

Prepared By
Gina Hansen
Deidra Brown
Sara Woerdehoff



Apply for Services

2023

impact i' report

"If they can't learn the
way we teach, we teach
the way they learn."
-Dr.O. Ivar Lovaas



WESCO Industries
"Empowering People"

MISSION: Empowering and Supporting People in Healthy Communities.

VISION: We Exist to Build Gateways and Foundations Regardless of Ability.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Happy New Year!

As WESCO closes out our 57th year in business, we look back on one of the most successful years in our history. We successfully served over 170 members within 8 different programs (more to come in the pages that follow!) with amazing outcomes and success stories both large and small. Behind the scenes, and the lifeblood of this system, are 140 Direct Support Professionals who work tirelessly 24 hours a day and 365 days per year, making WESCO Industries one of the top 5 employers in Crawford County! Guiding this system is a management team dedicated to the long-term success of our facility and to those whom we serve. 2023 gave us many challenges, much success, and the feeling of accomplishment that can only come from helping someone who likely may never be able to help you in return. It is a feeling unmatched by any other I have ever come across.

We received our first perfect rating from our accrediting agency CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), which is received by fewer than 3% of community mental health providers and only fuels our fire to continue into another exciting year doing what we do.

Our state organization has chosen this era to be one of community partnership and integration and we could not agree more. The projects we have set for 2024 are exciting, ranging from opening a new home base for our Day Habilitation Program (the Wave) to expanding our Residential Program to our WESCO Foundation Board. We have made several impactful contributions to our community including donations and support to the Crawford County Wellness Center, the All Accessible Park rebuild in Washington Park, and completing our first annual fundraiser Duck Float which donated back over \$4000 to a chosen area of need in our community. This year's recipient was the Crawford County Fair facility.

We extend this heartfelt THANK YOU! to all who touched our lives in the past year and welcome another year of providing services to those in need in Crawford County and beyond.

Thank you!


Clay Adams
Executive Director
WESCO Industries



WESCO Industries began service as West Central Iowa Workshop in 1966 when an initial feasibility study meeting was held in the local community. The study group determined in late 1966 that the entity would serve the seven-county region of Crawford, Audubon, Carroll, Ida, Monona, Shelby, and Harrison Counties. The town of Denison in Crawford County was selected as the home site, and the Articles of Incorporation were signed and registered in September of 1966, staff was hired, and services began with two members in June of 1968 and expanded to 14 members by November of 1968.

ON THE HORIZON

A NEW JOURNEY

2024 will mark the end of The WAVE's partnership with the Journey Church. We want to extend our gratitude and appreciation for allowing The WAVE to call this home for the last 5.5 years!

NURSING

WESCO's Nursing department is a robust medical program that has had a huge impact on the facility, member's health, as well as the peace of mind of families, guardians, and case managers - which is WESCO's top priority. In 2024, Nursing will hold a hands-on skill lab, which will be mandatory for all staff to attend to ensure competency in medical skills. While technical and profession-specific competencies are paramount in the delivery of healthcare services, the cross-cutting core competencies of healthcare professionals play an important part in healthcare transformation, innovation, and the integration of roles.

EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Dirt work for the Crawford County Recreation and Wellness Center project is scheduled to begin in late May or June of 2024 and be completed by July, according to Denison City Manager Jessica Garcia. The facility will have fitness equipment and a fitness class area, a walking track, a multipurpose gym for activities such as basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, and a fieldhouse with an indoor turf field.

The Wellness Center is something that is needed in our community, which is why WESCO Industries was proud to be a financial supporter of the project! This facility would provide amenities for people who want to just go and walk with friends, play a pickup game of basketball, or try volleyball for the first time.

Children in the county have the most to gain from it. The Center is going to be something that benefits our children through their high school years and helps give them that competitive advantage in sports. Furthermore, currently, there is nowhere in a 90-mile radius that has access to indoor soccer. With the large and successful soccer community that the Denison area has combined with places like Storm Lake and Marshalltown, the opportunity to drive tourism between the counties is huge.

At the time this was written, the project had obtained over 80% of the fundraising needed.

LET KIDS PLAY!

Accessible parks and playgrounds are gaining momentum around the United States. It's necessary to provide play spaces where people of all abilities can play together, because play, on a fundamental level, eradicates social barriers that might have been there previously. With the help of many community members, the dream of Denison creating an all-accessible park is coming to fruition!

When we think of accessible playgrounds, we often first think of the child. But accessibility means inclusive for all, and that includes parents. Through inclusive playgrounds, children of all abilities can play side-by-side. And the inclusivity doesn't stop there—with more accessible features like rubberized surfaces, even parents who use wheelchairs can become more involved in their child's play.

Denison's new playground will be all-inclusive and ADA-compliant with lots of activities for individuals of all abilities. The next closest similar playground is in Council Bluffs or Omaha.

One way to include all kids in a playground is through sensory playground equipment. Sensory play equipment incorporates the unique sensory processing needs of kids on the autism spectrum or with specific sensory needs, offering them the opportunity to play independently alongside others without getting overwhelmed by the noise and stimulation of a playground.

Kids on the autism spectrum may find it challenging to socialize and play with others. Denison's new playground design considers these needs. Some of the sensory play equipment will provide exciting sensory experiences for kids who need a lot of vestibular and proprioceptive input. Other equipment supports the kids with sensory processing disorders who might need a calming environment.

Bringing our community together with an inclusive playground has immense benefits on a social, physical, and emotional level. The city's goal is to have the new playground at Washington Park completed in August of 2024. The City of Denison and the Parks & Rec Board are working with an engineer to develop a master plan for all the parks in Denison. Estimates are \$1.3-\$1.5 million.

WESCO is proud to assist in the funding of this much-needed playground and looks forward to its completion soon.

CALLING ALL LANDLORDS

In October 2023, WESCO worked closely with one of its current landlords to create a concrete pad to assist in the transporting of a member who struggled with their mobility and needed a more sturdy area to get on and off the buses/van. WESCO's other landlords also helped to assist in making handicap-accessible modifications to other homes (walk-in showers, ramps into the home, concrete repairs, etc.) WESCO is always looking to grow numbers in the Residential Program and serve as many people as possible to provide future members with the opportunity to live an independent, happy lifestyle.

**"UNTIL SOMEONE HAS HAD THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH SOMEONE WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, THEY JUST WON'T UNDERSTAND."
- WESCO EMPLOYEE**



WESCO Industries’ wraparound support provides a multitude of programs to assist individuals with disabilities to live and grow in a safe, stable, permanent environment. The intent is to build on individual strengths to help our members achieve positive goals and improve well-being. Wraparound supports are individualized, with strategies that reflect the respective culture and preferences.

WRAPAROUND SUPPORT



Supported employment is competitive work in an integrated work setting in which members are working toward competitive work, consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interest, and informed choice.



**SUPPORTED
EMPLOYMENT**



Stepping Stones Transitional Living Center provides short term housing for an member coming out of a placement or hospitalization who needs to redevelop skills to be successful in the community with the focus of reintegrating into the community of their choice.



**TRANSITIONAL
LIVING**



This program is designed to provide day services to members in order to improve their physical/mental functioning, prevent deterioration in functioning, develop a member’s self-sufficiency, personal independence, and reduce inactivity/loneliness/isolation/social withdrawal.



**ADULT DAY
SERVICES**



Designed to give members a stronger level of independence even though they require a higher level of supervision, this service provides staff assistance for all aspects of residential life including, but not limited to: banking, cooking, shopping, support with health care, transportation, etc.



**DAILY SUPPORTED COMMUNITY
LIVING**



This service is designed to teach and assist members with a strong desire to be independent and who require minimal support. WESCO assists these members with banking, budgeting, and grocery shopping, as well as instructing and teaching them to utilize other natural supports in the community.



**HOURLY
SUPPORTED
COMMUNITY
LIVING**



Day Habilitation supports members with their life skills and community integration. The services are designed to enhance the members intellectual and cognitive functioning, language, communication, physical and emotional development as well as behavior management, self-direction and advocacy.



**DAY
HABILITATION**



Respite services are short-term, temporary care provided to a member in their home or outside their home. Respite is designed to give the primary caregiver(s) a break from their care giving duties.



**RESPITE &
GROUP RESPITE**

**"I'M SO GRATEFUL THIS JOB BECAME MY PURPOSE, MY PASSION AND PART OF MY IDENTITY."
-WESCO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL**



We work each day to create a world of inclusion, empower people and provide support for healthy communities. It's more than a career - it's a way to give back to others and the community. Join our movement and make a change for the better.

Giving A Boost



#WeAreWESCO

MAKING WAVES

The WAVE, (WESCO's Day Habilitation Program), members volunteered more than 1300 hours in Denison and the surrounding areas! Talk about giving back to the community!

INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCES

Adult Day Services, (NOVA), introduced a new interactive machine called Mobii which CARF (WESCO's accrediting body) gave high praise for utilizing. Designed by sensory technology company OM Interactive, the Mobii can be easily wheeled directly to groups of residents in communal areas or to individual members. Images can be projected onto a tabletop or the floor for larger groups and games. The Mobii is a small, self-contained portable projector that houses a wealth of rich and stimulating activities. The motion-activated, interactive tool uses images, games, quizzes, color, and music to evoke memories, stimulate conversation and encourage physical activity. The floor projection is ideal for those who can ambulate. For example, they can walk or wheel across a virtual nature trail, scattering leaves along the way. Non-ambulatory members can enjoy the same experience using their feet from a seated position.

TECHNOLOGY

Random fact: 15 out of 49 WESCO members surveyed by WESCO report using some form of assistive/adaptive technology.

FIND US ONLINE: WESCOIND.ORG



ANOTHER DOOR OPENS

In April 2023, WESCO celebrated the 1-year anniversary of the closure of a previous Residential Care Facility Program and the renovation and opening of 2 new 5-bed waiver homes! These homes are co-ed and are handicap accessible, giving us an opportunity to house those who need a home which fit their physical needs.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Fun fact: On average, a single staff member will read and audit over 10,000 narratives each month. That's a lot of reading! Combined, these 3 ladies also do all of WESCO's documentation training, and attends approximately 300 meetings annually - including those for intakes, service plans, and addendums. QA also makes sure that WESCO members complete the adequate paperwork needed for Medicaid reviews and Social Security.

THERAP CONNECT

In 2023, WESCO became part of the Therap Connect pilot project to be one of several Iowa providers to test out new technology used for documenting health outcomes. WESCO has been using Therap (a documentation, health tracking platform) since 2009.

DUCK FLOAT

WESCO Industries' first annual duck race, started with 805 ducks floating down the Boyer River and ended with a single rubber duck winning the race. The community member with the "lucky duck" as well as the Crawford County Fair Board were presented with checks at the Fair Show Ring of over \$4000 each. The monies received by the Crawford County Fair Board will be put towards a new show ring!

ACCREDITATION

In August 2023, WESCO received a 3-year accreditation (the highest level of accreditation possible) from the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). WESCO is proud to have not received a single recommendation from the survey, this accomplishment is achieved by only 3 percent of CARF surveys.

For over 57 years, CARF standards have continually evolved through collaboration with providers, consumers, payers, and other experts globally. By requiring CARF accreditation, third-party payers, referral sources, insurers, and government regulators demonstrate accountability to the public that services are provided only by organizations that are committed to providing quality services and have sound financial stewardship.

STEPPING STONES

WESCO's Transitional Living Program (Stepping Stones) has improved upon and implemented a workbook program that focuses on the mental health and substance abuse needs of the members in the program. This program is funded by Rolling Hills Mental Health Disability Services. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are one of the most critical aspects of long-term services and support for more than 160,000 Iowans. Each year, the Association recognizes exceptional DSPs during National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week. In 2023, one of WESCO's Stepping Stones DSPs received this prestigious award!

120+
Satisfied Employees

100% Member Satisfaction

HIGH PRAISE

This year one of the WESCO Employment Specialists was nominated for the 2023 Iowa APSE Professional Award (Association of People Supporting Employment First). This award recognizes a member for outstanding state-of-the-art practices and professional achievements in Employment First as a Job Coach, Job Developer, Employment Specialist, or others in the profession. The nominees are from all over the State of Iowa. Iowa APSE is an employment-first organization ensuring that there is competitive integrated employment and that there is an opportunity for employment for everyone.

NIGHT OWL

In early 2023, WESCO implemented its first Night Owl System in one of the 24-Hour Supported Community Living Homes. The use of this technology provides remote support that allows members to continue to receive the supervision they need, while at the same time promoting independence. This system consists of a series of sensors placed within different areas of the home, as well as personal "call buttons" the members can use to get into direct contact with a Night Owl Representative in the event of an emergency or crisis.



ON THE MOVE

In 2023, nursing assisted with 3,260 appointments in various specialties, such as, Chiropractic, Dental, Family medicine, Injection Care, Phlebotomy, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Psychiatry, Endocrinology, and many others

FUN RUN

WESCO's annual All-In-One Fun Run saw a little over 200 participants in 2023! All proceeds were donated to the construction of an all-accessible park in Denison.

26 businesses actively employ WESCO members.

116 members were helped in finding and maintaining employment.

73 are currently in their long-term jobs.

This was all made possible with only 5 staff members!



170+
Happy Members

ALL ACCESSIBLE PARK

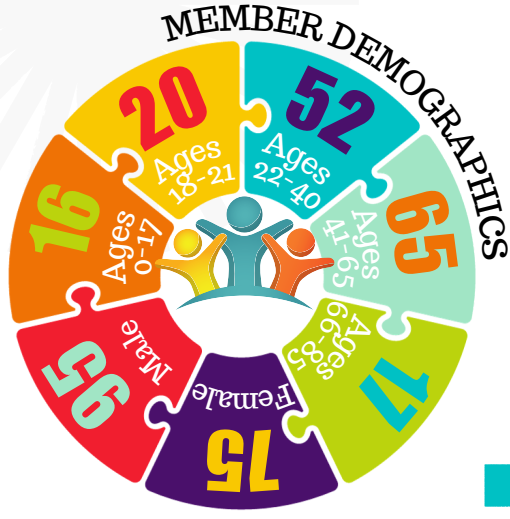
WESCO Industries together with WESCO Industries’ Foundation pledged to donate \$40,000 to to assist with Denison’s Accessible Park Project to be distributed between 2022 and 2023. WESCO looks forward to assisting with this project and feels it brings tremendous value to the members served by WESCO as well as Denison and surrounding communities. Playgrounds play an important role in children’s development and quality of life, and everyone deserves the opportunity to partake in play.

When discussing inclusion, the vast majority of people will immediately think of providing access to those with physical disabilities, but playgrounds like this challenge that notion and highlight the many aspects of inclusion. In addition to physical disabilities, inclusive play spaces should also address the needs of individuals with cognitive, communicative, social/emotional and sensory disabilities. WESCO is excited for this to come to fruition.

"IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK AMONGST SUCH STRONG/AMAZING PEOPLE. IT TAKES A SPECIAL SKILL/MINDSET TO COMPLETE THE TASKS THAT OUR STAFF DOES HERE EVERY DAY BUT, EACH DAY WE WORK AS A TEAM TO GET IT DONE. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT CHALLENGES WILL PRESENT THEMSELVES DAY TO DAY AND WE FACE THEM AND PUSH THROUGH THEM AS THEY COME.. TOGETHER IT FEELS GREAT TO BE A PART OF SUCH A GREAT TEAM.



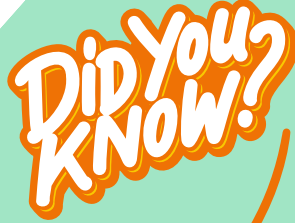
- BEST PLACE TO ORDER A CUSTOM CAKE
- BEST PLACE FOR LUNCH
- BEST PLACE FOR DESSERT
- BEST PLACE FOR FRESH DONUTS
- BEST BEST PLACE FOR COFFEE
- BEST LOCAL BAKERY
- BEST LOCAL CATERER
- BEST PLACE FOR A SANDWICH



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SCL?

What did you do for fun in 2023? Members of WESCO’s Supported Community Living Program (SCL) most likely have you beat on the “fun-o-meter.” SCL members went to the College World Series, two plays at the Orpheum Theatre, Applefest, tractor pulls, Clay and Crawford

County Fairs, shopping trips to Omaha and Sioux City, enjoyed the movies, Kings Pointe, and got together most Fridays to grab some lunch! This is just the tip of the iceberg for this group. When you take time to travel to 16 communities and five different counties in the state of Iowa regularly, you are destined to have adventures and make memories to last a lifetime.



WESCO'S NURSING DEPARTMENT IS COMPOSED OF 2 RNS, 1 LPN, AND 3 CNAS.

-WESCO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

THE BAKE SHOP

On the corner of Broadway and Main Street in Uptown Denison sits a small bakery, small from the outside maybe, but inside these four walls there is so much more than just small-town bakery. There is a thriving community coffee shop, a staple in so many small towns in Iowa, a training facility for members that WESCO Industries serves, learning new skills to pursue employment opportunities in the community, a cozy and warm meeting area for many small service groups and committees from the surrounding town and a bridge from one of the oldest businesses in Denison to the town at large.

The Bake Shop is a kitchen serving up handcrafted sandwiches and soups, a dizzying array of hot and cold coffee creations and recently a small retail section to shop for small on-the-go gifts. Outside sits a quaint patio. The patio was a combined project with the city of Denison to offer outdoor seating under bright red umbrellas, and pellet fired patio heaters for those chilly Fall days when Denisonites are not quite ready to surrender to the chilly afternoons. This accessible patio was a joint effort began by WESCO and funded through several community banks, organizations, and the WESCO Foundation. With seating, plants, and those bright red umbrellas, this patio project invites visitors to get out of their cars, explore Uptown Denison and, of course, spend money at the many local businesses. The patio is also a center piece to the new Hot Summer Nights event series that brings music, food and atmosphere to Uptown Denison.

The Bake Shop was awarded the Chamber and Development Council of Crawford County’s 2022 Emerging Leaders Award, it sits proudly atop a case filled with fresh baked pastries, donuts and cakes made by the staff each day. CDC leaders stated, “No downtown is complete without a proper coffee shop. For many people, coffee is a daily ritual that makes their day complete, or it’s an occasional special treat accompanying a day of shopping with friends. It turns a simple shopping trip into more of an experience and extends the time shoppers are spending in our core retail district.”

The Bake Shop is a perfect blend of a wonderful cup of coffee and inclusivity, employing people with many intellectual disabilities, preparing them for a variety of jobs in the community; currently 26 local businesses’ employ WESCO members. With the help of Bake Shop Staff and Employment Services staff these members do it all, from greeting customers to cleaning to taking orders. Here diversity is not just appreciated, it is celebrated, and the members have been helping out since day one. The Bake Shop has provided over 800 hours of employment to the members training within.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Respite Program Coordinator, Heidi Hansen, has been spending time in the area schools to better inform educators about the numerous waivers offered to those with disabilities. As a result, area educators are now inviting Heidi to meetings at the schools and have been working to sign the kiddos up for the waiver. Iowa currently has five waiver programs that serve children. All are 1915(c) HCBS waivers. Within broad Federal guidelines, States can develop home and community-based services waivers (HCBS Waivers) to meet the needs of people who prefer to get long-term care services and supports in their home or community. A Medicaid waiver is a provision which allows the federal government to waive rules that usually apply to the Medicaid Program, such as income level. The intention is to allow individual states to accomplish certain goals, such as reducing costs, expanding coverage, or improving care for certain target groups. Through these waivers, states can provide services that wouldn’t usually be covered by Medicaid. States are required to cover institutional care for eligible individuals but have more flexibility about coverage for home and community-based services waivers, and in some states, there are substantial waiting lists to receive those waiver services. This is why it is imperative to apply for waivers as soon as possible. WESCO are grateful to have educators in our area that are willing to take the extra care and attention needed to give our kiddos a head start in receiving services.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

WESCO’s Residential Program is in place to assist members in their homes who have functional limitations and need assistance with everyday activities. WESCO provides person centered care in their homes and communities in which they live. WESCO provides staff for each of these homes to give them the assistance they need to live as independently as possible in our community. These members are the root of WESCO Industries. While providing services to members and assisting them, they have been hands on and involved in our communities. WESCO's members take pride in the communities in which they live. They support our schools and athletic programs and volunteer to assist with events in the community - from the Tri City BBQ fest cleanup to community parade support. WESCO members love being a part of something, lending a helping hand and actively participating in events.

CONNECTTEAM

October 2023 marked the 1-year anniversary of WESCO implementing ConneCTeam which is a platform used for staff communication purposes and employee engagement. The simple app keeps staff connected and updated instantaneously.

"CONNECTTEAM ALLOWS US TO KEEP EACH OTHER UP TO DATE. I LOVE THAT MESSAGES CAN BE SENT TO EVERYONE AND RESPONSES ARE SEEN RIGHT AWAY!"
-WESCO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

On average, the Residential Department served 62 members over 2023.

WESCO's 13 residential homes are spread out across Denison to give members access to the community and allow them to utilize the many resources Denison has to offer.

Of the 13 residential homes, 6 are all male homes, 5 are all female, and 2 are co-ed.

WESCO homes are owned by 4 different landlords in which we work with closely to ensure all homes are made accessible to members and meet their needs.

WESCO is coming up on the 8th year operating Stepping Stones Transitional Living in Vail, Iowa.

STAYING BUSY

NOVA, (WESCO’s Adult Day Services Program) was busy and traveled to many towns including Clarian, Le Mars, Omaha, Sioux City, Onawa, Carroll, Dunlap, Manning, Lake View, Okoboji, Missouri Valley, and many more! NOVA has developed a new partnership by introducing volunteer opportunity for members to read to Trisha Boettger 1st grade class at St. Rose of Lima. NOVA is always looking for volunteer opportunities to make positive contributions to the community. NOVA offers many new activities within the Program to increase hand eye coordination and dexterity. The Program was fortunate enough to have many entities provide presentations to the members and were often visited by entities such as the Nature Center, ISU extension office, Crawford County Fire Department, Denison Police Department, community members who brought pets in for pet therapy and education, and many more. In 2023, NOVA started to offer weekend outings for more community involvement!

The program currently serves 26 members and is looking to expand to outside communities from all over the Region by including more transportation options!

Supported Employment
116 members served

Supported Community Living
77 members served

Respite
25 members served

Adult Day Services
26 members served

Day Habilitation
62 members served

Transitional Living
23 members served

Residential
66 members served

"THEY CAN'T TELL YOU WHEN YOU START THIS JOB THERE MAY COME A TIME WHERE YOU FIND YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES THAN WHEN YOU ARE WITH THE GENERAL POPULATION. BUT IT HAPPENS."
-WESCO INDUSTRIES
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Bill Bruce – President
Eric Skoog – Vice President
Craig Dozark – Secretary
Pam Soseman – Treasurer
Rick Thompson
Kim Fineran
Stephanie Hausman
Kara Webb
John Waite
Trevor Urich

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dave Wiges
Bernell Preul
Jeff Frehse
Pam Soseman
Terri Ford

WESCO is looking for more foundation members. Please contact Starla at 712-263-6141 or swebl@WESCOind.org

The BAKE SHOP
COFFEE BAKERY KITCHEN

The Bake Shop was awarded the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County's Emerging Leaders Award!

Collectively, members received over 800 hours of job skill training at The Bake Shop in 2023!

We would like to thank "Lauridsen Family Endowment" through the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Because of their donation, we were able to purchase new uniforms, supplies and provide transportation to our special Olympics Athletes!



Stepping Stones 2023
19 admissions
13 discharged
44 Referrals



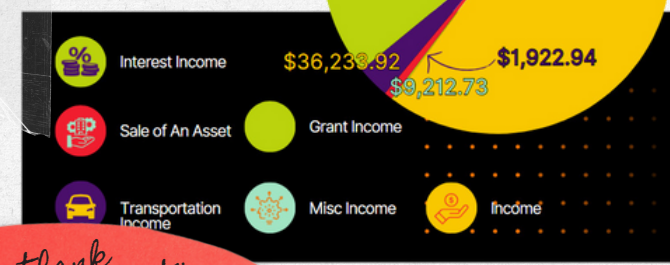
28 admissions
26 discharged
38 Referrals



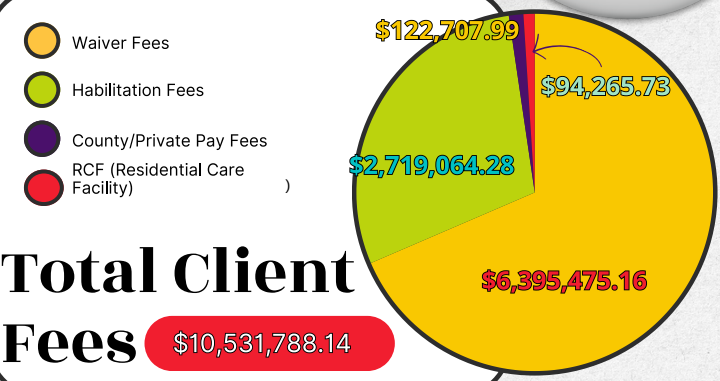
Woohoo!
9 out of 10 stakeholders are satisfied with WESCO Industries



FINANCIALS 2023
Total Revenues \$1,200,275.28



Total Client Fees \$10,531,788.14



In 2023, NOVA offered services 254 days out of the year. Throughout the year there was a total of 198 outings offered in town and 161 offered out of town.

**"SEEING SO MANY MEMBERS SUCCEED IN LIFE AND BEING ABLE TO TRANSITION BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY IS THE BEST PART OF MY JOB."
-WESCO DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL**

TYLER



WESCO is not only my biggest supporters, but they fought for me and my rights as well. WESCO taught me many life lessons and life skills. I was always able to get to work and they seem to have such a great intuition on wh they hire. I couldn't tell you any staff that worked that I didn't enjoy. My life definitely would be gravely difficult if not for WESCO. I am now able to live a successful life with my lovely girlfriend and work my amazing job due to the chance WESCO took in their endeavors to fight for my rights. I am now living with my girlfriend of nearly 3 years and we are currently looking for our own place. She deserves a huge shoutout as well for sticking by my side even during the darkest times. I work an amazing job, GXO Logistics, after earning employee of the month at my previous workplace, AMC Theaters. I was able to build up my resume a bit and made so many memories including meeting 'Alice freaking Cooper!' I have also built up my saving account and am going to work on getting a vehicle. So many of these things would have never been possible without WESCO! Thank you so much for everything and all of you have done.

"I AM NOW ABLE TO LIVE A SUCCESSFUL LIFE WITH MY LOVELY GIRLFRIEND AND WORK MY AMAZING JOB DUE TO THE CHANCE WESCO TOOK IN THEIR ENDEAVORS TO FIGHT FOR MY RIGHTS."

JACOB



WESCO has given me the opportunity for independence, to live and have experiences that I may not have had outside of WESCO in my home, at The WAVE and through my employment services. I can go to my staff to express any concerns where I can confide in staff and have guidance when it comes to managing emotions and using coping skills. This has helped me to not get upset when I normally would have. I have made so many memories that I will never forget. Specifically, being a part of Special Olympics, going to hockey games in Sioux City, boat rides in Okoboji, working with the animals during pet therapy, and train rides in Boone. I really enjoy being a part of volunteering at The WAVE. "Meals on Wheels" makes me feel good about the opportunity to be able to help others out. Culinary at The WAVE also has helped me to learn more about cooking. My latest memory is when I went to Disney World! Disney had been a lifelong dream of mine and it was the best experience I've ever had in my life. I was surprised that I was not anxious about the trip or the arrangements as staff completed these things for me, which I appreciated. I was also able to fill another life-long dream of mine: meeting Mickey Mouse! I got to take pictures with some of my other favorite characters as well. I was even able to go to Daytona Beach and Daytona Speedway! This was my favorite part of the trip. I loved being able to hear about the history of the track and to see it for myself. I was able to watch some of the racers practice! If it wasn't for the help of WESCO, I would likely have never been able to check so many things off my dreams list".

Did You Know?

SOME OF WESCO'S MEMBERS HAVE PUBLISHED POEMS, RECORDED MUSIC ALBUMS, AND HAVE EVEN CREATED ANIMATION FOR POPULAR YOUTUBERS?

ANTHONY

"...IF I DID NOT HAVE WESCO IN MY CORNER, I WOULD BE IN A BAD PLACE, USING DRUGS AND HOMELESS."

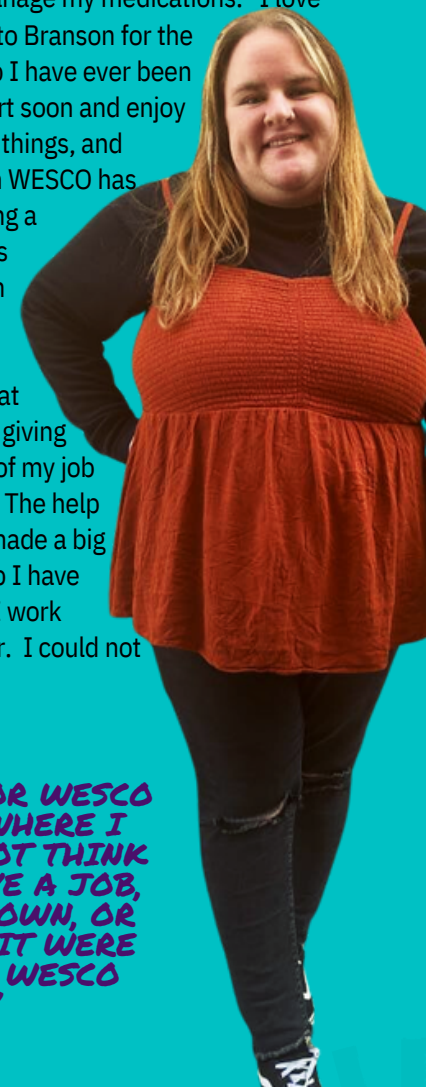
WESCO has saved my life. Because, if I did not have WESCO in my corner, I would be in a bad place, using drugs and homeless. This past year, I was able to move out into my own apartment through the help of WESCO and the staff who have worked with me to help me get where I am. WESCO has helped me with job skills and maintaining my employment. I work at HyVee in the kitchen and do catering jobs. I like the people I work with and Mark is a great manager and support for me. I am very grateful for the services that I receive through WESCO.



ABBY

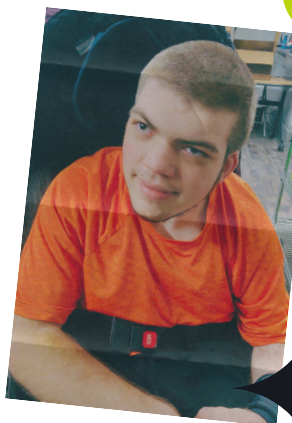
I have been with WESCO for 7 years. I was in WESCO's residential program for about 5 years and during that time, with the help of staff, was able to learn skills that have helped me to be able to move into my own apartment. Staff have taught me how to cook, clean, budget my money, and manage my medications. I love going on trips and recently went to Branson for the first time, which was the best trip I have ever been on. I am going to a *Hinder* concert soon and enjoy going to plays, experiencing new things, and meeting new friends. All of which WESCO has helped me with. When I am having a hard day, WESCO staff are always there to talk and help me through things. Through WESCO, I have also obtained employment and a job that I absolutely love! I work at Silveridge as a dietary aid. I love giving back to others and the best part of my job is that I get to meet new people. The help from WESCO's job coaches has made a big impact on me, and with their help I have been successful. I love the staff I work with and my program coordinator. I could not think of better staff for me.

"IF IT WERE NOT FOR WESCO I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE. I DO NOT THINK THAT I WOULD HAVE A JOB, BE LIVING ON MY OWN, OR EVEN BE ALIVE IF IT WERE NOT FOR WESCO. WESCO SAVED ME."



COLLINS CORNER

When in 10th grade, Collin took a class called Digital Media, (often referred to as Tiger Vision), at Carroll Community School District in Carroll, Iowa. His current Special Education teacher, Denise Ragaller, collaborated with several other teachers in the school regarding things Collin could do. From this came the idea of "Collin's Corner" - a weekly addition to Tiger Vision where Collin interviews different people involved with Carroll Schools. This includes students, athletes, speech and chorus participants, new staff, coaches, teachers, director of transportation, even Jeff Blankman for Carroll Broadcasting. One of Collin's favorite parts is "joke time". Collin's Corner is typically once a week. Views vary from 30ish to 50ish to 100+ on Facebook. It can also be found on Tiger Vision's Twitter and Instagram accounts.



WESCO's Residential Program employs 63 employees.

SCL and Respite combined have 12 employees.

The WAVE had an average of 35 members attend daily.

WESCO members prefer Android phones over Apple.

FALL FEST

A new tradition began a couple years ago for one of WESCO's all male homes. This home is passionate about everything that comes with the fall season: hayrack rides, barbeques and football. This home invites all other WESCO homes to celebrate the fall season while they cook up enough grub for all. WESCO's Fall Fest hosts are also gracious enough to allow several WESCO members to invite some family to attend the festivities and ride on the hay racks with them. If they stay long enough, those at Fall Fest will find themselves roasting smores by a campfire, watching a movie outside, playing with some friendly pets, listening to some tunes, and generally enjoying the outdoors!





WESCO was voted “Best Local Charity” and finished in the top three of the “Best Place to Work” in Crawford County’s Best of 2023!

NEW MCO

WESCO has signed with a 3rd MCO and now accepts Molina, Wellpoint (formerly known as Amerigroup), and Iowa Total Care.

I BELIEVE I CAN FLY

Did you know that several WESCO members have had the opportunity to do activities such as fly in a plane?! Over the last year, the number of opportunities provided to the members has grown significantly. WESCO's members have been able to experience things such as a plane ride, hayrack rides, semi rides, meeting politicians, shopping, going out to eat, going to the casino, playing bingo, attending musicals, plays, museums, vendor fairs, sporting events and SO MUCH MORE!! WESCO Staff work closely with people in the community and its many resources to ensure members experience all the exciting things in life.

1300+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

In 2023 WESCO's Day Habilitation Program, The WAVE, volunteered doing Meals On Wheels five days a week, began volunteering every Tuesday at CC Happy Cats, watered flowers and pulled weeds at The Norelius library (and made baked goods for the library's bake sale), offered a Thanksgiving dinner for all WESCO clients and staff (serving 115 people), and continued to make lunch for those that attend the program as well as their peers at The NOVA.

If that wasn't enough, The WAVE, raised over \$1500 during Christmas, and donated it to The Crawford County Cinema, Crawford County Happy Cats and the Harlie & Martha Watkins benefit. They also continued to do dance class with HardCor Performing Arts, participated in a basketball clinic with the Denison High School girls' basketball team and even found the time to go on many out-of-town outings! The WAVE members often found themselves at hockey games, basketball games, baseball games, Okoboji, Kings Pointe, Boone train rides, pumpkin patches, shopping trips, going out to eat and much more!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Athletes are the heart of Special Olympics. WESCO's athletes are children and adults with disabilities from all around the area. They are finding success, joy and friendship when participating in the games. They're also having lots of fun! Currently, WESCO has 12 members who placed 1st in their events at Districts and will be going on to attend the Mid-Winter Tournament in Iowa City March 8th-9th, 2024. WESCO also had five 2nd place finishes and three 3rd place finishes at Districts in Basketball, Track & Field, Bowling and Bocce!



"I MISS ALL Y'ALL ALREADY! EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU ARE A BIG REASON WHY I AM WHERE I AM TODAY AND I LOVE YOU ALL. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE KIND WORDS AND WISHES AND FOR LISTENING!"

-FORMER STEPPING STONES MEMBER



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEIDRA BROWN
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DONNA SCHURKE
FINANCE DIRECTOR



BRITTANY WEBB
HR DIRECTOR



HEATHER STAPLETON
PROGRAM MANAGER



KATIE SCHURKE
PROGRAM MANAGER

OUR TEAM

WESCO HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH AN EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP TEAM. WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING SERVICES THAT EMPOWER AND SUPPORT THE STRENGTHS AND ABILITIES OF THE MEMBERS WESCO SERVES.



GINA HANSEN
QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR



HEIDI HANSEN
SUPPORTED COMMUNITY LIVING/ RESPITE COORDINATOR



TARA TRIERWEILER
TRANSITIONAL LIVING COORDINATOR



MARIA LOPEZ
NURSING SUPERVISOR/RN



AUBREY SCHOLTY
DAY HABILITATION COORDINATOR



KARA FLUREY
ADULT DAY SERVICES COORDINATOR



SAM HOTTENDORF
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR



MACKENZIE KOCK
RESIDENTIAL COORDINATOR



MEGAN STERK
RESIDENTIAL COORDINATOR



GRACE WELLER
RESIDENTIAL COORDINATOR



BROOKE HILLHOUSE
RESIDENTIAL COORDINATOR



TRACY SIMONSEN
RESIDENTIAL COORDINATOR



RESPITE ENJOYED MANY VISITS FROM PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS! DURING THEIR TRAVELS TO OTHER COMMUNITIES, THEY VISITED PLACES LIKE THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO, OMAHA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, WE ROCK THE SPECTRUM AUTISM GYM, DENISON AQUATIC CENTER, AND SPLASH PADS IN LAKE VIEW AND DOW CITY.

RESPITE

WESCO's Adult Respite and Child Respite Program is designed to offer relief to parents and caregivers in a group environment. Group Respite is a home-like setting that focuses on peer socialization, safety in the community and at home, simple cooking, and lots of laughs.

This program provides relief for those who are caring for family members who might otherwise require permanent placement in a facility outside of the home. These programs provide a break for caregivers of children and adults with disabilities both in and outside of their homes. This is available on an individual basis as well as in a group setting and also is offered on nights and weekends.

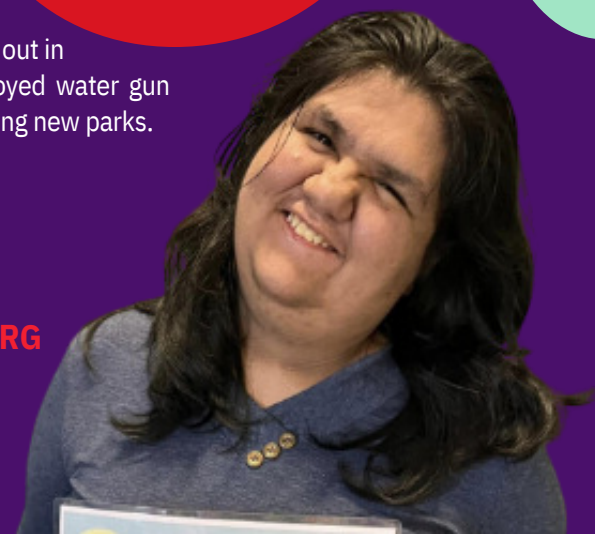
In 2023, Fifth Avenue Fun Center, (Respite Program) took many trips and enjoyed being out in the sun! When they weren't traveling to their next adventure, Respite members enjoyed water gun fights, playing with sidewalk chalk, arts and crafts, going out for ice cream, and discovering new parks.

Respite kids built a tomato planter at the beginning of summer and were thrilled when tomatoes grew! Next year they plan on planting a variety of fruits and vegies!



SCAN ME

LEARN MORE
[@WESCOIND.ORG](https://www.wescoind.org)



Fundraising Events



ALL-IN-ONE FUN RUN

WESCO's Annual Disability Awareness Walk (All-In-One Fun Run) is always the same weekend as The Tri-City BBQ Fest in Denison, IA. Participants can run, walk, or wheel their way through this 5K designed for all abilities and all ages! Pets are always a welcomed addition and love to participate as much as their humans. The run route takes participants throughout the town of Denison, where they meet 6 different stations along the way. The first station is called Candy Dash! The station is Candyland themed with pools of candies to grab and snack on for later! Next, the runners come to the Bubble Station where many get lost in the huge mounds of foam and bubbles! From there, they journey through the Color Station where, you guessed it, they get doused with many different colored powder! Not too much further down the road, is where participants can escape the outside elements and spend some time in the Neon Glow Tent! Runners beat drums while getting splattered with neon glow paint. The dark tent and black lights make everyone and everything glow! Before leaving the tent, most grab a glow stick and scurry to the Slime Station. WESCO's volunteers are ready to meet participants with squirt guns full of slime...some runners even like to swim in the pools filled with the ooey goey colored slime. Last but not least, runners try to wash some of the previous stations off with the Water Frenzy Station! You guessed it, this last station has pools filled with water, squirt guns ready for use, and some rubber ducks for added measure!



DUCK FLOAT

Duck races have become a beloved and quirky form of entertainment that captivates both young and old alike. Picture a stream filled with brightly-colored rubber ducks floating downstream, racing against each other in a lighthearted competition. It's a sight that's sure to bring a smile to anyone's face. As ducks float downstream during the race, they embark on a fascinating journey. Some rubber ducks travel the entire distance, while others get stuck on sandbars or trees. This is why volunteers follow the ducks down the Boyer River. Volunteers also set up a large net at the end of the race to catch them all! The climax of a duck race is the grand finale, where the winning duck crosses the finish line and claims victory. This moment is met with cheers and applause from the spectators, celebrating the skill and luck of the victorious duck.

NOT QUITE BROTHERS

WESCO was fortunate enough to host Central Iowa's fastest growing cover band to perform in Denison's historic Donna Reed Theatre! This 70-80's Arena Rock cover band has quickly become known for their huge sound, eclectic setlist and ability to enhance any event. Fans of all ages agree... "it feels like I am watching the band they are covering in their heyday". Crawford County Cattlemen served up a delicious meal before the concert began while WESCO's Bake Shop was open for cocktails during the entire event. The theatre floor was full and memories were made by many. Many who attended are now huge fans of the band and continually request them back at the theatre!

EMPOWER THEIR FUTURE

Please consider the WESCO Foundation when offering a tax-deductible contribution. WESCO Industries relies on contributions to assist us in our mission of enhancing opportunities and activities for members served by WESCO Industries. Please consider making your donation in person or online. Your contribution can be a meaningful way to remember a loved one or to support those currently being served at one of WESCO's many programs. Whether you are married, single, raising a family, or planning for retirement, your future and the future of those you care most about will be a reflection of the plan you make today. The best plans balance what you strive to accomplish for yourself, your family, and your charitable interests through your overall estate and financial plans. Besides money donations, there are other options. A will is the most obvious method of distributing an estate, but it can also be a vehicle for making thoughtful gifts. After providing for the needs of loved ones, you may choose one of several ways to benefit organizations and institutions, such as WESCO, that you wish to support. A simple amendment or revision can underscore your commitment with a gift of a dollar amount, a specific property, a percentage of your estate, or what is left after remembering your loved ones. Or you may wish to name one or more charitable recipients as contingent beneficiaries in the event that your heirs do not survive you. Other ways of benefiting charitable organizations through estate planning include but are not limited to: Revocable Living Trusts, Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts, Charitable Remainder Unitrusts, Gift Annuity Agreements, Charitable Lead Trusts. For advice and assistance in planning your estate or establishing a charitable giving plan, we recommend that you contact your attorney or professional advisor. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible. Together we can make a difference! WESCO Industries is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, so your monetary gift may qualify for tax deductions.

Thank you for your interest in WESCO Industries. It's people like you who can make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. If you would like to contribute in any way or would like more information, please contact:

WESCO Industries
415 S 11th St.
P.O. Box 340
Denison, IA 51442
Phone:(712) 263-6141

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VISIONARIES



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