

WE ARE **AARON'S ACRES**

2019 IMPACT REPORT “Community”

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WE ARE COMMUNITY

220 INDIVIDUALS SERVED...

7 PA COUNTIES REPRESENTED...

120+ STAFF MEMBERS...



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Aaron's Acres Community

Relationships...care...safety...hope...these are just a few of the things that families have shared with us about what our programming at Aaron's Acres has meant to them – and what you, our valued supporters and partners, have helped to make possible. All of these things are also what create community.

Aaron's Acres started with a group of parents who wanted to create a camp program for their children with disabilities in Lancaster County – a community where children with all types of challenges were welcome. We are now providing year-round programming to children and young adults who come to us from seven counties in Pennsylvania.

Creating a more complete community for people of varying abilities continues to be our first priority and I am excited for you to read about our recent successes in this report. Our dream for the future is to continue to provide opportunities as well as expand the age of those we serve up to age 30, responding to requests from families whose children have graduated from high school and now have limited access to social and recreational activities.

Our dream is to also have a centralized facility that would house our programs, our administrative offices and our storage area. Having a place to call our home would mean that it would also be a home – a community – for our participants as well as their families! We are working towards these goals as part of an exciting collaborative effort with innovative local partners and we can't wait to tell you more in the coming months!

Our work is not possible without you. In order to continue on our journey and to provide more comprehensive programming in a dedicated space, we will continue to need your support. We look forward to the next 20+ years of building community – together!

Risa

AARON'S ACRES MISSION

Aaron's Acres provides individuals with disabilities ages 5 to 21 year-round therapeutically based age-appropriate recreational programs directed by specially trained and certified staff in a supportive environment that enhances socialization and communication skills. Emotional, educational, and recreational support is offered for the entire family.

WHAT MAKES AARON'S ACRES UNIQUE?

- Supervisory staff comprised of professionals
- 1:1 or 1:2 staff to child ratio
- Nurse on staff at all times to address medical needs
- Everyone is included in all activities regardless of disabilities or challenges

WE ARE OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER CAMP

For the summer of 2019, approximately 220 children and young adults experienced a camp program over a six-week period. Aaron's Acres offers AM and PM day camp sessions to younger children and older adolescents ages 5 to 21 during the summer months. Camp Sessions offer the opportunity to participate in music therapy, games, crafts, activities, swimming, therapeutic horseback riding, circle time and snack.



AARON'S ACRES ACTS OF KINDNESS (AAAOK)



Young adults with disabilities ages 13 to 21 have the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate community service projects in AAAOK. Activities range from engaging with nursing home residents, to cleaning up local parks and trails, to lending help at homeless shelters. Our view is that when everyone participates, everyone benefits. For the summer of 2019, this group ran an Alex's Lemonade Stand, held a car wash (with donations benefiting a local non-profit agreed upon by participating campers), volunteered at LCBC Manheim, and assembled brown bag lunches for children living in Lancaster City through St. Anne's Church. One camper shared with his mother, "I am going to camp today and I am going to help someone".

Benefits of the AAAOK program include:

- Participants are given a sense of purpose and joy in their work
- A positive environment is built upon the values of giving back and making a difference
- Parents feel a sense of pride knowing their children can help others
- Organizations realize that our young adults can contribute in the community

Aaron's Acres offers adolescents ages 13 to 21 the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate community activities with their peers in Berks, Dauphin and Lancaster counties, once per month. Younger children ages 5 to 12 meet at Millersville University and have the opportunity to engage in recreational activities with their peers. Undergraduate students studying special education are accepted into an internship program with Aaron's Acres and have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with children who have varying abilities while being supervised by Aaron's Acres staff.

SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM



WE ARE CONNECTION



TESTIMONIALS

"[...] I do know that each kid, and their support system, take home the **happy memories** they have made at camp. I do know that camp gives each family **hope**. Hope that one day there will be more programs or activities that their child can participate in. [...] Camp offers the parents **relief**, knowing that whichever counselor is with their child for that day, or week, or session will make sure their child has the **best day possible**. With the memories made from camp, each child is able to take home some extra happiness, an extra feeling of being **loved**."

- Olivia Malay, Summer Camp Counselor

"Aaron's Acres truly **understands** the needs of children with various disabilities. The staff is **well-trained** and extremely caring. I know my child is safe, understood, included, and **valued** with them. They are not babysitting or killing time with my child but placing worth on his time. He is having fun and being **encouraged** to do the best he can while also being **accepted** for who he is. It is truly unique and incomparable. Aaron's Acres is a **blessing** for so many families!"

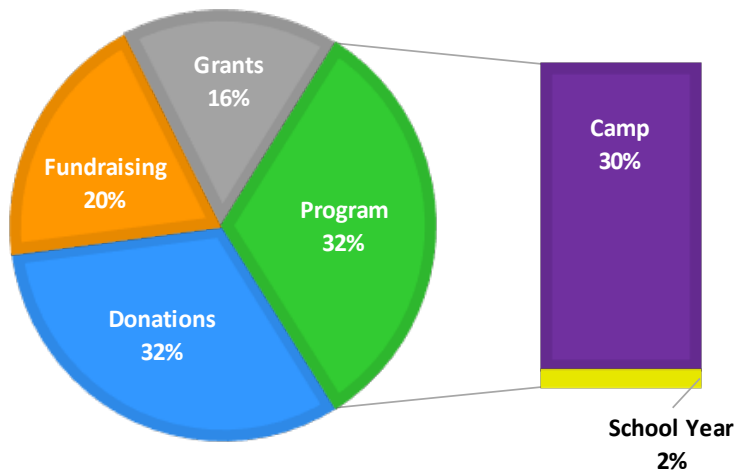
- Jessica Capitani, Parent



YOU ARE SUPPORT

As detailed in this financial overview, Aaron's Acres has a diverse revenue stream which is used responsibly to cover our expenses. The majority of Aaron's Acres' funding is families paying directly for programming and the generosity of the community helping to build our scholarship program. Community support is vital to Aaron's Acres and we are fortunate to receive support from a wide variety of funders; including foundations, individual donors and businesses.

Revenues by Type



Third Party Fundraisers

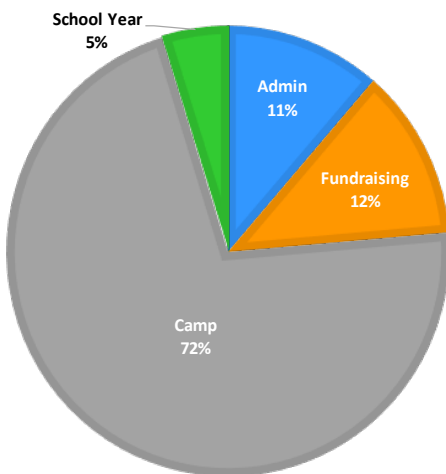
\$37,800

Community members and businesses think of Aaron's Acres when they wish to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations.

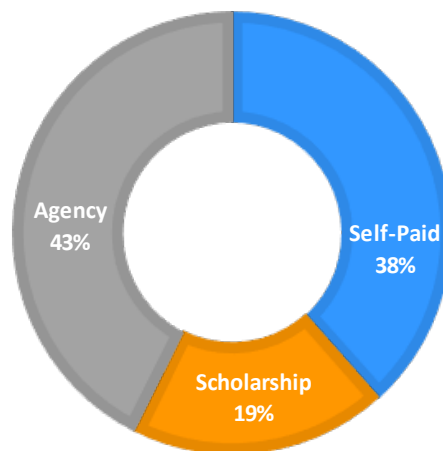
*Fundraising revenue is generated from events, hosted by Aaron's Acres and community members.

*Donation revenue is comprised of donations made directly to our organization.

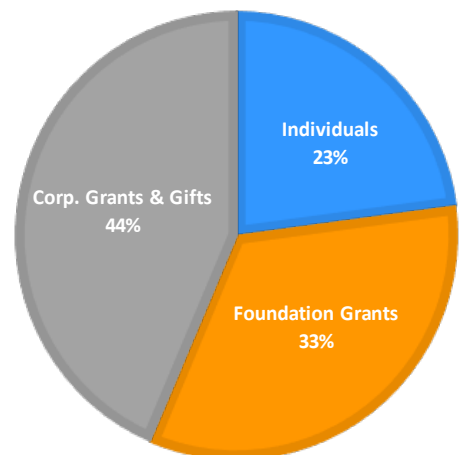
Functional Expenses



Tuition Funding



Gifts & Grants by Source



400+ DONORS... 194 VOLUNTEERS... 86 DREAM MAKERS...

YOU ARE **RELATIONSHIPS**

Our Donor Community - you made 2019 a powerful year!

Aaron's Acres has been able to impact the lives of many young people with disabilities and their families on account of the strong commitment from our community of supporters who believe in the Aaron's Acres mission. Thanks to you, 2019 was an outstanding year, with two of our largest fundraising efforts to date.

CELEBRATING **\$100,000**

In 2019, Aaron's Acres marked a momentous occasion with The Patrick Trimble Team of \$100,000 in contributions over the past 7 years! We celebrated this exciting moment on #GivingTuesday and it kicked off our Annual Appeal. Thank you so much to this generous local realty team!



FUNDRAISING **EVENTS**

THANK YOU! Our 9th Annual Golf Tournament and our participation in the Lancaster County Community Foundation's Extraordinary Give were both the most successful ones we've had yet! Our Golf Tournament raised \$80,000 and we received over \$57,000 in donations through the ExtraGive!

DREAM MAKERS

Our Dream Makers are dedicated community members who commit to attending three meetings and a donation of \$100 for the year. The members become more actively involved and consider three possible projects to fund with their collective donations. In 2019, Dream Makers voted to put money toward a new "home" for Aaron's Acres on Hoffer Farm at Pleasant View Communities.

COMMUNITY & CORPORATE **PARTNERS**

Throughout the year, Aaron's Acres partners with generous community and corporate partners who assist the organization by donating their time, ideas, supplies and assisting financially. During Summer Camp 2019, more than 100 volunteer photographers spent part of their day or week at camp taking thousands of pictures of participants. We also participated in 8 different non-profit community service projects during the summer this past year. It is these partnerships that help to form a strong foundation of support for our organization.

Whether it's through volunteering, connecting us with a corporate matching gift at your place of employment, participating in our fundraising events or hosting your own "dress down day" or online fundraising campaign... There are so many ways to connect with Aaron's Acres!

The empowerment and self-confidence gained through our programs are priceless gifts that you help to provide for our participants. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership!

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