LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Since 1975, Atlantis Community, Inc. has been a leader in breaking down the barriers faced by people with disabilities. The past two years have been incredibly challenging for our community, but that hasn't slowed us down. Atlantis continues to seek innovative approaches in growing and improving our services. As a result, more people are requesting support from Atlantis as they work toward their independent living goals such as housing and employment. There has been a 201% increase in the number of people working with us since 2016 and a 20% increase since January 2020.

In response to COVID, we added a disaster preparedness coordinator to our team to lead our efforts in addressing our community's increasing needs. In addition to hundreds of hours of advocacy, we helped people access food, personal protective equipment, and technology such as computers and internet access.

We provided camping gear to people with disabilities experiencing homelessness so they didn’t have to go into congregate shelters, and moved four individuals into permanent housing in the community who had been in congregate settings. In addition, we partnered with agencies across the Denver metro area to host five vaccine clinics.

In 2019, we committed to building a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We acknowledge how important this work is and how critical it is that we do it right. Our equity statement guides our efforts and is a way to hold ourselves accountable. We encourage everyone to read our equity statement that is posted our website so our community can also hold us accountable.

We could not have accomplished any of this without the relationships within our community and the partnerships with other mission-aligned organizations, including the other eight Centers for Independent Living in Colorado. This collaboration was vital in our ability to remain on our path of sustained excellence.

With Immense Gratitude,

Candie Burnham
Executive Director
SERVICES WE PROVIDED 2020

- **2,593** Housing
- **480** Community-Based Living
- **327** Personal Resource Management
- **978** Advocacy
- **3,515** Independent Living and Life Skills Training

- **1,288** Information and Referral
- **1,517** COVID-19
- **798** Total Consumers Served
- **267** Youth/Transition Services
- **11,527** Total Services Provided
SERVICES WE PROVIDED 2021

- 2,130 Housing
- 511 Community-based Living
- 357 Personal Resource Management
- 1,030 Advocacy
- 4,872 Independent Living and Life Skills Training
- 735 Youth/Transition Services
- 1,048 Information and Referral
- 526 COVID-19
- 897 Total Consumers Served
- 11,041 Total Services Provided
FINANCIALS
FUNDING

2020

IL Funding 90%
Donation 3.5%
Fee for Service Programs 1.4%
Misc Grants 0.3%

2021

IL Funding 97.5%

FINANCIALS
WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

2020
Programs 61.6%
Operations 38.4%

2021
Programs 61.8%
Operations 38.2%
Our Response to COVID-19

**PPE PROGRAM**

We provided PPE kits to our consumers that include masks and hand sanitizer. Many in our community are in the high-risk category so providing PPE is crucial. The health of our consumers is our first priority.

We offer Shelter in Place kits for our consumers who are experiencing homelessness. We provided 30 sets of tents and sleeping bags this year to consumers experiencing homelessness who needed shelter in place safely.

**TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

We partnered with PCs for People to provide technology to our consumers. We provided 43 consumers/people with disabilities with computers, hotspots, and three to six months of free wifi to continue attending virtual doctors appointments, peer support groups, stay connected to the community, and other virtual supports necessary during COVID-19 pandemic.
EMERGENCY TRANSITION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OUT OF CONGREGATE SETTINGS PILOT

Atlantis Community, Inc. provides transition services to individuals leaving congregate settings and coordinates the process from congregate setting to hotel to community so the individual can create the life they want with the support they need to thrive. We are partnering with organizations for our transition pilot. We have four people who have moved into permanent housing, 7 people currently going through the transition process (4 have their vouchers and are looking for housing), and 7 referrals for the program.

FOOD BOX PROGRAM

We partnered with The GrowHaus and Cafe 180 to provide 623 food boxes to our consumers who are experiencing a lack of access to healthy food due to COVID. Our food box program bridges the gap that consumers face when applying for benefits. We have also delivered 156 Food Gift Cards to Mobile Unit consumers/people with disabilities experiencing homelessness.

VACCINE CLINICS

Atlantis Community, Inc., partnered with the ARC, RedLine Contemporary Art Center, CCDC, No Credits Productions LLC, Groundwork Denver, Joy as Resilience, New Era Colorado, One Colorado, and Denver Health and hosted a total of 5 vaccine clinics in 2021 including one at RedLine Contemporary Art Center.
Program Highlights 2020

WE MOVED!
We moved into our new office below the Atlantis Apartments. Our office is fully accessible and is the home of the Atlantis Museum.

YOUTH
The InPower Youth Summit was originally scheduled to be in person over the summer of 2020. With the dangers of COVI-19 negatively impacting our community, we made a quick decision to pivot to an online virtual platform instead. We had 19 youth registered from across our seven county areas, ranging from the ages of 16-25. Topics that were covered included disability identity & pride, self-advocacy, transitioning to post-secondary, financial management, and healthy relationships.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
We hired a Disaster preparedness coordinator to support not only through the pandemic but to increase our ability to provide planning support to our consumers and community on both individual and system levels to decrease negative outcomes of disasters and emergencies in the future.
MEOW WOLF

Atlantis Community, Inc., has been involved in the accessibility process within the art installation at Meow Wolf Denver ensuring that full accessibility is in place. Within the art installation, we worked with a local musician to educate the public on the history of ACI through their art installation. We provided outreach materials and copies of archives that are pictured in the museum.

ALL OF US

Atlantis has partnered with the All of Us research project. All of US is a research program is a historic effort to collect and study data from one million or more people living in the United States. The goal of the program is better health for all of us. The program began national enrollment in 2018 and is expected to last at least 10 years.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

Over the course of 10 weeks in a partnership with the transitions program at North High School Atlantis Community co-facilitated a "Disability Awareness" class. The goal of the class was to increase disability pride within the students. Themes of acceptance, disclosing, using supports, and connecting to the disability community was provided. The class focused on disability history, culture, justice, and disclosure. The short-term outcomes of the class showed an increase in knowledge of disability rights, IL philosophy, and aptitude in disclosing. Seventeen students requested IL services and peer mentorship after the class to further their IL goals.
A CONSUMER FOUND HOUSING

An I.L. Specialist and a consumer had been working together since July of 2019. With limited income finding housing was difficult and the consumer was utilizing shelters but spoke about wanting his own place. In that time we explored opportunities for roommates, vouchers, and transitional housing. The consumer remained diligent in keeping up with his contacts and in October of 2020 one of those contacts let him know a tax credit apartment in his budget was available. He has since moved in and is enjoying his privacy.

A CONSUMER GAINED INDEPENDENCE

A consumer was in a terrible accident last year that has left him unable to walk with the likelihood he will have to have surgery. In the meantime, he needed a wheelchair and home modifications in his home. The I.L. Specialist worked tirelessly with him to help him meet his personal assistance goal - to get an electric wheelchair and accessible home modifications in order to help him remain and maintain his independence. He obtained an electric wheelchair and home modifications inside and outside of his house gaining independence.

A YOUTH OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

A consumer came into the office in March 2020 before the pandemic. His goals were to get connected to employment and benefits. He worked with an I.L. Specialist to develop a resume and learned how the process for applying for jobs worked. He used that knowledge to find a Redstone job independently and now works part-time cleaning kennels and taking care of the dogs at the daycare.
Individual Successes 2021

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

The consumer lost his benefits and began advocating for them to be reinstated. He worked for over a year advocating for himself by making phone calls and writing to his congressperson. Through his perseverance was then awarded his benefits and a lumpsum.

HOUSING

Atlantis helped an individual who was experiencing homelessness and needed assistance in obtaining necessary vital documents to obtain housing. ACI assisted him through their community transition housing to first obtain necessary documents to apply for a housing voucher. Once a voucher was obtained, ACI assisted the consumer in housing search to find accessible housing close to public transportation. Once housing was located, ACI assisted the consumer with signing lease, obtaining necessary documentation, setting up utilities, monthly rent payments, etc. ACI also provided the consumer with various household setup items and assisted the consumer with moving items in their new apartment. This consumer has been living in their new apartment successfully and independently.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

A consumer and his mom, came to Atlantis Community after his IEP was suspended. It was deemed his supports were no longer valid after the school moved online due to COVID. This decision led to his social security being terminated and his grades slipping. Through advocacy we were able to get his IEP supports back in place and ensure that his support team was in place for future success.
ACI has established relationships with local school districts to work with youth who have disabilities. Through our youth program, we are increasing our outreach and strengthening our programs. We host an annual Youth Summit to help youth become leaders in our community by expanding awareness of disability rights.

The continuing growth of racial inequality in Colorado and across the country has generated a Racial Equity Group on staff that is exploring what true equity should look like at Atlantis. ACI staff has always recognized that growing racial inequality is exacerbated by disability, and the struggles with disability are exacerbated by racial inequality. ACI is focusing on how to increase and improve services for people of color who are multiply marginalized.
THANK YOU

OUR 2020 SUPPORTERS

SANDRA REAVEY
DANIEL AND MARY DIXON
REGAN LINTON
JEANNE WEIS
LISA EZE
MARY E ANDERIES
HANNI RALEY
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RAE GARRETT
ADAM MOSSBERG
CAROL ANN WAUGH
ANDREW ININNS
HEATHER STONE
R HERNANDEZ-PREWITT
TONJA CLARK
ADAM MOSSBERG
AND MORE!

Atlantis Community Foundation

EDUCUSE

Vanguard Charitable

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THE COLORADO TRUST

Network for Good

Walmart Foundation
THANK YOU

OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS

HANNI RALEY
JAMIE PERKINS
ELISABETH EPPS
EMILY DAVIS
SUE CHILTON
MARY DIXON
MARY ANDERIES
SCOTT WINNEGRAD
DEREK SCHNEIDER
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KELLY BOSTON
AND MORE!

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We Look Forward to Continuing to Work with You in 2022!