

# The Voice

Voice of Care — In Christ among People with Disabilities

## Annual Report 2014

### Mission Statement

**To equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ.**



### Deaconess Kris Blackwell — Executive Director

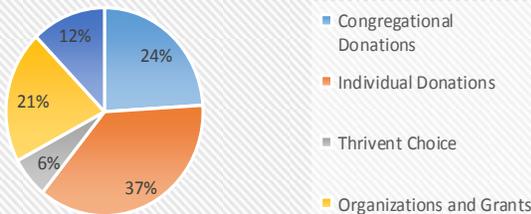
#### Our Amazing God did Amazing Things!

At the beginning of our fiscal year last February, we had no reserves and were on an austerity spending plan. We knew we could no longer do ministry as we did using full-time chaplains. We reorganized and refocused Voice of Care to better reflect our mission statement.

We wanted to enable churches to do ministry among people with disabilities right in their communities. To do this, we envisioned Region Directors who would meet with congregations and help them choose the right type ministry for them and then equip them with resources to do that.

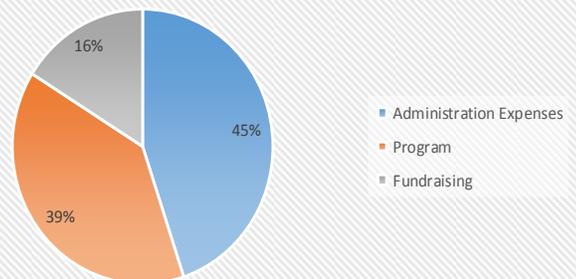
Thanks to our donors and partner churches, we were able to have our reserves built to \$45,000 by June. Thanks to an LCMS grant of \$25,000 we were able to hire two of our Region Directors by July 2014. Thanks to some large donations in December, we hired our third Region Director in January. We are thrilled that our new model is proving to be the best choice for our ministry.

Income  
February 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015



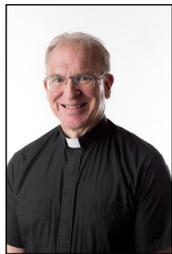
Congregation Donations	\$33,096
Individual Donations	\$50,752
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$8,781
Organizations and Grants	\$28,394
Fundraising Events	\$16,804
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$137,827</b>
<b>In Reserves \$65,000</b>	

Expenses  
February 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015



Administration Expenses	\$22,029
Program Expenses	\$19,131
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 7,916
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,076</b>

Special Designated Fund LWML Grant \$50,600  
Total Used so far \$43,424 balance \$7,176



**Rev. Paul Klopke**

### **North Region**

Serving parts of Cook, Kane, Lake, and McHenry Counties

#### **Ministry Sites**

St. John, Niles serves Glenbridge Rehabilitation Center  
The Living Christ, Arlington Heights serves The Meadows and Clearbrook  
St. Peter, Arlington Heights has weekly program plus the above facilities  
St. Matthew, Barrington has weekly program  
Little Angels served by individual volunteer Christine Bishop  
Immanuel, Crystal Lake and Crosspoint, Lakewood serve at  
Deerpath Rehabilitation Center

Pastor Paul also completed his first unit in Clinical Pastoral Education from Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge concentrating in disability ministry.



**Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko**

### **East Region**

Serving the City of Chicago and Cook County

In the past Voice of Care only went as far east to serve Aspire of Illinois in the Westchester and Hillside area. Then Mt. Greenwood began a Bible Study with the people from BlueCap, Inc. on the south side of Chicago. Pastor Dean is planting seeds among the churches of the East Region, especially those with schools, to reach out and start intentional ministry to those with disabilities. It is estimated that there is as many as 500,000 people with disabilities living in this area.



**Rev. Phil Gruenbaum**

### **South Region**

Serving DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, and Will Counties

Our newest Region Director was just hired in the last month of our fiscal year, January 2015. Voice of Care has not worked in this area before but churches, including Trinity in Lisle and Our Savior in Joliet, have been supportive and serving people with disabilities within their congregations. Some are serving homes run by Bethesda such as Emmanuel in Aurora and Hope in Shorewood.

Pastor Phil has 15 years of experience providing spiritual care among people with disabilities and is excited to begin new ministries in the South Region.

## Near West Region

Serving DuPage and Kane Counties



**Deaconess  
Kris Blackwell**

We have split off the Near West region from the West Region because it is the central point for Voice of Care ministries with many churches doing intentional ministries and facilities being served for over 40 years!

### Ministry Sites

Immanuel, Elmhurst doing weekly Bible Study

St. John, Lombard has SONshine a 6 times a year Respite program

Trinity, Villa Park does Bible Study at theRay Graham Ardmore

### Apts

Ray Graham Iona Gloss is served by Deaconess Kris

Marklund, Bloomingdale is served voluntarily by Pastor Don

St. Mark, St. Charles started with inclusion Sunday School and is looking into the possibility of doing respite care events

Marklund, Geneva is served by Pastor Don and Eldra Rakow

## West Region

Serving Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Davies, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties



When Voice of Care employed a full-time chaplain in the West Region we served about 10 facilities. Now thanks to Immanuel, Belvidere and Redeemer, Rockford we have plans to serve Walter Lawson Children's Home. There is so much potential for growth in this area. We hope to work collaboratively with Bethesda to train as many churches as possible to reach out into their communities with the love of Jesus to serve those people with disabilities and their caregivers, by providing respite care and Christian education.



This is Voice of Care's newest program. Even though it is an eight hour training, we believe its thoroughness ensures a safe and comprehensive program for congregations. REST will allow churches to serve the needs of people with disabilities and their caregivers providing respite care either in their homes or at an event at the church.

The ultimate goal of this REST course is to assist individuals in becoming effective volunteer respite workers by learning the three key steps to support:

PREPARE: understand the role of the respite volunteer and build a relationship with the caregiver and care recipient

CARE: learn good health and safety practices which create a positive environment for handling ordinary and challenging respite situations

CONNECT: understand the types of assistance and adapted equipment for planning activities that foster successful respite relationships in a confidential and confident manner

We are always looking for churches to host REST to provide people within their area to receive training which is beneficial for an individual even if a congregation is not starting an intentional ministry. A person trained in REST can also reach out to people with dementia and Alzheimer's. Contact Deaconess Kris Blackwell at 630-234-1491 for more information.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 21    | REST Training at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wood Dale, IL                                |
| April 10-12 | Special Needs Camp Retreat at Walcamp, Kingston, IL<br>(contact Walcamp at 815-784-5141) |
| April 25    | "Good Vibes for a Good Cause" benefit concert<br>Hyatt Hotel, Lisle                      |
| Summer      | 6 weeks of Special Needs Camp at Walcamp, Kingston, IL                                   |
| August 22   | "Mile for Mileage" Pledge Walk, Woodridge, IL  |

For more information go to [VoiceOfCare.org](http://VoiceOfCare.org) and [Walcamp.org](http://Walcamp.org)



Deaconess Kris Blackwell Executive Director 630-234-1491

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A Recognized Service  
Organization of the  
Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod