SERVICES

CCI PROVIDES

Day Habilitation...
creating new and better ways
to help people become more
engaged and reach their
maximum potential

Employment Services...
operates on a simple belief
that everyone who wants to be
employed is employable. We
are able to successfully match
candidates with a position at
local companies

Life Skills...
a key part of making people more
self-sufficient and instills feelings
of empowerment and an “I can
do it myself” attitude

Elder Care...
provides a full program of
individually-focused activities
designed to promote health,
physical well-being, and self-
estem that allow seniors to
continue to explore their interests

High School Transition/
Pre-employment Services
(Pre-ETS)... provides individualized services
and a robust job-readiness
curriculum to match each
student’s unique abilities,
interests, and goals

Individual Support...
provides one-to-one
specialized supports,
services, and activities
that incorporate a range
of individually-tailored
therapies and activities
recommended by our
specialists

Transportation...
offers daily rides to and from
our day programs, an outing
to a bank, or even a group
trip to the park

Our mission is to provide life-enriching
services that provide optimal independence
for people with disabilities.

CCI’s extraordinary team supports each person in
reaching their potential through goal-driven services
and community partnerships. Our vision is to be a
thriving, unified organization in which all people are
active, involved and empowered.

Community Connections is Dedicated to Creating
Opportunities for People with Disabilities.

We’ve done that for 33 years through a team of over 325 caring, compassionate
individuals, many of whom have worked here for decades. Through their dedication,
Community Connections has grown from just two locations to eight locations all over
the SouthCoast, South Shore and Cape Cod. We currently serve over 750 individuals
and have served thousands of people over the years.

Our Employment Services Program is certified at the highest level by the Massachusetts
Department of Developmental Services Office of Quality Enhancement.
Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make. Every so often the thought crosses my mind that perhaps our agency would be better served if we went by a different, more descriptive name. Admittedly this usually happens right after I am asked “So, what does Community Connections (CCI) do anyway?” I am genuinely surprised that more people do not know more about us and the great work we do. It is times like this that I find myself wishing that our name wasn’t so, I don’t know, generic.

However, as I reflect back on this past year I am reminded of the daily impact our members and staff have on the communities we operate in and the connections that we have made. It starts with our Day Habilitation programs which, on a daily basis, connect with great organizations such as Meals on Wheels, local food pantries, neighborhood animal shelters, and other civic groups such as Kiwanis Clubs. Some of their proudest outings are showing their appreciation of our first responders, the police and fire departments in their community.

Then there is our Employment Services program. Working directly with local employers, we are able to help them solve some of their staffing issues while providing work opportunities for our members who are eager to feel the pride and sense of accomplishment of holding a real job. In this past fiscal year, we supported 341 members who worked at over 100 business locations ranging from just South of Boston all the way down the South Shore, the South Coast and Cape Cod. In addition, we work closely with local school systems through our Pre Employment Transition Services to give students still enrolled at the high school level a head start getting into the job market.

Finally, our transportation program, with our recognizable fleet of over 100 white vans, makes this all possible by providing the means to transport our clients in and around our communities.

I am also proud to point out that many of our staff are also very active in their respective local communities, serving on various boards and volunteering their time at many other non-profit service organizations.

In the following pages you will read more stories of the impact we made in fiscal year 2018 and examples of how CCI members are making a real difference in our communities. Perhaps you or your local community benefited from our programs at some point. I hope so.

Could we do a better job getting the word out about who we are and what we do? Sure. But would we be better off if we went by a different name? I don’t think so. At our core, we are all about forging Connections in the Community so that our members and our communities are both enriched as a result.

The next time you are out and about in your community, please look for us. Chances are you will find us doing good and making a difference. Community Connections. In retrospect, I think the name suits us perfectly!

With gratitude,

Dave Botting
A caring and thoughtful employee, Liz gives 100% to ensure her clients are engaged and involved in the services they receive. She works hard to schedule outings that are appropriate for each member of the group and has creatively devised programming to engage her clients and advance the attainment of their goals. Working with a high need Life Skills group, she ensures they spend time out in the community on a regular basis and has made working on their goals fun! Her calm demeanor is reassuring to those she works with, as anyone who has worked with her can attest to. Liz is well liked by all those who attend the program as well as families and coworkers. She comes to work each day with a smile and folks look forward to seeing her.

Liz is always the first to volunteer her time at the program, especially regarding the agency’s annual Walkathon. Liz is a driven person who takes her responsibilities and the safety of those we serve, very seriously, and it shows in all that she does. We are fortunate to have her as a member of the Mashpee Day Center team and an employee of CCI.

Congratulations Liz, we appreciate all that you do!
Amanda Dillon-Abrantes, Case Manager at FHLS, continues to demonstrate on a daily basis that she is an exemplary employee. She consistently goes above and beyond, particularly when advocating for the consumers who receive services at CCI.

Over this past year, Amanda has assisted a consumer with many needs and requests by advocating with DDS for change. As a result, this individual now has a better handle on her finances and budgeting, has acquired a new television and a Keurig coffee maker for her home, and has been regularly going for pedicures to address her nail care/podiatry needs.

Amanda has a calming effect on our consumers who demonstrate challenging behaviors and works very well with diffusing interfering behaviors. As a result of tea time with Amanda, one of our clients is more consistently engaging in community access.

Amanda also schedules a small group picnic on occasion to reinforce improvement in areas of attendance and goals.

Amanda’s Manager, Maria Pavao, can depend on her to fill the gaps when she is away, ensuring the program runs smoothly and that concerns are dealt with in a timely manner, and that our consumers’ well-being is a top priority.

Amanda has worked for CCI since May of 2000 – essentially her entire adult life. Thank you, Amanda, for being such a wonderful role model and engaged, dedicated employee. Congratulations!
Sergio Balegno was first involved with Community Connections, Inc. as a Board Member about 25 years ago. His then Marketing firm, Morse Balegno Advertising, was instrumental in creating the “face” of Community Connections by designing our CCI logo, affectionately now known as “The CCI guy.” The symbol is an inverted C, a regular C with an I with a dot inserted in the middle. This cleaver design had endured over time, proudly donned on all of CCI’s Marketing materials, promotional gear and signage.

Today, CCI is so grateful to have the Balegno family once again fully engaged in the organization. Sergio’s son Sam attends they South Yarmouth program and his wife Lisa, along with his whole family is very supportive. Sergio is the true definition of giving of his own “time, talent and treasure”. He has rejoined the Board of Directors and has taken a very active role as the Vice Chairman. He has lent his expertise in marketing, fundraising, and business development to the board subcommittee for Fund Development and is at almost every CCI function. He delivered Christmas gifts to several programs last winter, donated IPads to a program and has hosted a gathering at his own home with his family and friends to spread the word about the great work of CCI.

We thank Sergio and his whole family for their dedication, lifelong volunteerism, support and advice.

Cardi’s Furniture is honored as Community Connections Inc.’s Employer Partner this year, nominated by an employment specialist, Sherilyn Benedetti.

Cardi’s Furniture employs Community Connections Inc. clients and they are dedicated to employing people with disabilities. From the first interview our client had, the staff at Cardi’s were welcoming and made our client’s comfort a priority. During the interview, Executive Director of Operations Ed Diorio said, “We understand that everyone learns and works differently, but what’s more important is how much heart you put into your work.” Our client has been very successful as an employee at Cardi’s furniture and was recently offered additional offers. Since then, Cardi’s Furniture has hired another CCI client and has a standing offer of additional part-time job opportunities to any other clients.

Cardi’s Furniture stands out as an example to other businesses of being a company that is patient, generous and committed to hiring people with disabilities. We are thankful for their continued support.
Marissa Richard is the recipient of our Self Determination Award. Marissa was nominated by her employment specialist, Jewels Dupras.

Marissa has shown amazing self determination in her life this year. She has taken control of her health and wellness and professionally has excelled at her job. She was hired at McDonald’s on President Ave. in Fall River in October 2016 for a cleaning position. Soon after she began working, the managers and staff at McDonald’s noticed how well Marissa worked and decided to give her more responsibility. Now, Marissa also manages the register, kiosk, brings customers their orders, helps with the fryer and helps with the drive thru as needed. In June 2018, Marissa was awarded Employee of the Month at the restaurant, and most recently her manager told her the Company wanted to put together a video to recognize her work helping the elderly and veterans to post on the McDonald’s company website and to be shared with the president of the company.

Marissa as been a true self advocate and has shown determination to excel in her job at McDonald’s. She has a warm smile and friendly attitude for every shift and her hard work and dedication have been noticed and appreciated by everyone around her.

Debra LePage, LPN

Debra is a nurse for Community Connection’s Fairhaven Day Center. She has started a new and innovative program at the Day Center, the “Healthy Choices Group” has been instrumental in promoting healthy choices and overall wellness for participants.

This group started with a few members who expressed an interest in making better choices and losing weight. Deb heard their concerns and decided to coordinate getting these individuals together on a regular basis to support each other, discuss healthier options to the lunch items they would typically choose and sharing recipes in a monthly newsletter.

This group has since evolved from a weight loss program to taking a holistic approach to healthy living in all aspects of a healthy lifestyle. The group meets with the Deb regularly, and they plan, shop for and prepare healthy lunches with their group leader. They incorporate the periodic purchase of Healthy Bites (a local business that pre-packages healthy meals with fresh ingredients) for lunch alternatives, as well as incorporating vegetables and herbs from the program garden. Thanks to this program and Deb’s efforts, the group has decreased or maintained current weights and they continue to learn healthier options.
This year’s employee survey found that employees appreciate the teamwork, safe atmosphere, focus on clients and emphasis on integrity.

The corresponding word cloud represents what our employees say about working here at CCI taken from actual survey responses.
Kevin Madeira, a life skills development specialist at CCI, was given an award for exceptional work at this year’s ADDP conference. He was nominated for the award by his manager, Tanya Madeira, who praised him for his advocacy, creativity, exceptional delivery of direct support, dedication to best process and mentorship.

Kevin started working for Community Connections in September 2010 and in a short period of time, he proved to be an outstanding employee. Kevin encourages all clients to participate in program activities to promote active, healthy lifestyles and positive relationships. Kevin brings creativity and enthusiasm to the Life Skills program daily and has a positive impact in the lives of the participants that CCI serves.

Kevin goes above and beyond to find each one’s strength and interests, and works his creative thumb to ensure that all the activities he introduces are exciting, fun, and meaningful. He advocates for all participants, promoting their independence and wellbeing. Kevin is a reliable and flexible employee who will adjust his schedule to meet the needs of the individuals attending the Life Skills program.

Kevin is not only a development specialist with team leader responsibilities, he also drives a route for CCI in the morning and afternoon. He brings positivity to every aspect of his job. His calm demeanor make him approachable, as evidenced by many people who seek him out to discuss problems and concerns.

CCI employee Patricia MacMakin was also recognized at the ADDP conference with an honorable mention Direct Support Professional award.

Patricia has worked at CCI for 12 years and is known for her kindness, patience, and professionalism. She is an asset to the South Yarmouth team in providing speech therapy to consumers and making time to work with those who are not on her case load.
Many people struggle with budgeting and saving money, and at Community Connections, clients can have those concerns as well. Our goal-oriented approach to money management has helped clients like Linda enjoy financial freedom and increased independence.

Linda, a client at the Fairhaven Life Skills Program, met with her case manager Amanda Dillon often to discuss her goals and dreams. She mentioned her financial difficulties and feeling that she didn’t have enough money to do things she enjoyed.

Amanda and Linda took a hard look at Linda’s financial situation and saw that Linda spent most of her money each month right away and on fast food. Then, she wasn’t able to do things she enjoyed for the rest of the month.

Amanda worked with Linda to budget her monthly finances and to set realistic goals. As a result, Linda was able to purchase a TV, a Keurig coffee machine for her home, and to pay for monthly pedicures and manicures. The budget has been going strong for six months. Linda gets a pedicure each month, just bought herself a winter coat.

“She’s much happier and now she can take care of herself,” said Amanda, who has worked at Community Connections for 19 years. Amanda said Linda has more confidence since being able to buy the things she enjoys.

Linda said she’s had to make some tough choices within her budget, but that now she encourages her friends to make a budget as well. She said she’s much happier after making these changes and that it has helped her reach her financial and self-care goals.

Once she discovered her enjoyment of money management, Linda gained the opportunity to assist Amanda with weekly balancing of client accounts and ensuring all her receipts are accounted for.

Amanda worked with Linda to budget her monthly finances and to set realistic goals. As a result, Linda was able to purchase a TV, a Keurig coffee machine for her home, and to pay for monthly pedicures and manicures.

The budget has been going strong for six months. Linda gets a pedicure each month, just bought herself a winter coat.

A CCES proud graduate — Garrett Keenan

Garrett Keenan has been supported through the Community Connections Employment Services (CCES) program since 2014. His first job, obtained with assistance from CCES, was as a cart retriever and grocery bagger at Stop and Shop. Nearly five years later, Garrett is an employee of Stop and Shop, where he has expanded his role to include just about everything the front end department asks of him. Garrett is ambitious and strives for self-improvement. In an effort to enhance his credentials and increase opportunities for career development, Garrett enrolled in the Project Forward program at Cape Cod Community College for the 2017-1018 school year. CCES assisted Garrett in balancing work and community college, where he graduated with a Certificate in Hospitality in May, 2018. Well known at the college for his long-standing interests and accomplishments in writing and photography, Garrett was selected to write and read one of his poems at his graduation ceremony. On stage to acknowledge and celebrate the graduates, Governor Charlie Baker personally praised Garrett after his reading and offered his congratulations and well wishes. The Governor is shown here on graduation day with Garrett and his parents.
A group from the Plymouth Day Center shows their appreciation for Plymouth Fire Department.

A Davol Street Day Center member delivers Meals on Wheels.

A group from the Fairhaven Day Center helps out with the Fun107 Toy for Tots drive.

Members of the Mashpee Day Center Aktion Club of the Mashpee Kiwanis Club.

Fairhaven Day Center participant volunteers at a local doggie day care center.
FRIENDS
(UP TO $100)
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Acoreana Manufacturing Corp.
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Cody Akell
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Crystal Aleschus
Trish Alexander
In memory of Joe Flynn
Sandra Allard
Connor Allen
Doug Allen
Jacqueline Almeida
In memory of Norman H. Almeida
Mary Almeida
Maria Alves
Joan and Walter Alvezi
Pam Amaral
Rosa Amaral
Vicencia Amaral
Amazon Smile
Matthew and Christopher Ambar
Rick Ames
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Carole Anacletos
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Raymond Arruda
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Gail Azulay
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Linda and Ian Bagwell
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Jaime Bannister
Christine Barbosa
Michael Bardan
Jojo Bardey
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Dale Barrows
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Lauren Rodriguez
L. Rodriguez
Frank Rogan
Rogers Restaurant
Andrew Rogers
Margaret Rogers
Lynn Rogue
Mary Ellen and Roy Nickerson
Donna Roy
Geraldine Ruell
In honor of Eugene J. Ruell, Jr.
Cheryl and Michael Ruxton
Steve Ryder
Ronald Saari
Pamela Sampson
Sam’s Bakery
Carol Sanders
Sandwich Barber Shop
Sandwich Car Wash
Sandwich Food Mart
Sandwich Mart and Spirits
Santo Christo Federal Credit Union
N Santos
Genaro and Anne Sarno
In memory of Christopher Pacheco
John Sarno
In memory of Wade Mitchell
Janice Scanzi
Scargo Café
Susan Schemer
Mara Scheusterman
Amelia Schmitt
Kris Schoben
Jennifer Scott
Kim Scott
Mary Scott and Merrill Fisher
Seekonk Speedway
Richard E. Serodio
Jill Sharpe
Shaw’s Supermarket #127
Bob Shepard
Jesse Sherwood
Robin Shufelt
Vishal Shukla
Giselle Sias
Mary Siler
Paola Silva
Philip Silvia
Wayne Silvia
Roberta Simon
Kyle Simpkins
Natalie Simpson
Paul F. Singleton
Kathleen and Leonard Sleutel
Cheryl Smith
Catherine Sousa
Maria and Eduardo Sousa
Ida and Dale Souza
In memory of Elsie McCormack
Mary Souza
Trisha Souza
Karen Speelman
Don and St. Gelais
Jean and Maurice St. Gelais
Shannon St. Pierre
Maureen and Thomas Stanko
Zach Stark
Ginny Starush
Jennifer Steinhiber
Lawrence Stevens
In memory of Wade Mitchell
Kristina Stevens
Tessa Stilling
Sandra Stillman
Heather Stockwell
Bill and Pam Stoeckert
Stop & Shop Fall River
Stop & Shop, Sandwich
Donna Strong
Jennifer Strong
Kenneth Strong
Studio Life Art
Martha Styer
Manuel Susausaus
Subway - Plymouth Avenue Fall River
Barbara Sullivan
Cheryl and David Sullivan
Nell & Frank Sullivan

SERVING MASSACHUSETTS’ SOUTHCOTEAST, SOUTH SHORE & CAPE COD SINCE 1985

FY-2018 | P15 |
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS
7/1/17 to 6/30/18

Shane Sullivan
Super Stop & Shop, New Bedford
Corey Svedine
Sue and John Swanson
Mary Jane Sweeney
Shannon Carreira Sykes
Sean Sylver
Donna Sylvia
John Tassinari
Taylor Family
Charles Taylor
Law Office of Tracey L. Taylor
Anthony Tenczar
In memory of Jennifer Bourdon
Nancy and Timothy Tetreault
Valerie Teves
Texas Roadhouse
Scott Thayer
The Deli
Gwenne Theodore
Therapeutic Bodywork
Kelley Therrien
Jeff Thiebauth
Ann Marie Thomas
Pamela Tietze
Pamela Titone
Lenny Torchia
Michelle and Charles Tourjee
Jim Towey
Christie Trapilo
Barbara and Edmond Travassos
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Becky Tripp
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Robin Walker
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Patricia Wallace
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Wareham Barber Shop
Suzanne Wargo
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Dr. David Weiss
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Christina and Edward Welsh
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Amy Wilson
Jamal Wilson
Tobin Wirt
Tara Wotton
Bethany Wright
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Giselle Youssef
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John Zhang
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A NOTE TO OUR READERS: We do our best to report accurate donor information & sincerely apologize for any misspelling or inadvertent omission of anyone who made a gift to Community Connections during the period 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018. Please advise us of any error by contacting the administrative office at 800-308-1321. Thank you.

INNOVATION FUND
Kevin and Arlene Boissonneau
Joseph and Jaqueline Krajewski
Stasia and Sean Powers
Kingston Auction Company

GRANTS
Blue Cross Blue Shield Catalyst Fund
The Cape Cod Foundation
Edward Bangs Kelley and Elza Kelley Foundation
Lawrence Lynch Corp Foundation for Charitable Giving
Stoico/FirstFed Foundation

AUGUST 20, 2017
newbalance road race
TEAM CCI

Thank you to Team CCI!
Taylor Krajewski
Allison Lynch
Hector Mejia
Pam Kuechler
Beth Gomes
Jacqueline Oldfield
Robert Camara
Jessica Forgue
Betsy Sylvia
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
walkathon

Thank you to our sponsors!
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Thank you to our sponsors!

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Mad Max Shirt Company, LLC
Gem Air Services, Inc.
Ray’s Property Enhancements, Inc.
Resendes Electric, Inc.
Subway - Plymouth Avenue Fall River

Thank you to Wendy and Chris Wilson of the Gallery on Jarvis and the Belfry Inn and Bistro for generously hosting the event.
# Community Connections Inc.
## Opportunities for People with Disabilities

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$177,191</td>
<td>$760,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>$1,836,689</td>
<td>$1,832,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$109,494</td>
<td>$115,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$4,324,477</td>
<td>$4,965,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$46,767</td>
<td>$47,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$6,494,618</td>
<td>$7,721,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |          |          |
| Current portion of notes payable | $168,583  | $194,847  |
| Current portion of mortgages payable | $38,838  | $37,146  |
| Current portion of capital lease obligations | $462,040 | $412,594 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $320,417  | $746,903  |
| Accrued salaries and wages          | $642,714  | $743,692  |
| Other current liabilities           | $63,949   | $45,444   |
| Notes payable, net of current portion | $129,582  | $309,255  |
| Mortgages payable, net of current portion | $1,070,517 | $1,111,612 |
| Capital lease obligations, net of current portion | $603,041  | $912,546  |
| **Total liabilities**               | $3,499,681 | $4,514,039 |
| **Net assets**                      | $2,994,937 | $3,207,553 |
| **Total liabilities and net assets**| $6,494,618 | $7,721,592 |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract revenue</td>
<td>$15,161,750</td>
<td>$15,147,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client service fees</td>
<td>$64,316</td>
<td>$72,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and fundraising</td>
<td>$195,575</td>
<td>$168,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on sale of property and equipment</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$21,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$37,343</td>
<td>$27,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues, gains and other support</strong></td>
<td>$15,461,484</td>
<td>$15,436,483</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$13,876,381</td>
<td>$13,437,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$1,650,684</td>
<td>$1,793,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td>$147,035</td>
<td>$98,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$15,674,100</td>
<td>$15,328,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td>$(212,616)</td>
<td>$107,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | $3,207,553 | $3,099,577 |
| Net Assets at End of Year       | $2,994,937 | $3,207,553 |

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Artistic expression flourishes here at CCI! All artwork throughout the CCI FY-2017-2018 Annual Report has been created by our very own clients!