



Janet feeds the animals at The Wilderz at Pocono Wildlife

Annual Impact Report

via
of the Lehigh Valley

2024

A Message from Via's LEADERSHIP

Dear Via Friends,

We are thrilled to share with you some of the many positives that made 2024 one of the strongest years in Via's history. The list of superlatives is long, and we are excited to share a few of them with you.

Camp Via 2024 saw the highest attendance since its inception, with 46 teens participating. This remarkable turnout reflects the growing impact and reach of our services.

We are incredibly proud to have been named a **Top Workplace** by The Morning Call for the second consecutive year. This recognition underscores the energy and passion of what we believe is one of the top employee teams in our region.



As the **only non-profit** to earn this distinction in the mid-sized companies category, **Via Values** have proven to be at the forefront of everything we do. Receiving this recognition is particularly rewarding as it is based on feedback provided by our employees.



Via received a **Top Workplaces** designation in 2024, marking two consecutive years that we've been honored.

The number of individuals who used our services rose slightly as we stretch ever closer to pre-pandemic numbers.

Staff development, particularly training, continues to be one of Via's top priorities. We firmly believe that investing in and providing high quality training to employees equips them with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to navigate challenges and provide the highest standard of service. To that end, Via and Lehigh Children's Academy staff logged a total of 5,932 hours of training in 2024!

Thanks to your generous support, we were able to make various enhancements to both design and safety features at our locations, including

Adult Training Services in Allentown, Lehigh Children's Academy in Macungie, and our flagship location in Bethlehem.

Notably, we resurfaced the parking lot at Via's Spruce Street site to ensure the safety of participants, visitors, and staff. Additionally, we expanded our fleet of wheelchair-accessible transport vehicles, including three vans dedicated to the Kristi Hanawalt Life Skills Center in Allentown.

We are ever grateful for your continued support and look forward to achieving even greater milestones together in the coming year.

Jerry Somers, Board Chair

Lisa Walkiewicz, President & CEO

Elevating Excellence

Vicky brings a spark to Reynolds & Reynolds, Inc.



Reynolds & Reynolds Electronics needed to power up. Specializing in back-up power supplies for elevators, the Bethlehem-based business was growing substantially – so much so that their workforce was getting bogged down.

Production Assembler Brad recalls coming in on the weekends to help put together circuit boards, so he would be ready for the coming week.

That's when Reynolds & Reynolds started working with Via – a decision that led to increased productivity and a decrease in the time it takes to fulfill orders.

"If it wasn't for what their team does, it would be challenging to meet our production demands," said Production Manager Jason, referring to the Via team of three employees.

Initially, Reynolds & Reynolds brought in one employee as part of Via's Small Group Employment services.

Via worked to find an individual with the right skills to meet Reynolds & Reynolds' needs and assist with their workload. When Via Program Coordinator Adrianna Conners thought of someone to take on this new job, Vicky Albuquerque was at the top of her list.

Adrianna says, "Vicky is my go-to when I think of someone to assign to a new job, because she excels at learning new tasks, is reliable, and is always willing to try new things."

Now the Reynolds & Reynolds team includes three Via employees, along with a Via job coach.

Vicky never expected to be assembling electronics components, but she's willing to help wherever she is needed, especially if it means learning something new.

One of the most valuable tasks she helps complete is assembling circuit boards. Vicky pre-seats some of the components on the board so Assembler Kelly can focus on building complex electronic components.

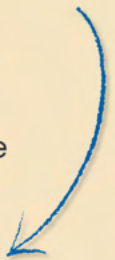
"When Vicky's pre-loading the boards for me, it allows me to focus on other tasks I need to complete. I'm so grateful for her help," Kelly said.



Vicky and her coworkers, Jason and Joy, at Reynolds & Reynolds Electronics.

Quality control is something that Vicky helps with as well.

"Vicky can identify if a part isn't up to standard and tells us right away. Her keen eye and work ethic are invaluable to our team," Jason explained.



Vicky works as a cashier at craft fairs with Via.

Vicky agrees that her favorite part of being at Via and working various jobs is "new experiences." When she's not at Reynolds & Reynolds, she packs samples at Cigars International and works with Via's Business and Industrial Services providing packaging and assembly work for Lehigh Valley businesses.

"I think everyone should work with Via," said Reynolds & Reynolds Shipping and Receiving Associate Joy. Via employees put technical manuals in bags and securely box up batteries for Joy so she can ship them out at a moment's notice with the elevator components.

"Via employees can do anything. They're a great asset and part of the team."



Staff *Spotlight*



A chance weekend job leads to a fulfilling career for Director of Employment and Student Services Alivia Sinko

It took Alivia Sinko a couple of college classes to realize what career path she wanted to follow. As an undecided major at East Stroudsburg University, she was under pressure to choose a future focus.

A friend changed her life by sharing the rewarding things she did at a weekend job supporting people with disabilities and suggested that Alivia apply. What started as a way for Alivia to pay for college quickly turned into her passion.

That weekend job as a direct support professional was revolutionary: she felt an immediate affinity for the people she was supporting and realized the difference she made in their lives. Her journey at Via began with an interview when she was a senior in college, and she was hired as a career coach under the Via Student Work Experience program.

As a career coach, Alivia guided students in their transition from high school to work, a process she found deeply rewarding.

Reflecting on her own personal experiences of that same transition fueled her dedication. Alivia enjoyed helping students identify their strengths and explore their interests. She quickly realized that this was more than just a job; it was her calling.

Over the years, Alivia's supervisors recognized her enthusiasm and dedication, leading to several promotions. Ultimately, she became the Director of Employment where she had started nine years earlier.

In this capacity, Alivia discovered a new joy - mentoring employees. Knowing she played a part in their professional development gave her a sense of satisfaction and purpose.



What's next for Alivia?

Alivia was accepted to the ANCOR Leadership Academy, an exclusive two-year program designed to nurture emerging leaders in the disability support space.

Alivia's boundless enthusiasm shines through in everything she does. She's eagerly looking forward to learning new skills, using them to uplift those she supports, and spreading her positive energy to inspire her team.



Camp Via

Alivia's involvement as Director of Camp Via continues to be a highlight. This innovative summer camp helps teenagers prepare for transition to the workforce, while engaging in fun activities with their peers. In 2024, we had a record 46 Camp Via participants.



Sponsor Camp Via

Donor Spotlight

Pat & Sloane Keenan



When Pat and Sloane Keenan would see an employee with disabilities working at a local grocery store or restaurant, they couldn't help but notice how productive and happy the individual seemed. They quietly wondered how these opportunities came about. Once the Keenans learned more about the work Via does, "it became very clear that those opportunities didn't happen by accident. They take a lot of work and resources," noted Pat.

The Keenans have been supporters of Via since 2010. "Sloane and I were exposed to Via's work during a previous partnership with the Via Marathon. We began receiving more communications from Via and we started to get a feel for the great work being done helping people with disabilities. We did a little research and found that Via is very efficient with its finances in working toward their mission of helping children and adults reach their full potential," Pat shared. "It seemed like a great place for us to try to help in a small way."

"Anytime we see people helping each other for no other reason than just to help, it inspires us. Helping others is contagious. It can be as simple as helping someone who is out of gas on the side of the road or as big as what Via does in impacting people's lives," the couple shared.

When asked why being philanthropic is important to them, the Keenans respond, "While we've worked hard in life, we never lose sight of the fact that we've had a lot of opportunities that others haven't. From strong family and good health to education and career opportunities, we've been extremely fortunate. We do our best to support organizations that are creating opportunities for people who might not otherwise get them."

Via is tremendously grateful to Pat and Sloane for their many years of generous support and dedication to our mission.

Via Services that Resonate Most with the Keenans:

Employment training, job placement, and support after a job is secured to ensure success.



Your support makes a REAL difference!

Ways to support Via's Mission:

Individual Donations

Every donation, large or small, helps us continue our work. You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift to provide ongoing support.

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program

If you own a business in Pennsylvania, you can participate in the EITC program, allowing you to direct your tax dollars to support Via's educational initiatives, Lehigh Children's Academy and Camp Via.

Grants

Via welcomes and depends upon grants from foundations and other organizations. Your grant can help fund special projects or provide general support for our programs.

Estate Planning

Consider including Via in your estate planning. Planned gifts, such as bequests or charitable trusts, ensure that your legacy lives on and continues to help individuals with disabilities lead fulfilling lives.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Many companies offer matching gift programs that can double or even triple your donations! Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program and how you can participate.

Corporate Sponsorships

Partner with us through corporate sponsorships to fund something specific – maybe a week of Camp Via activities or a team of employees in our small group employment program – or for general support.



Walgreens' local warehouse team donated \$20,000 to Via this past year.



Connect

with Julie Scheck, Director of Development and Communications
J.Scheck@ViaNet.org | 610-317-8000 x425

People served by Via *programs*

Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)

268

inquisitive children
at Lehigh Children's
Academy



30

local non-profits
supported by our
Community
Connections team



154

people served
through our
Community
Employment
Department



144

children helped
through Early
Intervention
services



92

people employed
through Vocational
Training and Small
Group Employment
Services



46

teens hosted at
Camp Via



92

adults supported
through
Community
Mentoring and Life
Skills Development



2024 Financials

REVENUES

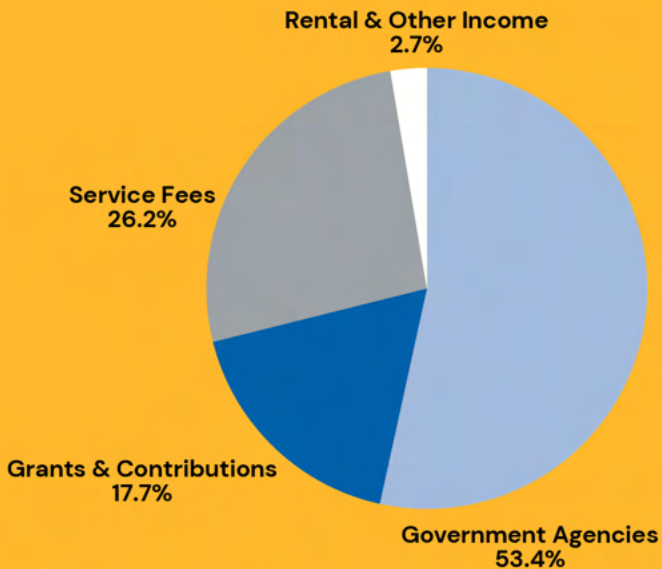
Fees From Government Agencies <i>(Including Medicaid, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation)</i>	\$5,825,945
Rental & Other Income	\$289,250
Grants, Contributions & Allocations	\$1,926,837
Fees For Service	\$2,861,790
TOTAL	\$10,903,822

EXPENSES & DEDUCTIONS

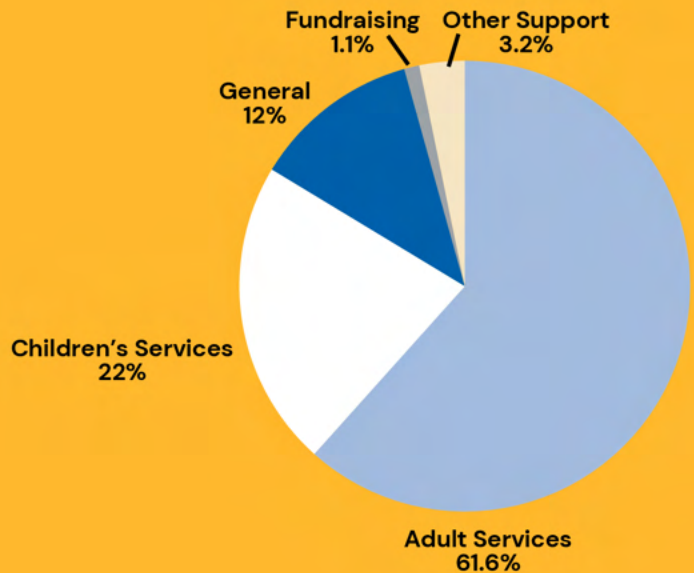
Adult Services	\$6,658,853
Children's Services	\$2,379,141
Management & General	\$1,298,368
Other Support	\$350,000
Fundraising	\$117,212
TOTAL	\$10,803,574



Revenues Summary



Expenses Summary



Thank you to our *donors*



Via Leadership Team

Lisa Walkiewicz	President & Chief Executive Officer
Denise Pioli	Chief Services Officer
Luke Schaeffer	Chief Financial Officer
Jenna Trach	Vice President, Human Resources
Julie Scheck	Director, Development & Communications

Board of Directors

Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.

BOARD OFFICERS

Jerry Somers	Chair, Community Advocate
Sharon Geroulo	Vice Chair, Truist
Jeremy Sestito	Treasurer, OraSure Technologies
Graig Schultz	Secretary, Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba, P.C.

BOARD MEMBERS

Vicki Doulé	Capital Blue Cross
Nakia Flowers	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
Katie Jeanes	Securitas Security USA
Michael Keller	Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.
Andrew Krohn	Bangor Area School District
Matthew McClinnis	Victaulic



Via Foundation, Inc.

BOARD OFFICERS

Brian Cook	Chair, Peoples Security Bank & Trust
Jerry Somers	Treasurer/Secretary, Community Advocate

BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Lisicky	Morgan Stanley
Chrystal Schardt	Carbon & Water Group
Lisa Somers	Janney Montgomery Scott



Serving the Community since 1952

336 W. Spruce Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-317-8000

 ViaNet.org
 Via@ViaNet.org
   [@ViaoftheLehighValley](https://www.linkedin.com/company/viaofthelehighvalley)



Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities like autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome. The mission of the Via Foundation, Inc. is to provide resources to grow and sustain services provided by Via of the Lehigh Valley.

Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. and Via Foundation are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations registered in the state of Pennsylvania. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.