embrace your ability

Website: empowerabilities.org
Email: info@empowerabilities.org

Main Office (Building A)
2864 S. Nettleton Avenue
Springfield, MO 65807

Phone/TTY: 417.886.1188
Toll-Free: 800.676.7245
Fax: 417.886.3619

Hours:
M–F, 8:00am–5:00pm
(Closed Noon–1:00 pm)
On the surface, 2019 was a year of change. We rolled out a new name that better reflects our mission along with a new website and awareness campaign, AdaptNation. We took a leap of faith in changing our name, hoping we wouldn’t lose our identity. What we found was a renewed interest in who we are and what we do, and an opportunity to share the heart of our mission with others. Not only does empower: abilities shift the focus to the intrinsic value of all people living with a disability, but aligns us with what is going on in our community and beyond.

Aside from an updated look and name, we remain a group of advocates; a team of passionate, dedicated individuals; a force for change. Our staff, leadership and board are all working together to increase opportunity and expand access. By educating legislators on the impact and effects of legislation, we create awareness and accountability. By working with community partners, we expand inclusion and opportunity. By working with individuals, we empower ability.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

Randy Cluster
Board President

Shannon Porter
CEO
Our Mission
To remove barriers and empower independent living for all people with disabilities.

VISION STATEMENT
To assist all people with disabilities to live their fullest life and participate in an accessible world of social equality.

WHERE WE SERVE
Empower Abilities is located in Springfield, Missouri, and serves its home county plus seven surrounding counties.

Our Core Values

ACCESS
Continued effort to remove barriers for equal access for all people with disabilities.

COMMITMENT
Dedication to the independent living movement & the future of our organization.

EMPOWERMENT
Choices and control for all people with disabilities.

COMMUNITY
Utilize our community partners and resources to advocate for inclusion and social change.

TEAMWORK
Achieved through communication, cooperation and a unified vision of the organization.

SHAWN’S STORY
I became disabled in 2014. I had no idea where to go and what to do. I was referred to empower:abilities for assistance. They have always been so friendly and available to listen. I struggled to keep my job for over a year and finally had to quit due to my disabling condition. empower:abilities’ staff helped me go through the mounting paperwork to apply for Social Security Disability, MO Healthnet and Food Stamps. They also connected me with other organizations in the area. It has been an uphill battle but they continue to help me, which helps keep my anxiety and stress manageable. Thank you for being the one place I can trust and rely on.
Who We Serve

“Nothing about me, without me.”

This consumer control philosophy promotes the belief that people with disabilities know their needs best and should have the right to make decisions regarding their own care.

How We Serve

**STAFF WITH DISABILITIES**
- 36 with disabilities
- 28 without

**CONSUMERS BY AGE**
- 422 Age 25-59
- 384 Age 60+
- 21 Age 20-24
- 15 Age 5-19
- 1 Age Under 5

**BOARD MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES**
- 9 with disabilities
- 5 without

**TYPES OF DISABILITIES SERVED**
- 446 Physical
- 100 Mental / Emotional
- 52 Cognitive
- 35 Vision
- 10 Hearing

**OUR MEASURABLE IMPACT**

- **20,073** PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES
- **2,400** VOLUNTEER HOURS
- **1,604** RECREATIONAL SERVICES
- **1,425** ADVOCACY / LEGAL SERVICES
- **1,328** INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES
- **1,121** ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- **824** HOME MODIFICATIONS
- **323** YOUTH / TRANSITION SERVICES
- **127** PEER COUNSELING SERVICES
- **323** VOLUNTEER HOURS
- **1,121** IL SKILLS TRAINING & LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
- **1,121** VOLUNTEER HOURS
- **1,121** IL SKILLS TRAINING & LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

**DANNY’S STORY:**
Having a son with a disability, I have enjoyed being a part of an organization that is so passionate and working so hard to give people the resources to be independent. For our family, it’s important that our son can be independent as he grows, and never worry about what he can’t do. empower: abilities gives people the tools to look at their ability and not their disability.

**STELLA’S STORY:**
I wouldn’t have an independent life of my own outside of a nursing home or a life with my husband if it weren’t for the support of empower: abilities. I get to be an active member of the community and the craft and cooking groups, and the Team Access program at empower: abilities has given back a piece of me that I lost after my stroke.
Financial Overview

REVENUE

For the last three years we have been advocating for the restoration of funds that were cut from both the attendant care programs and our IL grant, which is reflected in the decline of revenue since 2016. These cuts not only impacted us fiscally but those we serve. Those who need the most attendant care services to live independently saw a 40% reduction in their authorized care. Lack of necessary care leads to tough decisions on eating versus bathing, decline in health, and has led to some needing hospitalization or ending up in a nursing home. We have advocated for restoration of services and are continually fighting for the rights of those living with disability. Now more than ever, we need the support of our community to continue to provide our IL services and programs.

2019 REVENUE SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2019 Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Funds</td>
<td>$17.0K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VII, Ch.1, Part B</td>
<td>$54.7K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$68.3K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation, Corporations, &amp; Trust Grants</td>
<td>$86.4K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$106.5K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment / Endowment</td>
<td>$177.0K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government Funds</td>
<td>$156.6K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$8.1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>2019 Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDS Disbursements</td>
<td>$5.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$1.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Services</td>
<td>$552 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living Skills</td>
<td>$390 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistive Technology</td>
<td>$153 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy and Access</td>
<td>$65 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$7.8M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MADISON’S STORY:

Eric and the team from empower: abilities built a ramp for me in July of 2019. I am 17 years old and a junior in high school. My goal is to be as independent as possible and this ramp has allowed me independence coming in and out of my home. I would not be able to come and go without assistance if it weren’t for this ramp. I have big plans to go to college and live as independently as possible.
We held our first community fundraiser, AdaptNation, on October 23rd at the Farmer’s Park Pavilion. It was a special night that included guest host Sarah Jenkins from The Mystery Hour, delicious food from The Traveling Chef, musical guest Randall Shreve, and photography by Randy Bacon. The fundraiser was held to raise money for the area’s first-ever open adaptive gym. This gym is designed to improve the overall health and long-term well-being of those who are unable to use conventional gym equipment. Thanks to our generous community, we raised nearly $23,000. empower: abilities is teaming up with Shane Campbell of Training Day Sports, and the gym is set to open in mid to late January.

Upon completion of this ground-breaking establishment, empower: abilities has committed to providing memberships to individuals living with disabilities who qualify and are interested in actively participating in the program.

We will be showing our full photo exhibit in the spring of 2020 at Randy Bacon Photography. This exhibit now includes a short film on the everyday life of those living with disabilities. We cannot wait to share these incredible stories of struggle and strength with the world. AdaptNation is not just about individuals with disabilities adapting their lives to their unique circumstances; it is also about us as a society adapting our thoughts, our views and our interactions to be more inclusive in a world that is often blind to the struggles of the largest minority group in the world. We will use this exhibit to share the voice of those with disabilities and inspire a movement of inclusion, access, acceptance and love.

Thank You!

We are so grateful to our committed donors and volunteers, both individual and corporate, whose generosity allows us to empower independent living.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteer  •  Donate
Donate Stock  •  Donate Goods
Leave a Legacy

CONTACT US

417.886.1188
info@empowerabilities.org