



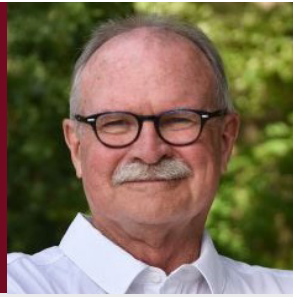
FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MARYLAND INCLUSIVE HOUSING

Everyone deserves a place to call home



From Executive Director Tim Wiens



In FY23, for the first time, Maryland Inclusive Housing was fully staffed and funded to implement its work in the transformation of residential services. We made great progress in all three areas of our work:

1. Two new housing committees were formed: one in Prince George's County and one on the Eastern Shore. The housing committees in Baltimore City, Howard County and Montgomery County continued to meet bi-monthly. These committees are creating collaboration between affordable housing developers, local housing authorities, individuals with disabilities and their families to make sure that both new affordable housing and existing affordable housing is affordable and accessible to Marylanders with disabilities.
2. In January, we launched our rebranded and redesigned website (mih-inc.org) and received excellent reviews. The new look highlights our information clearinghouse of all items related to affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities in Maryland. The new site is much more vibrant and user-friendly. The "Join Our Community" feature has allowed us to get our word out to a much larger audience around the state. In June of 2023, mih-inc.org hosted 1,542 total sessions, up from 618 in June of 2022, exactly a year before. That's an increase of nearly 250%.

Our social media presence has also grown leaps and bounds. Before May of 2022, our organization had no presence on Twitter or LinkedIn. In April of 2023, we reached an all-time high of 4,838 Twitter Impressions. We received 49 LinkedIn page views in May of 2023. In June of 2023, we received 157 Facebook page visits.

3. Lauren Silverstone was promoted to Director of Housing Support Services (HSS), a newly created position, and a third full-time employee was hired to provide HSS. All three members of the HSS team are working at capacity with a waiting list for services established. We have also trained an additional 25 people from 10 agencies to bring the total staff trained to 66 people from 30 different agencies. Each HSS certified cohort is invited to attend Lauren's bimonthly HSS Networking Meeting. The committee discusses updates regarding housing programs, policies and DDA services. It also assists certified HSS professionals to navigate issues and barriers and collaborate to share resources and ideas.

MIH provided HSS to 129 individuals in FY23 compared to 74 individuals in FY22. During FY23, eight individuals moved into housing of their choice. The HSS team provided tenancy support services to help each individual maintain their tenancy throughout the fiscal year.

MIH is proud of the work we are doing to create new housing options for people with IDD in Maryland. We are also excited to implement our strategic plan of building partnerships, creating changes to build more inclusive communities, and sharing information about how people can find and access inclusive housing of their choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Wiens".

Tim Wiens
Executive Director





A Bright Future for Jason

For his whole life, Jason Leonard has been told that he is destined to fail. Factors of his childhood made it easy to fail, but Jason was always determined to succeed, even when a horrific car accident left him with a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

That determination and a little help from MIH has helped him find his ideal living situation, where he can take care of himself and live the life that he wants at 43 years old.

In his young lifetime, Jason has had extended stays in five hospitals, three group homes, two retirement homes and one day program. Now, thanks to MIH, he is thriving in his own home.

Growing up in Wheaton, Jason had a somewhat typical childhood. He played football at Einstein High School, got in and out of trouble and grew to love the game of chess. One fateful night in December of 1998, Jason drove his car haphazardly into a tree in the neighborhood of Forest Glen. He was taken to Montgomery General Hospital, where he was lucky to be alive, but was diagnosed with TBI. It took Jason several years of physical therapy to be able to walk again, but finally did. He moved from a wheelchair, to a walker to now, a cane.

From the time of Jason's accident, he has lived in a variety of arrangements. HIRRS (Head Injury Rehabilitation & Referral Services) offered group home living to Jason for 20 years. He lived in three different houses, two in Gaithersburg and one in Silver Spring, with people who had also sustained brain injuries.

As much as he appreciated the arrangement, he wanted to live on his own as a grown man in his 40s.

He needed to find a way to successfully access and maintain inclusive and affordable housing. Jason collaborated with a case manager at Montgomery County Department of Social Services who got in touch with Lauren Silverstone, Director of Housing Support Services at MIH in the spring of 2022. Lauren was excited to work with Jason right away to get on tenant and project-based waitlists to help him find the independent housing he was looking for. By the summertime, she found a subsidized option, which eventually led to a one-bedroom apartment at a reputable housing complex in Rockville. Jason moved in shortly afterwards.

"There are many individuals currently residing in group homes who could live successfully in the community with the right supports and resources," said Lauren. "Jason is a shining example of how individuals can thrive independently when given choices of where they'd like to live."

She helped him fill out all the paperwork needed to apply for the voucher. She also helped him set up utilities, work with the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) to subsidize gas and electric bills, and get connected with "Call N Ride," a service that offers reduced fare taxi rides. She continues to help with his paperwork today.

"I would not have gotten this place without Lauren and MIH," said Jason. "I wouldn't have even known where to start. Lauren helped me find affordable housing options. She helped me every step of the way."

In 2017, Jason wanted to find a way to put together what he learned in school and tell his story. So, with the help of a typist, he wrote a book. "I Did it, I proved You Wrong You, You and You, In the Back" hit the Amazon website shortly thereafter and is available in paperback.

MIH was created in 2020 to help people like Jason, with intellectual and developmental disabilities, find the affordable and accessible housing they need. With the proper supports in place, Jason is confident he has what he needs to succeed now and into the future.

I Did it,
I Proved You Wrong
You, You, You and You,
In the Back



By Jason Leonard

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Andy Krauss
Director of Communications

Tierra Medley
Community Living Coordinator

Lauren Silverstone
*Director of Housing
Support Services*

Inclusive Housing Advocacy

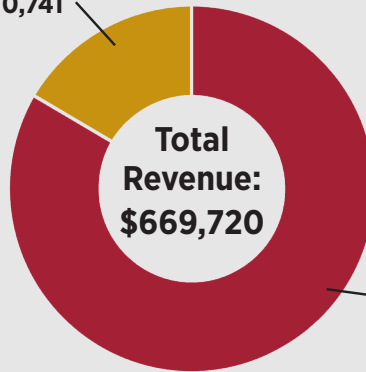
MIH advocates for additional affordable and accessible housing for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Our organization advocates for increased funding for affordable housing and educates elected officials about legislation and policies concerning individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



Financials

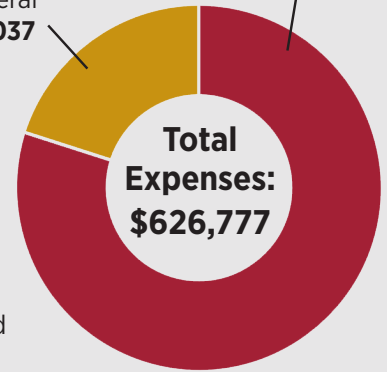
A complete copy of the FY23 MIH audited financial statements are available on the MIH website: www.mih-inc.org.

Housing Support
Services Fees
\$110,741



Management
& General
\$126,037

Program Expenses
\$500,740



Grants from the
State of Maryland
\$558,979

**Increase in Net Assets:
\$42,943**



Our Mission

To help people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) successfully access and maintain inclusive, affordable, and accessible housing of their choice by creating opportunities, identifying resources, connecting people and providing services.