



accel

2021-2022 Annual Report

A life of dignity and independence

only abilities

People who have disabilities are often judged for what they cannot do rather than for what they can do.

At ACCEL, every program is individualized and focused on helping neurodiverse individuals succeed. Whether its at our K-12 schools, Adult Services day programs, or Bista clinic, **we turn challenges into possibilities.**

Our ultimate goal is to help individuals who have disabilities achieve a life of dignity and independence, something that all people—regardless of ability level—deserve.





our goal

Empower neurodiverse
individuals and their communities
by helping them develop their
unique gifts.



a quick look

430

People Served

160,000+

Hours of Service

countless

Smiles Across ACCEL

our programs

K-12 School

ACCEL educational services provides students ages 5 to 22 a highly structured learning environment with appropriate academic, behavioral, therapeutic, and vocational programs to maximize skills and increase independence.

Adult Services Day Program

Our adult programs provide lifelong education and employment training to individuals over 18 who have developmental disabilities.

Bista Clinic

We offer Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy to children from 18 months to 13 years old who have Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. These services include assessments, social groups, skill acquisition programs, behavior identification and reduction and family training.



board of directors

Our 42nd year was yet another example of the excellence, compassion, drive, perseverance, innovation, and commitment that continues to change and shape the lives of thousands of people.

Our ACCEL team along with our generous supporters change the world and impact our community every single day. I have seen these miracles unfold in our classrooms, early intervention Bista clinics, and adult services groups—there is so much to celebrate! In the last 12 months alone, we have seen the reopening of our aquatics therapy program, expansion into new space for our Bista clinic and Adult Services programs, increased compensation across the organization, the fruition of the first waiting list for student enrollment in our school's history, and being invited to become an AmeriCorps site.

I am proud of what our ACCEL team has accomplished this year. The resilience ACCEL has shown through challenging times has led to the miracles and profound impact we see today.

What an exciting time to be a part of ACCEL!

Christopher Duncan - Board Chair, Farmer Woods Group


Scott Taubman - Ameriprise Financial Services

James Barham - Phoenix IDA

Julia Kolsrud - Associate, May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, P.C.

Brooke Waldron - Cresa

Keith & Stephanie Farmer - ACCEL Parents



"Deegan joined ACCEL in 2021, and he has since learned how to communicate when he wants something, how to socialize with the staff and with his classmates, and how to participate in activities that he would not have been exposed to if he was in a public school."

Vanessa, ACCEL Parent



highlights

Making Adaptive Equipment More Accessible

The Makerspace at ACCEL is up and running! This space is being used as a workshop where families with children who have disabilities can come receive the support of a therapist to design and construct adaptive equipment. "This fabrication lab will allow the students to create items for the community at large to supply individuals with unique needs to receive tools at a much lower cost point," explains ACCEL occupational therapist Matt Levac.

New Partnership with AmeriCorps

ACCEL became an AmeriCorps partner and host site. This gives us a way to further our capacity by providing team members with further trainings, a housing stipend, an education stipend, and other opportunities through AmeriCorps.

Look Good, Feel Good

Our campuses were refreshed! Walls that were previously a muted brown were painted with more cheery colors. The front entrance of the Metro campus received a more welcoming entrance by taking down a barrier wall. A special thank you to the wonderful volunteers that have painted all the beautiful murals across our campuses!





Caps Off to Our Graduates

We were overjoyed to have **27 high school graduates** cross the stage and receive a diploma at the conclusion of the academic year.

Big Splashes

We finished the renovation of our aquatics program facilities at Metro campus and were able to start services again for the '22-'23 school year!

Ready to Go to Kindergarten

Through ABA therapy and other services, we were able to transition **80% of Bista students into a typical kindergarten setting** without needing special education services.

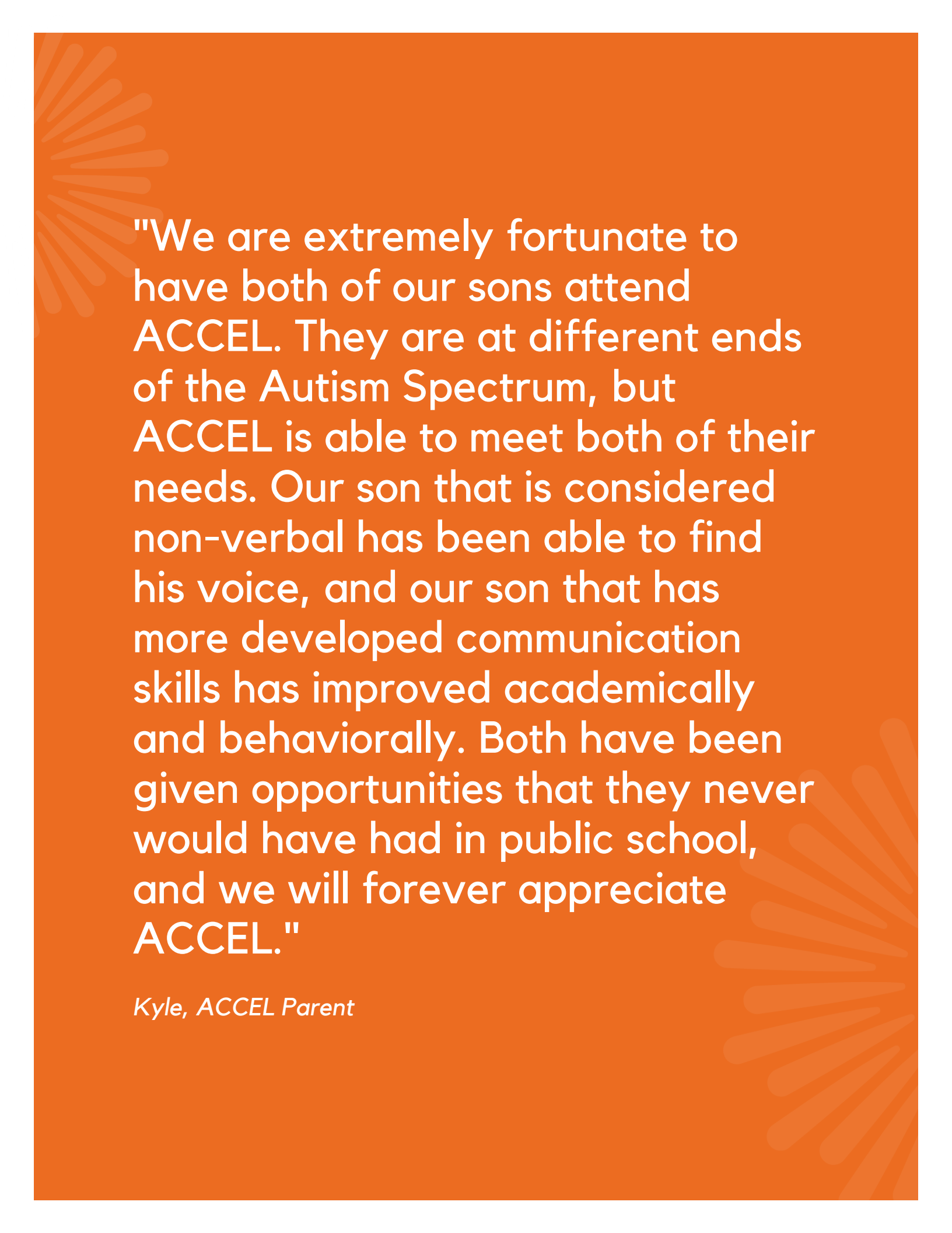
More Love and Smiles Shared

We have seen many new friends around campus this year. Whether it was companies, donors, or volunteers it was great to show all the wonderful people that make up ACCEL to the community. Kim, an ACCEL volunteer, said, "I loved that I was able to help the community. After volunteering at ACCEL, I knew they are doing great things. ACCEL is somewhere where I wouldn't mind volunteering every week; the students and staff deserve it there."

Back Together and Better Than Ever

ACCEL Adult Services returned to pre-pandemic attendance numbers. These members participated in combined total of **11,227 hours of community experiences**, and members in **group supported employment** saw a **67% increase in wages**. We also opened our new Adult Services site in Tempe, Arizona!





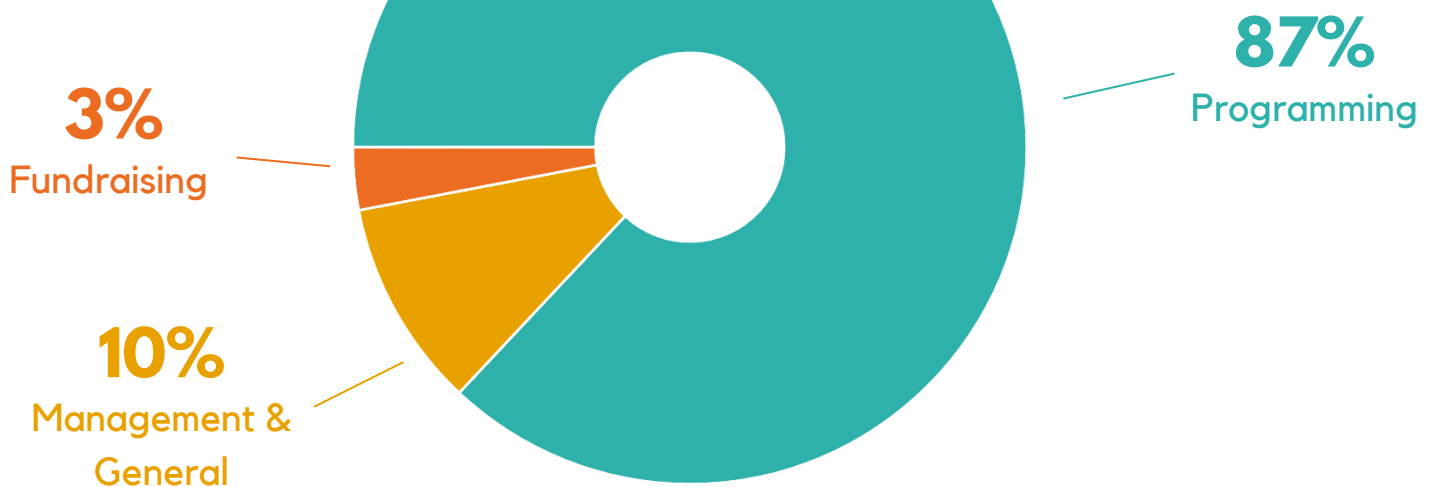
"We are extremely fortunate to have both of our sons attend ACCEL. They are at different ends of the Autism Spectrum, but ACCEL is able to meet both of their needs. Our son that is considered non-verbal has been able to find his voice, and our son that has more developed communication skills has improved academically and behaviorally. Both have been given opportunities that they never would have had in public school, and we will forever appreciate ACCEL."

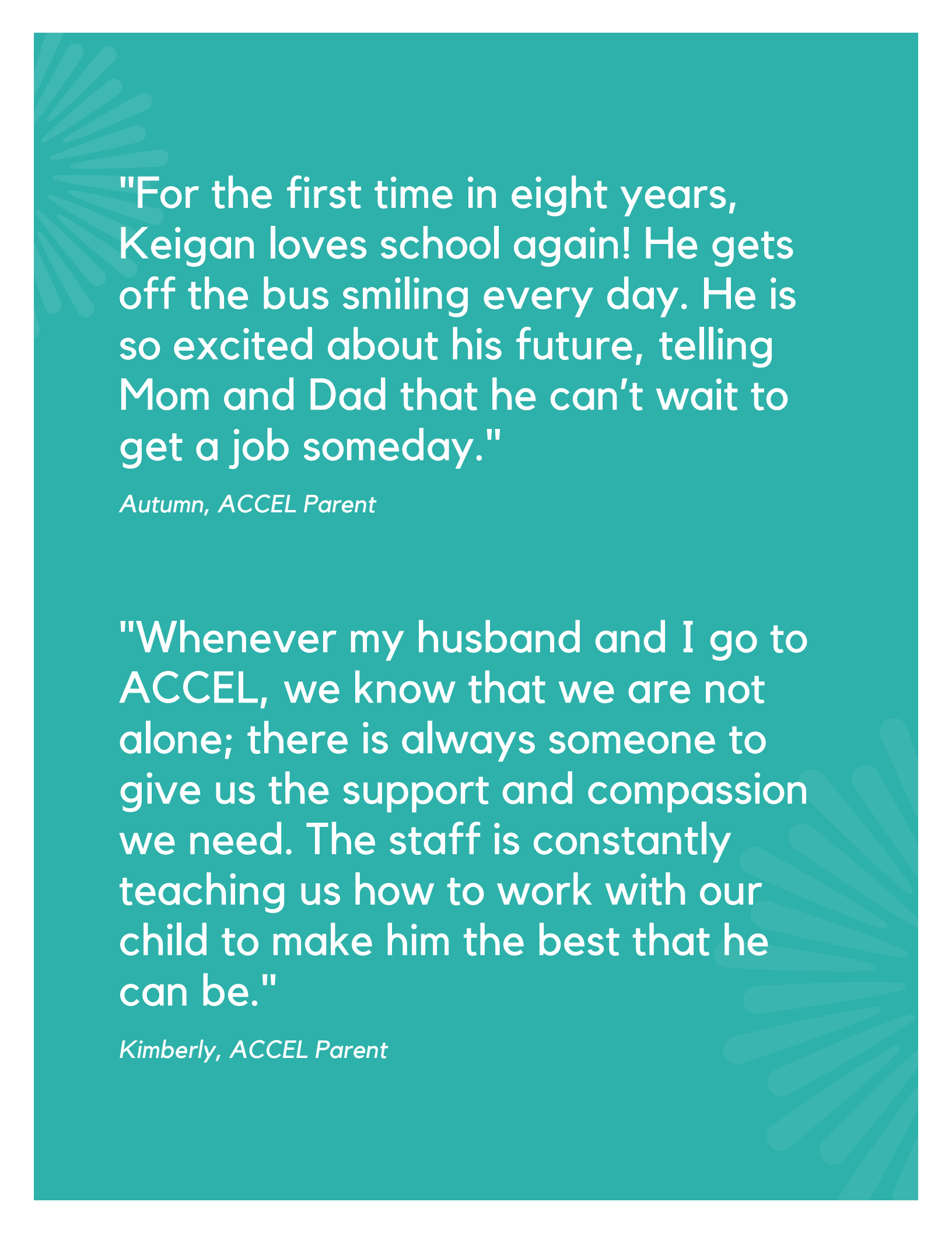
Kyle, ACCEL Parent

financials

	Raised	Income	Expenses	Net Assests
2021	\$3.33 M	\$16.83 M	\$15.49 M	\$3.41 M
2020	\$1.76 M	\$15.61 M	\$15.74 M	\$2.06 M
2019	\$1.54 M	\$15.81 M	\$15.79 M	\$2.34 M
2018	\$193 K	\$14.85 M	\$14.63 M	\$2.11 M

Allocation of Expenses





"For the first time in eight years, Keigan loves school again! He gets off the bus smiling every day. He is so excited about his future, telling Mom and Dad that he can't wait to get a job someday."

Autumn, ACCEL Parent

"Whenever my husband and I go to ACCEL, we know that we are not alone; there is always someone to give us the support and compassion we need. The staff is constantly teaching us how to work with our child to make him the best that he can be."

Kimberly, ACCEL Parent

A man wearing a black jacket over a blue t-shirt and a black baseball cap with the 'SONIC' logo is giving a high five to someone in the foreground. He has a joyful expression. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a grey cap and glasses, and another man with a beard and sunglasses. The setting appears to be outdoors near a brick building and a red fence.

high fives all around

We're constantly inspired by the volunteers, supporters, partners, and staff members that make up the ACCEL community. Their passion and support are why ACCEL's essential services are able to be provided.

They have sponsored life-changing projects, used their creativity to meet unique needs, donated their hard-earned money and time, shared their stories, and stayed committed through the twists and turns of the pandemic.

Thank you for supporting ACCEL's vision.

on to the next



For over 42 years, ACCEL has provided various programs in pursuit of our vision: a life of dignity and independence for people who have disabilities. Our 2021-2022 year was yet another success, and we can't wait to see what we accomplish together next.



Get involved!

accel.org |    

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accel

A special thank you to our volunteer Meredith Matson for her help in putting this annual report together.