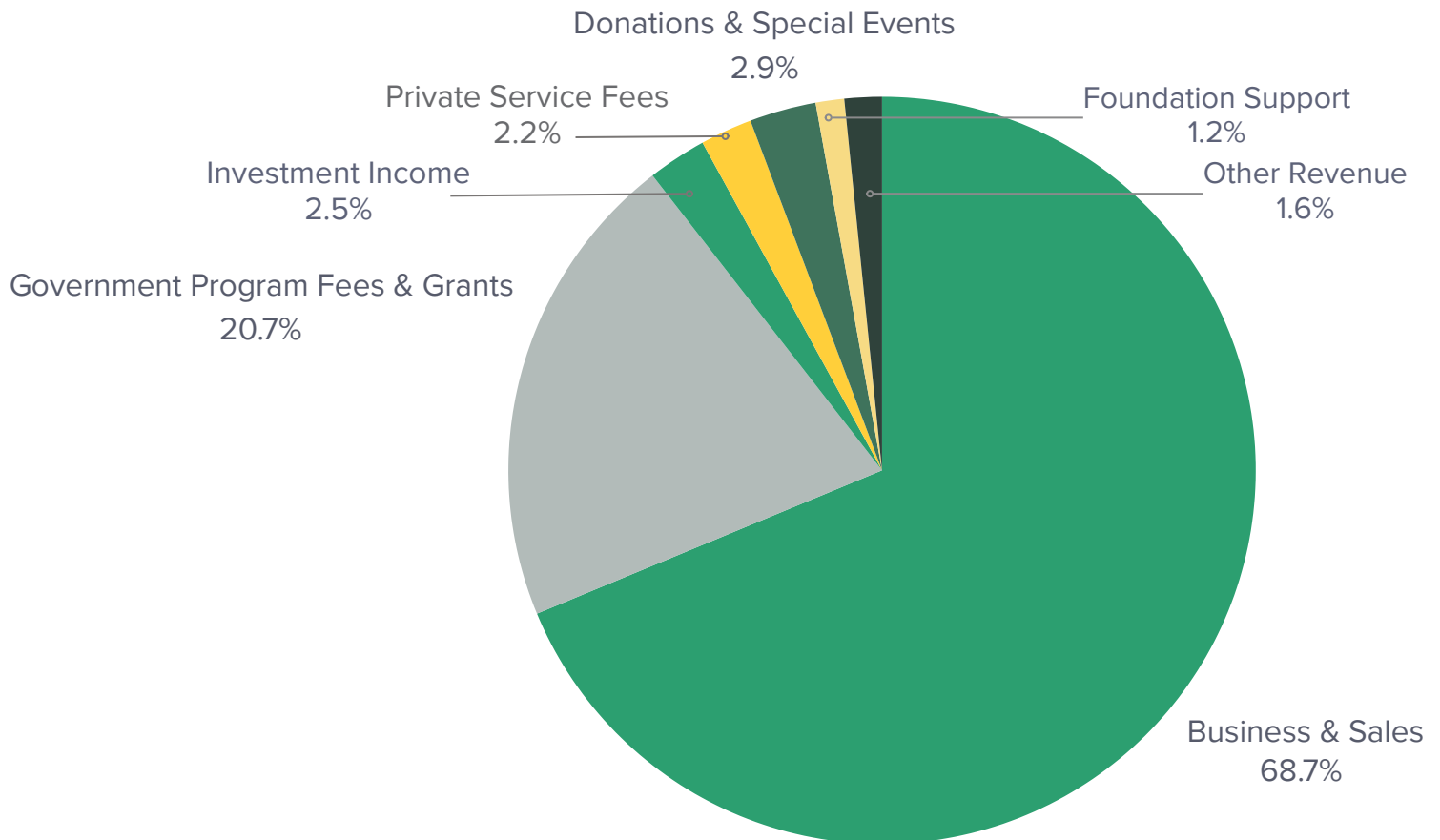
THROUGH 135
CONTRACTS

**SUMMER YOUTH
WORK
EXPERIENCE**

38 STUDENTS
13 EMPLOYERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TOTAL REVENUE



BUSINESS & SALES

\$11,917,855

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FEES & GRANTS

\$3,596,310

INVESTMENT INCOME

\$442,008

PRIVATE SERVICE FEES

\$389,668

DONATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

\$499,350

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

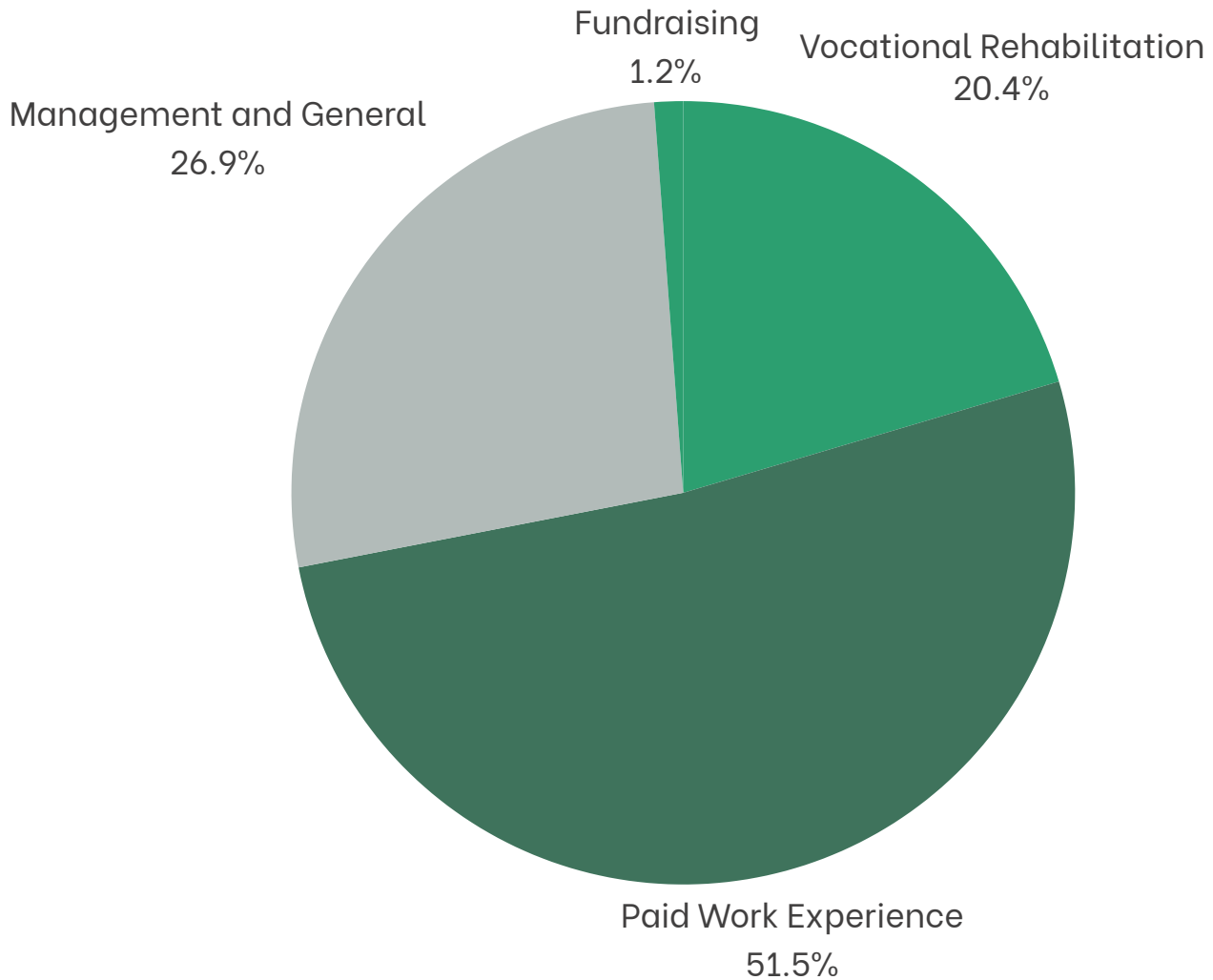
\$214,038

OTHER

\$211,427

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TOTAL EXPENSE



PROGRAM SERVICES

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
\$3,685,262
PAID WORK EXPERIENCE
\$9,302,717

SUPPORT SERVICES

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
\$4,849,665
FUNDRAISING
\$214,531

2023

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SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2023!



Right to left: Trish Dorsey, Kylie Volpe, Carran Gannaway, Kara Doyle, and Sarah Guyuron

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Jeff Kapp

Joan Mahoney in honor of
Ray Hollywood

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2023 EVENTS & SPONSORS

OUR EVENTS



Friday, April 21, 2023

Friday Night on 55th Co-Chairs

Kara Doyle & Carran Gannaway



Wednesday, November 8- Friday, November 10, 2023

Sunbeam Holiday Boutique Co-Chairs

Tara Malbasa & Neeti Sundaresh

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Creating pathways for individuals with disabilities to engage in the community, achieve greater independence, and attain employment.

vgsjob.org

LOCATIONS

Cleveland Workforce Campus
2235-2239 East 55th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Cleveland (Southwest)
4720 Hinckley Industrial Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Elyria
359 Lowell Street
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Columbus
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This report summarizes the 2023 activities and accomplishments of Vocational Guidance Services and its affiliates, VGS, Inc., and Vocational Services Inc.