



AACORN

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The word unprecedented has been used more in the last 12 months than I can recall in my entire life. It felt like every time we turned on the news some new "unprecedented" occurrence had transpired.

But not every unprecedented event was a bad one. At AACORN, many marvelous things took place in 2020.

I'd like to thank the AACORN board for hiring me to be their first executive director. It was an honor to step into this role and I have loved getting to know our participants, their families, the staff and the board. This truly is a special organization committed to giving opportunities its participants and value to the greater community.

We have big things in store! With a fully vaccinated staff, we are planning programming with an eye on new initiatives like planting a greater variety of crops, and bringing back the petting zoo and Soap N Salad shed.

Some of our most exciting developments are related to beginning work toward establishing residential facilities—one of AACORN's biggest goals since it was founded a decade ago.

Thank you to all of you who donate your time, your talent, and contribute funds – we couldn't do it without you.

Eric Birko
Executive Director



VOLUNTEERS KEEP THIS AACORN GROWING



Volunteers are a vital part of the AACORN community. They help us remain a vibrant, growing organization. That was especially true in 2020.

AACORN owes a huge debt of gratitude to the volunteers who completed the work on the interior of the building. Zac Bosma, Joe Stegman, Wyatt Bosma and Josh Bosma did carpentry and electrical work. Mark McCormick, Bill McKinney, John Best and Michael Graham painted walls, ceilings and trim. Mary Connors, Cindy Semark and Mark Reile installed cove base. Michelle Bosch provided interior design and decorating. Allen Ade built shelving, painted and completed special projects throughout the year.

Others donated items that made the building feel like home. Roann Bonney supplied couches and rugs, Sue Ellen Christian gave us a pool table and Mark and Becky Stradtner contributed a large storage center.

When we had to rethink how to present the AACORN Gala—our biggest fundraiser of the year—Dhera Strauss, Ashley Beach and Keith Thompson all stepped up to help us present an informative, engaging and very successful event.

Then there are the volunteers who helped keep the farm running, the facilities maintained and the organization on track through thick and thin: Allen and Pat Ade, Leana Best, Doug Probyn, Katie McCann, Greg Baker, Kelly Davis, John Best, Cindy Semark, David Joque and Michelle Bosch. Your continuing contributions make the difference in AACORN's ability to flourish.

We appreciate each and every one of you and thank you for everything you did for AACORN in 2020.

AACORN's biggest accomplishment in 2020 was the completion of the new Activities Building. This beautiful structure is the home of our programming activities, a space for socializing and a future base for welcoming our community. It includes a sparkling commercial kitchen, craft room and office. It couldn't have come together without the dedication of Zac Bosma, our board of directors president who completed his term of service in November 2020. Zac committed himself to ensuring that construction stayed on track. He worked with our contractors to coordinate each phase of the project and came to the farm in good weather and bad to contribute his expertise to its continuing progress.

The entire AACORN community is deeply grateful to Zac for his leadership, guidance and hard work on our behalf.



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

AACORN exists to offer its participants an expanded world of new skills and new experiences in a place filled with acceptance and understanding. As we approach our 10-year anniversary, we'd like to share highlights of two individuals: One who has been with AACORN since it began, and one of its newest participants.



Tom Pinto | Participant since 2011

Tom has been part of AACORN since before the program officially launched. He's loved animals since he was a child, when he attended the therapeutic riding program at the Cheff Center in Augusta. When Tom first visited AACORN's Lake Village site, he saw the cows and stopped in his tracks. The cows walked over to the fence where Tom stood, and to this day Tom loves any opportunity to commune with cattle.

Tom video chats with his Mom and Dad after every day at AACORN, and with a huge smile on his face he recites the animals he spent time with that day. AACORN is more than a program to Tom—it's where he is happiest, where he thrives and where he feels loved by the animals, the staff and his AACORN friends. Tom's love of animals has become his life's work at AACORN Community.



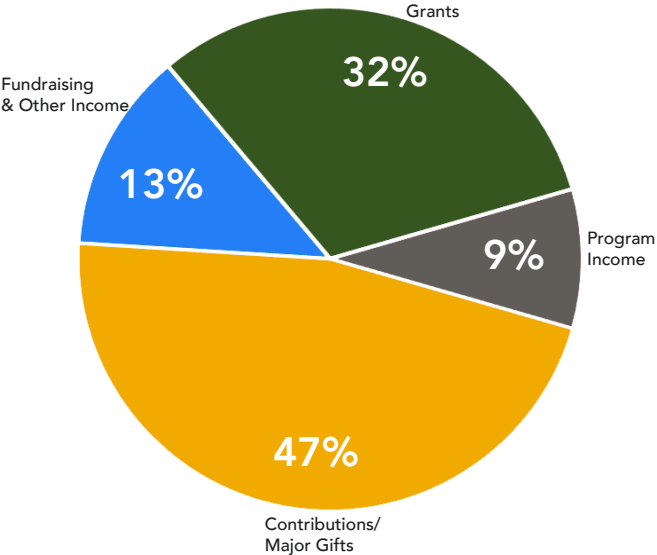
Andrew Peavler | Participant since 2021

Since starting at AACORN earlier this year, Andrew Peavler is eager for every visit. He describes AACORN as a place where he finds, "Good friends, extremely nice and helpful staff, and gentle, loving animals."

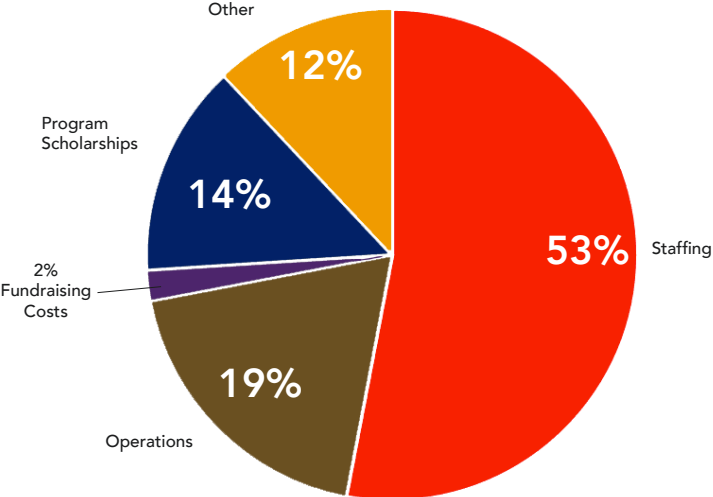
Andrew especially loves the chickens, and he hopes that by carrying out his duties in caring for them, collecting their eggs, mopping and cleaning in the buildings, he'll gain skills that will help him prepare for volunteering and maybe even a job.

According to his Mom, "Andrew has transitioned well with wonderful helpers and has increased his stamina to the point of wanting to attend AACORN more than just once a week. Thank you for providing such an enriching and positively productive experience. Andrew's short time at AACORN has been so life-giving after so many lonely months at home."

Revenue | \$466,654



Expenses 1 | \$210,663



Expenses 2 | \$224,930

Activities Building Construction Costs 100%

OUR 2020 DONORS



Individuals

Anonymous
Allen & Pat Ade
Kathleen Bennett
Janet & John Berghorst
Gareth Bernard
John & Eileen Best
Charles & Louise Best
Michelle Blair
Roann Bonney
Barbara Bonney
Bruce Bonney
Betty Bonney
Scott & Gail Bosch
Steve & Michelle Bosch
Melissa Bosma
Sherwood & Kathryn Boudeman
Kim & Mitch Braat
James & Barbara Bratherton
Stevie & Robert Brinkerhoff
Robert & Lee Ann Brunetz
Michelle Burdick
Debby Burton
Ruth & John Caccavale
Gary & Sue Carpenter
Kathleen Carr
Elaine Catlin
Jay Clark
Nita Clark
Sheldon Cohen
Richard & Deborah Cole
Mary Connors
Gregory & Allison Connors
Mary & Bruce Connors
Robert & Mary Connors
Chuck & Mary Connors
Lynn Contos
Sarah Contos
Julie Deluca

Gloria Demeneghi
Nancy Demink
Peter Demink
Anne Dickinson
Frederick & Nancy Douglas
Jerry & Janet Duggins
Jennifer Dunlap
Stuart & Karen Eddy
Liz Farner & Rick Bosch
Kara & James Farner
Scot Fay
Beverly Fisher
Mary Beth Giacomo
Jorge & Suzanne Gonzalez
Michael Graham
James & Carol Grund
Julie Heath
Phyllis Hill
Jay & Wendy Hirsh
Mary Hoffnagle
Faye Holtapp Estate
Mary Holtapp & Bruce Mills
Michael & Heidi Horn
Nancy Husk
Phyllis Johnson
Mary & Kenneth Johnson
Dana Johnston
David Joque
Jean Joque
Justin Joque & Rubyn Anspach
David Joque & Lisa Kasmer
Melinda & Doug Kaufman
Donna Keller
Janice Kelly
Paul & Deb Koestner
Karyn Kruschka
Brooke Latoszewski
Thomas Leibold & Julie Deluca
Bev Lemmen
Harvey & Peggy Liss
Lori Loding
Judith & Oral Mathison
Prudence McCabe
Daniel & Carolyn McGlinn
Patricia McKinney
Gregory McLogan
Michael McNally
Barbara Menlen
William & Shirley Meyers
John Monforton
Judith Moore
Mark & Kim Nelson
Angela Newton
Nicholas Nizzardini

Stephen & Ann Pacic
Paul Paget
Donald & Ann Parfet
Patricia Peck
Kimberly Peckham
Robyn & Richard Pekala
Matt & Kim Peters
Stephen & Katie Peterson
Sandra Pethick
Ann & Merl Petzold
Cathy & Matt Pinto
Cheryl Ann Pinto & Dan Martin
Charlotte Pirog
Robert & Mary Jo Poel
Patricia Ponto
Nick & Carol Pratt
Laura Probyn
Ernie & Kay Probyn
Chris & Rein Pukk
Mark & Jill Reid
Harold & Karen Ringler
Andrew & Dorothy Robins
Wayne & Doreen Roethler
Maria Rosine
Thomas Rupp
Ronald & Barbara Rupp
Barbara & Frank Scamazzo
Dick & Janet Schamp
Kelly Schultz
Marc & Jeanne Schupan
Cindy Semark
Douglas Semark
Jeremiah Semark
Steve & Bridget Shirley
Beth & Andy Short
Steven Simon
Amaryllis South
Lindsey South & James McKim
Denni s & Jana Spencer
Sandra Ste. George
Bill & Linda Steusloff
Sean Strong
Sheryl Swodzinski
Grace Tiffany
Judy Timan
Terry Torian
Karen Trout
Jarrry & Darlene Truman
Kodi & Ross Tsapyak
Jean & John Tucker & Family
Michael & Jo Turner
Robert VanPeenan
Wendy VanPeenan & Rod Malcom
Karen VanTil
Thomas Wanty
Katie Warner
Tom & Julie Wheat
Mary & John Whyte
Margaret Williams
Joan & Gordon Williams
Susan Williams
Mark & Margaret Williams
David Wochaski
Douglas & Margaret Wood
Wendy Woods
Elizabeth Zentner & James Joque
Jane & Bob Ziemer
Bryan Zocher

Organizations

Adams & Baumbach Assoc.
Allegra Marketing
AmazonSmile
Bosch Architecture
Burdo Family Dentistry
Century Bank & Trust
Congregation of St. Joseph
Diocese of Kalamazoo
Feelgood Tap
Grand Appraisal LLC
H&H Painting Co.
Holtapp Farms
Kurz, Leigh & Associates
Lakeview Dental Associates
Liston & Liston
Network for Good
PayPal Giving Fund
Pinto Products
Professional Consultants & Clinicians
Residential Opportunities Inc.
R.W. LaPine, Inc.
SalesPage Technologies
Stafford-Smith, Inc.
Thrivent Financial
Vos Glass
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wheat Electric LLC
Woodsmiths Custom Millwork

Grants & Charitable Funds

Battle Creek Community Foundation
Beim Foundation
Benevity Community Fund
Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation
Fiebig Family Donor Fund
Gary Sisters Foundation
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation
Krimendahl Family Trust
Glen C. & Gail S. Smith Fund
United Way of Battle Creek & Kalamazoo
United Way of Greater St. Louis
Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation



AACORN Board of Directors

Cindy Semark, President
Laura Probyn, Vice President
Mary Connors, Secretary
Allen Ade, Treasurer
Greg Baker
John Best
Roann Bonney
Ranjeet Ghorpade
Vidhay Reddy
Mark Varney
Liz Farner

AACORN Staff

Eric Birko, Executive Director
Liz Farner, Program Director
Chapin Cole, Farm Manager
Leana Best, Program staff
Dawn Bolton, Program staff
Tammie Chrzan, Program staff
Nayely Garcia, Program staff
Tessa Monette, Program staff