

Making

Connections



Annual Report 2006

 THE
LEAGUE
for the blind & disabled

Our Mission

To provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential.

Our Vision

Full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

Our Values

We value people with disabilities and believe that people with disabilities are the true experts in issues that affect their lives.

We value consumer control and believe that people with disabilities are entitled to control over the decisions that affect their lives.

We value equal opportunity and believe that all people should have the opportunity to use their strengths and abilities to achieve their potential.

We value diversity of thought and ideas and believe that this diversity stimulates innovation, creativity, knowledge, and understanding that makes the League a more effective organization.

We value the community and believe that we have a responsibility to contribute to the overall quality of life in the community.

We value quality and believe that consumers, funders, and communities in which we operate are entitled to nothing less than our best efforts.

Connecting People, Opportunities, and Services

Making connections between people, opportunities, and services is how the League for the Blind & Disabled helps those with disabilities achieve their potential and gain control over the decisions that affect their lives. Whether we're hosting a support group, coordinating summer camp activities, or providing independent living skills training, we're helping each consumer achieve a more independent life.

It's rewarding to make these connections and provide the services consumers need. The results we see each day are why we strive to create additional service opportunities, too. For example, the League assumed responsibility for and then increased the services of DeafLink during the 2006 program year. We also formed a new partnership with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to help connect consumers with affordable housing.



Thomas S.
Locke, Esq.

During 2006, an additional focus on strategic planning and organizational effectiveness further increased the League's ability to provide the connections and services consumers want and need. We launched a quality development initiative to develop, initiate, and evaluate activities that improve programs, services, and functions. We implemented new management information system software to track service delivery and demographics. And, we continued to identify cost containment and cost reduction opportunities to remain good stewards of funding dollars generously donated to us.



David A.
Nelson, CRC

The future holds even more potential for connecting people, opportunities, and services. It's a future we're excited about, because it's one built on the League's vision of full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Locke".

Thomas S. Locke, Esq.
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Nelson".

David A. Nelson, CRC
President/CEO

Connecting

People and Opportunities



Every day, doors of opportunity are opening. Job opportunities, personal opportunities, and social opportunities are available – we simply have to get connected to them.

The League for the Blind & Disabled helps those with disabilities make connections so they can access these opportunities and locate valuable resources. Whether the League is providing adaptive equipment, advocacy services, or orientation and mobility training, professional staff is providing what consumers need to make connections and increase their independence.

And our staff understands the needs of consumers – nearly 76% of our staff members have disabilities themselves. Their personal experience and professional expertise is a powerful resource for consumers with disabilities.



By connecting people and opportunities, the League is working toward the full inclusion of those with disabilities in all aspects of community life. Toward that goal, during our 2006 program year the League provided assistance to more than 1,500 consumers,

including in-depth one-to-one services for 316 consumers. Of those who received services and then responded to a consumer satisfaction survey:

- 70% gained control over the decisions that affect their life
- 76% maintained or increased involvement in family, advocacy, recreational, social, educational, and/or work
- 78% of the individual goals they established were achieved
- 98% maintained or increased independence

Across Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley counties in northern Indiana, the League is offering opportunities that enable people with disabilities to have control over the decisions that affect their lives. And because the communities we serve are diverse, the League's dedication to diversity continues. The result of that dedication: an increase of services to members of racial minority groups, from 18% of consumers served in 2004 to more than 25% in 2006.

Our board membership and staff diversity increased, as well. In 2006, the board of directors governing the League increased to a membership that included 53% who are disabled and 24% who are from racial minority groups. Within the staff, the diversity increased to more than 44% who are individuals from racial minority groups.

Connecting

People and Services



The League for the Blind & Disabled offers a wide range of services dedicated to helping people with disabilities open the doors of opportunity.

To expand the services available to consumers, on April 19, 2006, the League joined with DeafLink, offering services including sign language interpreting and case management services to all persons with deafness. Consultation services regarding sign language interpreting requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act were also provided to business and government entities.

Because expanding consumer support was important, the League immediately increased DeafLink's services to include bi-monthly forums to share information about issues with these consumers. The League also began an advocacy initiative to improve access to medical services for those with deafness and hearing impairments. The staff was increased, as well. A part-time interpreter scheduler and additional interpreters were added to support consumers.

Under the sponsorship of the League, DeafLink served 42 consumers during the 2006 program year.

To provide systems training for people who are deaf and hearing impaired and certification training for sign language interpreters, the League secured a grant from the state of Indiana. Efforts to raise the required matching funding also began in 2006. When it is secured, planned consumer training opportunities will be implemented and sign language interpreter development efforts will begin.

Connecting those with disabilities to the adaptive equipment they need is another important service of the League. During the 2006 program year, 110 consumers were assisted with their adaptive equipment needs. To complement the services already provided to consumers, the League reached an agreement with Crossroads



Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis to establish a computer and high-end adaptive equipment training and evaluation service at the League.



Other League services provided important connections and opportunities for consumers during the 2006 program year:

- **Advocacy** efforts to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of community life helped 72 people be more productive and knowledgeable about persons with disabilities.
- **Braille Services** made thousands of materials, including service and utility bills, church bulletins and hymns, and employee handbooks, available for those with sight challenges.
- **Independent Living Skills Training** served 59 consumers, each of whom is now more able to enjoy an independent life.
- **Information and Referral Services** connected 816 residents to the resources and services they needed.
- **Orientation & Mobility Training** empowered 57 consumers to achieve their potential.
- **Senior Blind Services** provided 62 consumers with support. Through Chapter 2 Program referrals, 10 consumers received donated closed circuit television systems that enable them to read printed materials, such as mail and medications.
- **Support Groups** for consumers to share common challenges and identify solutions were offered through more than 333 peer counseling and support group sessions.
- **Volunteer Vision Screening Services** examined 1,434 children in 29 schools.
- **Youth Services** connected 88 young boys and girls of all ages to opportunities and helped 64 youth attend summer camps. In addition, 7 parents of children with disabilities attended parent training to improve their ability to support and advocate for their children.



Connecting

with the Community

Helping others understand how people with disabilities live, work, and play independently in the community is an important service of the League for the Blind & Disabled. Throughout the 2006 program year, for example, 10 interactive disability awareness programs increased the understanding of hundreds of students of all ages, teachers, camp counselors and staff, youth service leaders, and adult volunteers.

During the 2006 program year, 160 volunteers gave more than 7,130 hours of time to serve the League and its consumers. Because many of them were also consumers, these dedicated individuals were able to speak with the public about their experiences with disabilities and the value of the League's services. They also served as peer mentors and support group leaders.



To help the League empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential, individual, corporate, and foundation donors in the northern Indiana communities served by the League gave \$764,406 in generous financial gifts. Each of these donors helped ensure that those with disabilities have access to the support and advocacy services that increase their independence and improve their lives.

Our Board

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David A. Nelson
President/CEO

The members of the Board
each honored a one-year
term commitment in 2006.



Our

Financials

Statement of Activities, Year Ended September 30, 2006

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Revenues, Gains and Other Support</u>				
Government Grants	\$ 309,125	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 309,125
United Way	48,416	0	0	48,416
Contributions and Grants	396,926	366,700	0	763,626
Capital Campaign Contributions	0	0	780	780
Program Fees & Supply Sales	145,600	0	0	145,600
Investment Income	79,209	0	0	79,209
(net of trustee fees of \$15,846 and \$14,616)				
Unrealized Gains	85,088	0	0	85,088
Other Income	400	0	0	400
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>100,600</u>	<u>(100,600)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support</u>	<u>\$ 1,165,364</u>	<u>\$ 266,100</u>	<u>\$ 780</u>	<u>\$ 1,432,244</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Program Services				
Center for Independent Living	<u>\$ 731,538</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 731,538</u>
Supporting Services:				
Management and General	\$ 83,913	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 83,913
Fund-raising	<u>5,650</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,650</u>
<u>Total Supporting Services</u>	<u>\$ 89,563</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 89,563</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 821,101</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 821,101</u>
<u>Increase in Net Assets</u>	<u>\$ 344,263</u>	<u>\$ 266,100</u>	<u>\$ 780</u>	<u>\$ 611,143</u>
<u>Net Assets – Beginning</u>	<u>2,954,436</u>	<u>538,335</u>	<u>372,101</u>	<u>3,864,872</u>
<u>Net Assets – Ending</u>	<u>\$ 3,298,699</u>	<u>\$ 804,435</u>	<u>\$ 372,881</u>	<u>\$ 4,476,015</u>



Serving people with
disabilities in Adams,
Allen, DeKalb, Huntington,
Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange,
Noble, Steuben, Wells
and Whitley counties
in northeast Indiana

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