



aaron's acres

Embracing Possibilities Beyond Disabilities

2024 Impact Report

a letter from Risa

Executive Director of Aaron's Acres

Dear Friends:

From the very beginning, parents and caregivers have been the heart and soul of Aaron's Acres. Their unwavering commitment to their children has been the driving force behind our mission, guiding the creation of programs that address the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. These dedicated families are our true experts, understanding better than anyone what works for their children—and just as importantly, what doesn't.

As we step into our 27th year of offering meaningful recreational opportunities in Central PA, we reflect on the remarkable progress we've made. What began as a one-week camp for just 11 children, aged 5-9 with diverse abilities and needs, has evolved into year-round programming that serves individuals ranging from 5 to 40 years old. Families from six counties have now been part of the Aaron's Acres' experience. Through partnerships with other nonprofits, local businesses, places of worship, and community spaces, we have built a thriving network of support, providing access to recreational and therapeutic programs despite the absence of our own facility. These collaborations have not only strengthened our community but have also fostered greater inclusion and understanding of individuals with disabilities.

Yet, we know that in order to truly meet the evolving needs of our participants, we need a permanent home. Our search for a space that meets our specific requirements—accessibility for families across six counties, adequate space for

activities like summer camps, pavilions, and a pool, and sufficient parking for up to 100 vehicles—has been a challenging journey.

While we continue to search for a permanent home, we are committed to meeting the needs of our participants. Currently, we are focusing on expanding our program offerings for those who have graduated high school. Parents have shared their concerns that their older children often experience a sense of loss and disconnection after high school. We refuse to make these families wait for a permanent solution. Instead, we are focused on “building beyond a building”—enhancing and expanding our programs now to ensure that every participant, regardless of age, has access to purposeful, meaningful activities.

At Aaron's Acres, we are not just building programs; we are building a community. We are forging partnerships, creating lasting relationships, and working towards a future where individuals with disabilities are empowered to thrive. Our commitment is to continue listening to our families, responding to their needs, and pushing forward in our mission to create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

—Risa



a letter from Kate

Director of Development & Community Relations

Dear Friends:

For almost 30 years, Aaron's Acres has provided life-changing opportunities and experiences for children and young adults with disabilities. We could not do it without you! Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

We have such a supportive community of volunteers, donors, sponsors, families, and partners surrounding us at Aaron's Acres. Because of you, 2024 was an exciting year with many new opportunities created for our participants that positively impact their wellbeing and development. Social connection, friendship, improved communication skills, physical achievements, new experiences, serving the

community...these things are all made possible through your dedication to Aaron's Acres!

There continues to be a need for meaningful programs in our community for individuals with varying abilities. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping to ensure that our programs can continue – and continue to expand. You are changing lives in so many powerful ways each day!

There are a variety of opportunities to get involved with Aaron's Acres and we would be excited to connect with you! If you are interested in working together and/or learning more about Aaron's Acres, please reach out to us!

—Kate

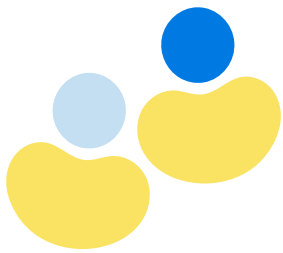




vision statement

To provide all individuals with disabilities opportunities to participate in the most innovative and unique social and recreational programs in an atmosphere of acceptance that embraces the individual and family.

what makes us unique:



1:1 staff to child ratio



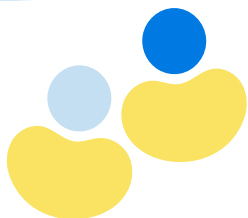
Supervisory staff
comprised of professionals



Nurse on staff at programs
for ages 5-21 year olds



In 2024,
Aaron's Acres served...



168 individuals
across its programs

63 individuals

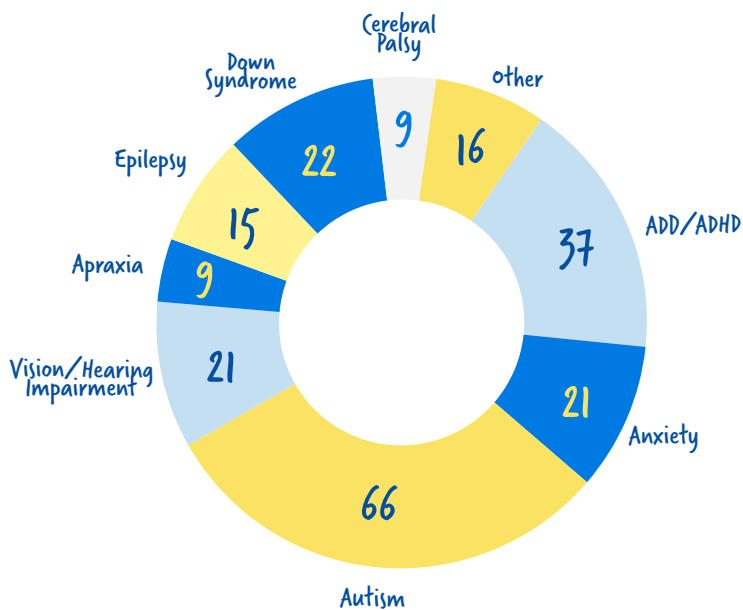
through its adult sports programs
(ages 18-40)

105 individuals

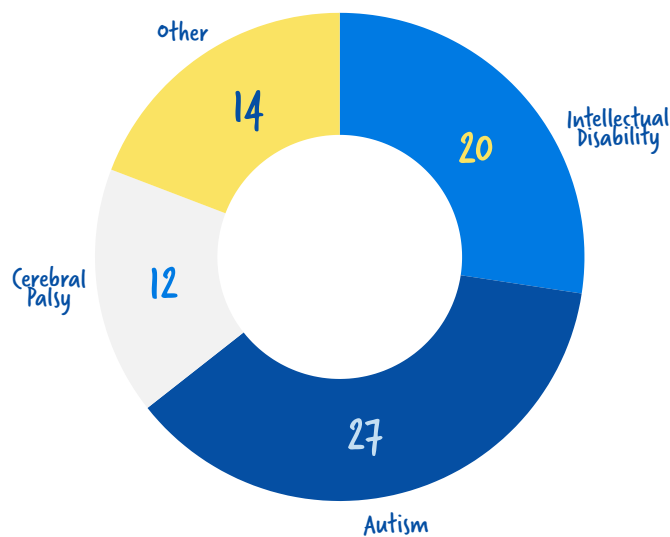
through its children and young adult programs
(ages 5-21)



5-21 Participant Diagnosis



18-40 Participant Diagnosis



*Aaron's Acres serves individuals with complex needs and dual diagnoses.

Together we can
create more smiles

Become a Staff Member



Become a Volunteer



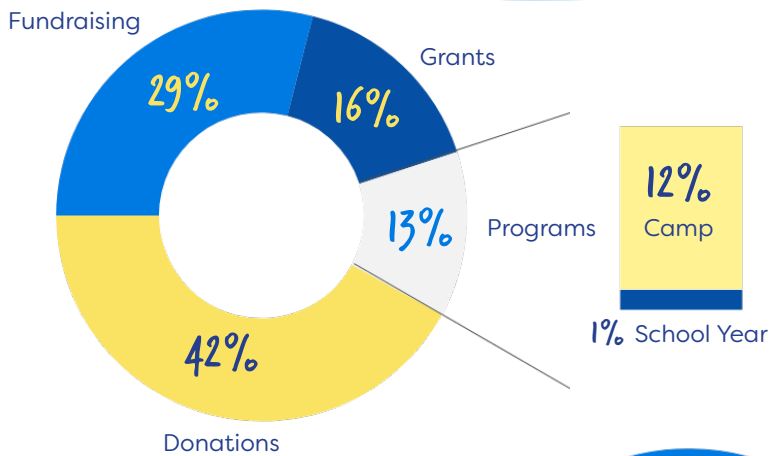


Help us discover
community connections

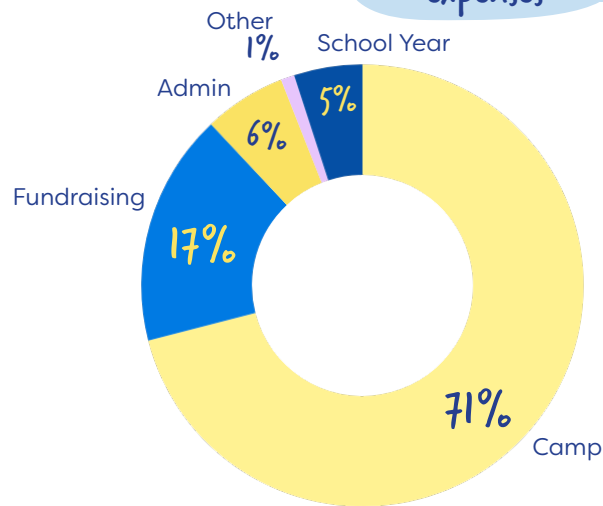


Revenue:

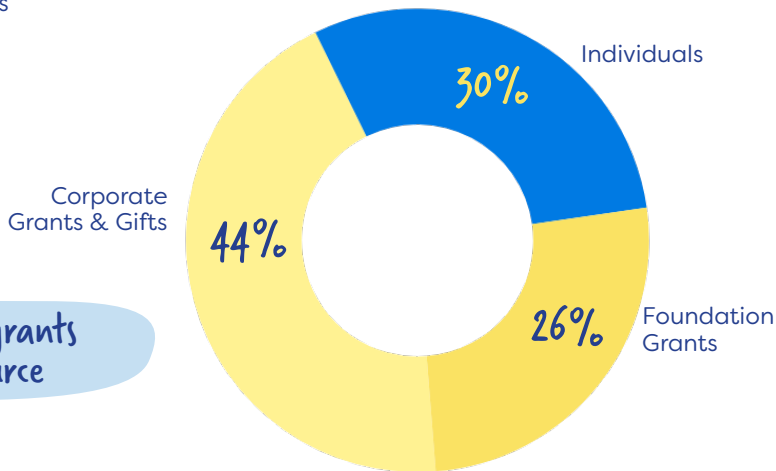
revenue by type



functional expenses

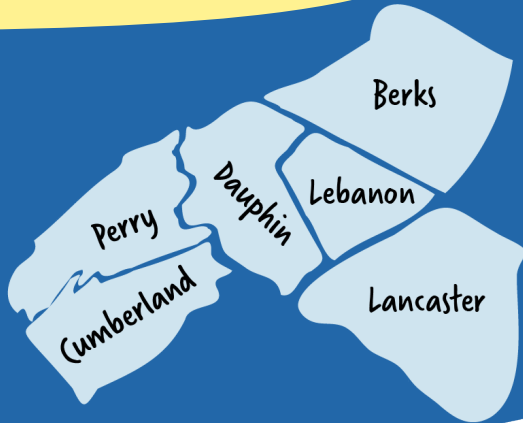


gifts & grants by source



Third Party Fundraisers
\$175.3k

In 2024, Aaron's Acres enrolled children and adult participants across 6 counties in Central Pennsylvania.





staff & volunteers

150 Camp
Photographer
Volunteers

10 ExtraGive
Volunteers

20 Golf Outing
Volunteers

90 Dream Makers

10 Resource Fair
Volunteers

5 Angels

5 Camp Carnival
Volunteers

20 Special Project
Volunteers

10 Board of Directors

6 Events and Outreach
Committee

39 School Year
Staff

64 Summer Camp
Staff

6 Sports League
Volunteers

11 Flag Football
Volunteers

"There is nothing else like Aaron's Acres for my child in the summer. And it's the reason it is talked about all year."

350
Total Volunteers



our goals and results


—Goals focusing on the areas of socialization and communication

During the application process (for programs serving ages 5-21), caregivers are asked to select a goal from the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that they wish for our staff to work on during our programs. These goals are then monitored while the child attends Aaron's Acres. This provides ongoing support and reinforcement on goals previously acquired or assistance with newly acquired skills. For our older participants, as the programs in 2024 were pilot programs, monitoring of goals will be implemented in future programming.

Below are the goals that families can select from during the application process:

- Share with others (materials/toys/space)
- Take turns with others
- Ask permission
- Follow directions
- Begin a conversation
- End a conversation
- Take turns in conversation
- Engage in activities with others
- Ask for help
- Wait for needs to be met
- Express anger or frustration appropriately (using words or gestures)
- Express feelings appropriately

In 2024, based on parental expectations stated prior to the start of our programs, 80% of participants met or exceeded their assigned goal with prompting and 69% of participants met or exceeded their assigned goal independently.



"Thank you so much for letting me be part of Aaron's Acres this summer... This camp inspired me to learn more for my job in the future and I also want to do a sign language class next summer. It made me appreciate life so much more because you never know what's going to come along."

"Building beyond the Building"

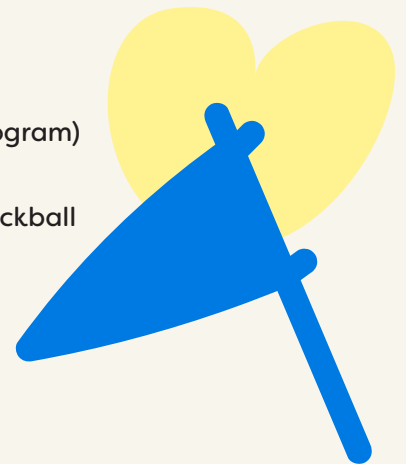
—What that looks like at Aaron's Acres

For 26 years, the following programs have been offered at our organization:

- Summer Camp Component (ages 5-21) 6 weeks from June-beginning of August
- School Year Program (ages 5-21) monthly outings for ages 13-21 and monthly recreational program at Millersville University for ages 5-12

Expanded ages of participants (18-40) for new programs:

- Social Scenes –outings on a weekly basis (Pilot Program)
- Kindness Konnections (partaking in community service projects) (Pilot Program)
- Chuckie Magee Flag Football and Cheerleading Program (began 2022)
- Sports Program –variety of sports—soccer, basketball, floor hockey and kickball (began 2023)
- New Programs beginning in 2024 (for ages 13-21) and family members
 - * Cooking Class
 - * Art Class



Thank you to all of our partners, volunteers, donors, families and staff.

"My child was safe and supported while having an amazing time, making friends and making memories."

Carrying out the mission of Aaron's Acres would not be possible without the incredible support of our community which includes the businesses and non-profit organizations with which we partner, our volunteers (of all ages and abilities), donors, sponsors, staff and lastly our families. The life-changing moments that are experienced and the important milestones that are reached by individuals with disabilities at Aaron's Acres happen because so many people believe in those we serve. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand our programs in response to the many needs expressed by our families.

Thank you for being on this journey with us!

Administrative Staff



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Manager of Finance
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Board of Directors



Amanda Katchur

Board President



George Wolf

Board Vice President



Bob Simons

Board Treasurer



Robert D. Box

Board Member



Heather Burky

Board Member



Mark Katkocin

Board Member



Mike Lewis

Board Member



Hayden McDevitt

Board Member



Jim Vaughan

Board Member