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. Or find us on Facebook!

“Disability Network Southwest Michigan has impacted my life in many ways. Volunteering as a receptionist has opened many doors as far as networking. I’ve met a lot of nice people.”

– Karlissia Munn

2009 Annual Report

Count On Us

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.

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Our service area includes Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties.
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 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 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 passing the two public transit millages with the partnership of Friends of Transit Coalition members. Other advocacy and education efforts reached out to business people’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 Works Berrien, Cass, Van Buren. We intend to continue to provide 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.

Thank You Donors!

Thank you for your support and commitment to the work of Disability Network. We are grateful for your continued investment in the work of Disability Network. We appreciate your efforts and support.

In 2009:

Disability Network Southwest Michigan served more than 3,800 individuals.

Over 1,950 disability-related Information and Referral calls were received.

Independent Living Specialists worked with over 600 people.

Disability Network Southwest Michigan helped 30 individuals transition from nursing facilities to community living.

Over 150 people received employment support.

Community members volunteered over 4,100 hours at Disability Network Southwest Michigan.

Expenditures

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Federal Grants</th>
<th>State Portion/Federal Grants</th>
<th>Other Grants</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Interest Income</th>
<th>Total revenues</th>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Management &amp; General</th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
<th>Change in Net Assets</th>
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