**Disability Network Southwest Michigan
2008-2009 Annual Report**

Count on Us

# Letter from the President

Thank you for taking the time to read Disability Network’s 2009 Annual Report. This past year has once again been a time for continued growth in the delivery of new services, as well as expansion of some existing services. With the very challenging economic environment in Michigan, it is very evident that no matter what the situation, we know that persons with disabilities are “**counting on us**”. We have made sure that happens by developing a new Ramp Up Program in Van Buren County with the help of a new partnership with Red Arrow Ministries and Van Buren County United Way; providing a new ‘in-house’ Independent Living program to Michigan Career and Technical Institute students; enhancing our partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs by expanding services for veterans throughout all of Southwest Michigan; and expanding our Information and Referral services with the support of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Our advocacy efforts were successful in the passage of two public transit millages with the partnership of Friends of Transit Coalition members. Other advocacy and education efforts reached out to business’s human resource staff by providing valuable workshops about ‘What to Do When an Employee Discloses a Disability’ focusing on rights and responsibilities under the ADA and we published the first edition of ‘The Business & Disability Bulletin’, a bi-annual electronic newsletter for the business community. We also advocated for improved accessibility with many of our parks and recreation areas in Southwest Michigan.

In the later part of Fiscal Year 2009, we were asked by the State to support people with disabilities living in Berrien and Cass Counties. We responded positively to the request and began working closely with key stakeholders in forming new partnerships. This included Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Region IV Area Agency on Aging, and Michigan Work! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren. We are looking forward to providing our services to the people living in the communities of these counties in the months ahead.

We are so grateful to our donors and supporters – without your commitment of giving we would not be able to be successful with the important work of our mission. We look forward to continuing the many new collaborations we have formed this year. Just as the upcoming 2010 Census will be very important to the future of Michigan, to ensure all of us are **counted**, we want all our citizens and partners to know that Disability Network can be **counted** on, in educating and empowering people with disabilities to create change in their lives. We will be counting on one another, including our volunteers, partners and donors to accomplish our mutual goal that communities include, empower and support all person with disabilities, ensuring inclusive communities for all.

(signed) Joel W. Cooper
President & CEO

# Our Mission:

Disability Network Southwest Michigan’s mission is to educate and empower people with disabilities to create change in their own lives, and to advocate for social change to create inclusive communities.

# Annual Report

2008-2009 Financial Report

**Revenue**

Federal $425,524

State Portion/Federal Grants $155,721

Other Grants $81,950

Contributions $140,157

Interest Income $3,952

Fundraising $13,462

 less direct costs of $9,527

Change in beneficial interest $50

Donated Materials $540

Donated Services $86,304

Program Service Fees $297,568

**Total Revenues & Support $1,197,716**

**Expenses**

Program Services $946,455

Management & General $232,917

Fundraising $9,463

**Total Expenses $1,188,835**

**Change in Net Assets $6,881**

**Beginning Net Assets $374,330**

**Ending Net Assets  $381,211**

2008-2009 Performance Statistics

* Disability Network served more than 3,800 individuals.
* Over 1,950 Information and Referral calls were received.
* Independent Living Specialists worked with over 600 consumers.
* Disability Network assisted 30 individuals transition from nursing facilities to community living.
* Over 150 consumers received employment support.
* Community members volunteered over 4,100 hours at Disability Network

# Get Involved

Whether it’s through your time, talents or generous donations, Disability Network Southwest Michigan appreciates what you are able and willing to give.

To learn more about our services, please visit our website at **[www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org)** or find us on Facebook and Twitter!

# Who We Serve

Our service area includes Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties.

Eighty percent of individuals will experience a disability in their lifetime; 100% of individuals will know a person with a disability. Disability is a natural part of the human condition that affects 20% of the population at any given time. Disability Network is a cross-disability service provider serving the over 160,000 people with disabilities and their families in Southwest Michigan.

# Contact Info:

Disability Network Southwest Michigan

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(269) 345-5925 (TTY)

(269) 345-0229 (fax)

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\*indicates Membership

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