

# Beyond261

IMPACT REPORT 2023



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I see 2023 as a pivotable year for Beyond26. It was the first year in a facility that is barrier free and home to all our programming. Having everyone working in the same place builds synergy and friendships. Our document shredding program serves 24-28 jobseekers that volunteer Monday -Thursday from 9AM-2PM. Even though most of our B26 team is consistently in the community finding jobs for our jobseekers, having this home base is strengthening our team.

One of our initial goals for 2023 was to hire a part time job developer to begin working with some of our growing backlog of jobseekers. Instead, we hired a fulltime job developer in June. Erin Jones joined our team and after a short training period she hit the road and our community assisting our jobseekers find jobs in their own community. Between Nick Goodwin and Erin, they placed 54 jobseekers in 2023, our most ever in one year.

Our mission is simple: "finding jobs for adults with disABILITIES". In this quest throughout West Michigan, we are finding our jobseekers have a lot of ability. They are filling jobs that vary by skill set much like the general population. We have placed website designer, stocker, custodian, greeter, assembly worker, cashier, restaurant staff, sorter, tire technician, document shredder, barista, bakery, computer disassembly, receptionist and more. Beyond26's retention rate is 92%+ and some of our jobseekers are approaching their 5-

year employment anniversary. This grassroots organization is consistently gaining momentum and the community is finding us.

West Michigan is a special community that wholeheartedly accepts our jobseekers. We find more and more small businesses that offer jobs but also some of largest employers are excited to work with Beyond26. One such employer said in a recent meeting that they wished we had 15 jobseekers ready to join their organization. To that end, we continue!

If you are new to Beyond26, I want to encourage you to sign up to receive our newsletters and e-updates. In raising funds to meet our budget there are opportunities to support Beyond26. In 2023 we had our first annual Golf Outing at The Meadows at Grand Valley University. It was a great time, and our jobseekers were able to "putt for a fee" with our participants. It was a hit! This years Golf Outing is July 27, 2024, if you want to mark your calendars. Our annual fall Gala featured a work uniform fashion show, another favorite featuring our ever-capable jobseekers.

Thanks for checking out our Impact Report!



**DIRK BAKHUYZEN**

Executive Director



# OUR MISSION

Aging out of Michigan's education system results in a critical time for individuals with disabilities. While the next step should likely be employment, unfortunately these opportunities are often few and far between. Beyond26 bridges this gap between local businesses and a community of excited and available jobseekers through networking and advocacy.

Our goal is to identify and overcome barriers to employment, and support our jobseekers as we work with them before, during, and after the employment process.

# THE IMPACT

The theme of 2023 was growth. We hired an additional Job Developer to meet the demand of the community. In total, we placed 54 jobseekers in 2023, which brought our total number of jobseekers served to 192, which is a 30% increase from 2022. It was a great year for our jobseekers and our job placement team! We also had more business partner relationships start in 2023 than ever before.

Keep reading to see how our impact has grown, review financial information, and celebrate additional highlights along the way!





# JOBSEEKERS: BY THE NUMBERS

54

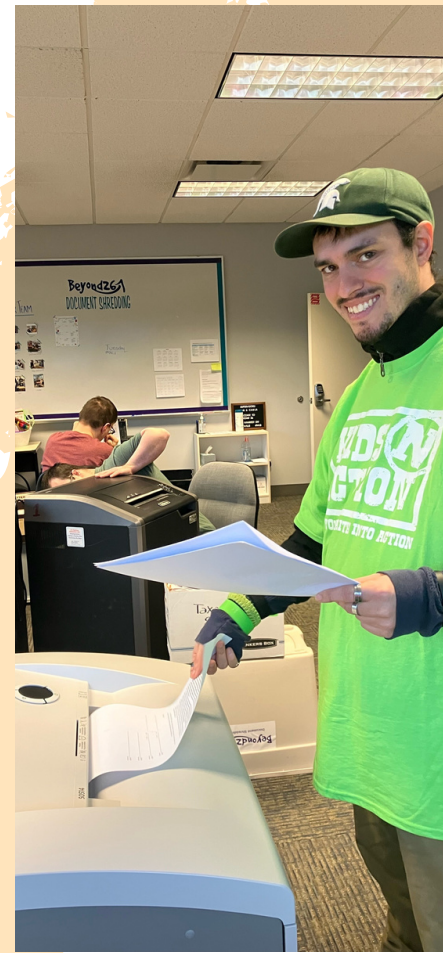
New Jobseekers  
Served (2023)

91%

Job Retention  
Rate (2023)

190

Total Jobseekers  
Served





## JOBSEEKER HIGHLIGHT:

## BRADLEY

Bradley came to us ready to work! He was looking for a volunteer opportunity in the community one to two days a week to practice routine tasks with his CLS worker.

Our Job Developer met with a few local businesses, but North Kent Connect ended up being the perfect fit. Bradley spends his time stocking shelves for their pantry and helping straighten up the thrift store.

Bradley's supervisor Kristen told us, "We love having Bradley here each Monday. You can see his joy and his focus as he comes to his weekly job." He has been volunteering for over a year and a half!



# ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This year we hosted two incredible community events! It was so wonderful to be face to face with people who support Beyond26. Stay tuned for future events so we can see you too!



We hosted our first ever golf outing which was a huge success! On the 9th hole, we had our jobseekers putt for our golfers which was the highlight of the event! We are so appreciative of the support of the community and our business sponsors. We can't wait to see you again next year!

This year, our Gala hosted our first ever fashion show! This gave our jobseekers the opportunity to wear their uniforms and show off their place of employment. It was a wonderful evening of celebrating our jobseekers and all their accomplishments!





# BUSINESS PARTNERS: BY THE NUMBERS

Part of our vision is not just placing jobseekers, but also showing employers and community members all that our jobseekers are capable of. Beyond26 defines a business partner as a business or an organization that has partnered with us to hire or provide a volunteer role to one or more of our jobseekers. A business sponsor is a business which supports our mission financially.

18

New Business  
Partners  
(2023)

93

Total Business  
Partners

16

Total Business  
Sponsors



## BUSINESS PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

# J&H FAMILY STORES

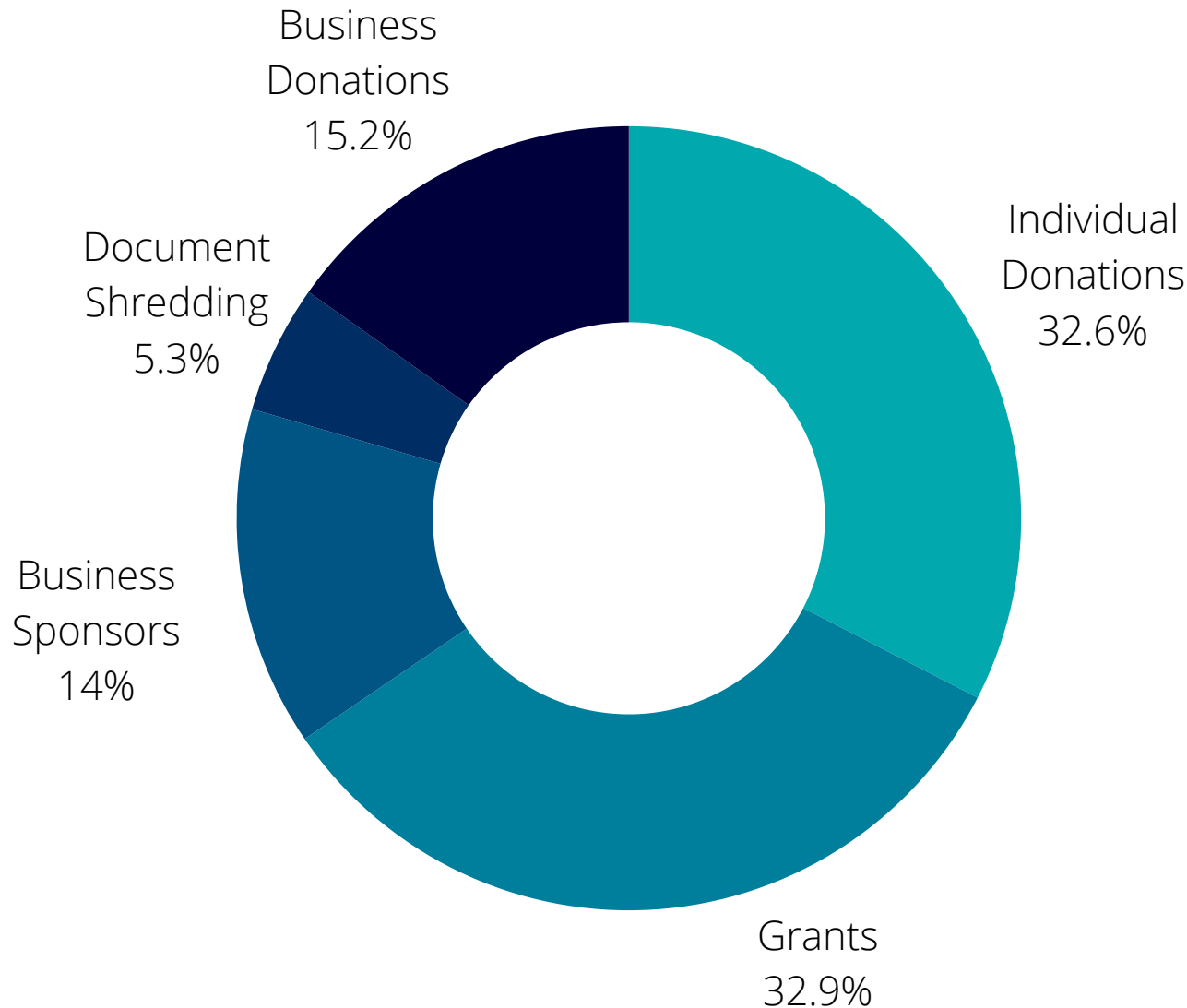
J&H Family Stores has been a long standing business partner of Beyond26. While we have several other amazing business partners, J&H Family Stores are one in a million.

We have partnered with J&H Family Stores to place seventeen jobseekers in the community. Each store and manager has been welcoming, accommodating and focused on helping our jobseekers succeed.

On top of calling Beyond26 with open positions, J&H Family Stores supports our programs and community events financially. Businesses like J&H Family Stores are what make our work possible!



# REVENUES



**Individual Donations** - \$91,790

**Grants** - \$92,750

**Business Sponsors** - \$39,575

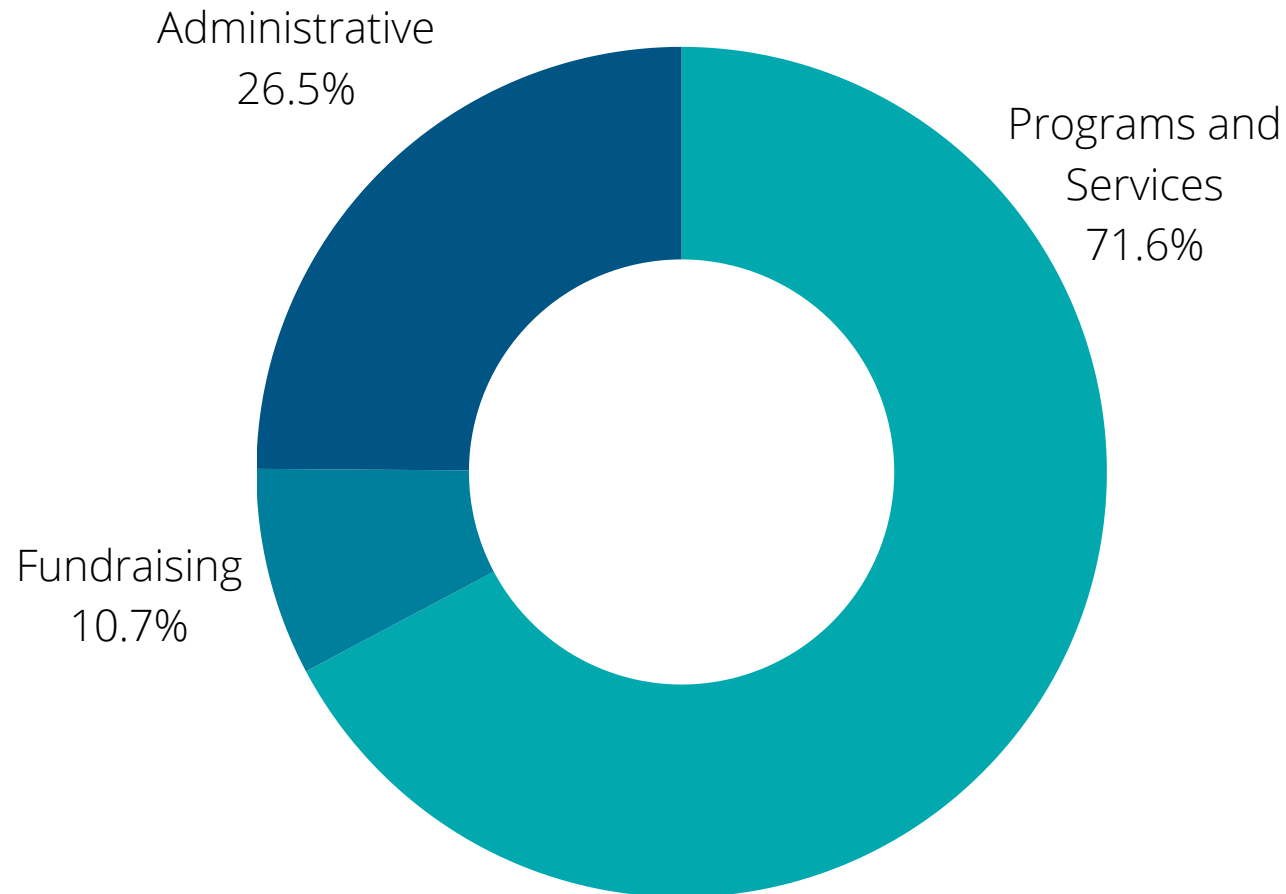
**Business Donations** - \$42,987

**Document Shredding** - \$14,885

**TOTAL** | \$281,987



# EXPENSES



**Programs and Services -**  
\$193,042

**Administrative -**  
\$78,696

**Fundraising -**  
\$24,850

**TOTAL | \$296,588**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Wondergem - President

Ed Bueche - Treasurer

Mary VanOeveren - Secretary

Dirk Bakhuyzen - Executive Director

Jennifer Bakhuyzen

Kyle Bueche

Emily Mann

Vicki Wondergem

# Beyond26

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