



A STEP AHEAD

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

WE HELPED
MORE THAN
650
CHILDREN
IN 2016

90%

OF THE CHILDREN
WE SERVED ACHIEVED
OR MADE SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS IN THEIR
DEVELOPMENTAL
OUTCOMES

ABOUT 74%
OF THE THERAPY
SERVICES ARE
UNCOMPENSATED
BY INSURANCE
PLANS





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Building for growth.

That's the way I sum up 2017 at A Step Ahead. What did that look like?

- ☉ We worked with consultants to help us enhance our fundraising capabilities, polish our brand and help us better tell the story of our impact.
- ☉ We hired a team of seven Family Resource Coordinators (FRCs), the first people families meet as they navigate what is often a complex and confusing system. Thankfully, our talented staff assists every family, making this process much easier.
- ☉ We increased providers to address our growing enrollment, enabling us to continue offering the comprehensive services children need.
- ☉ We added another play group to our Spanaway classroom and continued to offer a host of enriching family events, field trips and our annual carnival.
- ☉ We remodeled our offices, adding an additional 800 square feet to house our new employees and improve its function for staff and families alike.

While growth and change are invigorating, we're even more excited about how these changes will help us help children. Thank you for your continued generosity and support – it makes a lasting difference!

With gratitude,

Candy Watkins

– Candy Watkins, Executive Director



ANNABELLE'S STORY

Diagnosed with Dravet syndrome as an infant, Annabelle's mom, Emily, worked tirelessly to find her medications and treatments that would curb the condition's severe seizures. A circuitous turn of events brought the family from the south to Puyallup.

Here, a physician referred them to A Step Ahead.

"I still remember our assessment visit," recalls Emily. "Sheryl asked me how many words Annabelle used and I said ten. But as we started counting up the words, I realized that she only knew 5 words. At that moment, I realized she had delays – it was devastating."

At 20-months, Annabelle's frequent seizures also impacted her physically and cognitively. A Step Ahead recommended an aggressive routine of therapy, boosting services from once a week to three times a week.

"Things didn't get magically better," Emily explains. But she's quick to point out Annabelle has made remarkable progress.

"She's achieved huge milestones. She has a big vocabulary. She's walking and talking much better. And she's now able to play and interact with other children, something she couldn't do when we started."



Because therapy services like those provided to Annabelle are frequently limited by medical coverage, A Step Ahead relies on the generous contributions of donors to fill the gap. Please consider a donation today!

IMAGINE YOU JUST LEARNED YOUR CHILD IS DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED? YOU'RE CONCERNED. YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. AND FINDING THE RIGHT SERVICES CAN BE OVERWHELMING.

That's why A Step Ahead began to offer case management services in 2017 for all the children we serve.

With skill, empathy and tenacity, this staff of seven Family Resource Coordinators works with teachers, therapists and families to get the services they need. Thanks to the expansion of our administrative office, the coordinators are also housed in the same place as teachers and therapists, making it easier to regularly check in, stay connected and help provide vital services to every family, every day.



2017 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS

The accounting firm of Mary Jane Dubbs, CPA, conducted an independent audit of the finances of A Step Ahead for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016. The following statement is taken from our auditor's report, which is available at our office.

The two graphs below show the sources and uses of A Step Ahead's funds as a percentage of total income and expenses. We are pleased that the combined total of administrative and fundraising expenses is only 14% of our total costs.

Support & Revenue

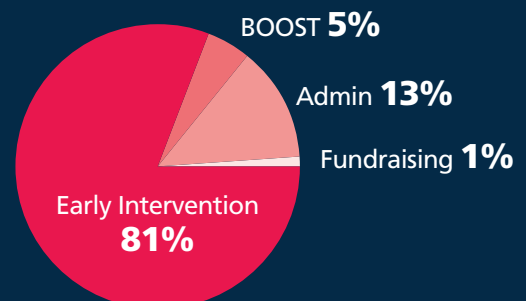
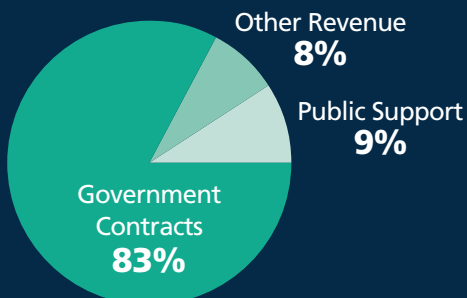
	2017	2016
Donations & Grants	136,798	133,093
Fundraising	33,642	30,163
Total public support	170,440	163,256
Gov. grants & contracts	1,606,482	1,506,228
Other Revenue	153,743	145,853

Total Support & Revenue \$1,930,665 \$1,815,337

Expenses

	2017	2016
Early Intervention Program	1,499,072	1,255,669
BOOST Program	87,622	90,183
Total Program Expenses	1,586,694	1,345,852
Administration	238,012	214,127
Fundraising	16,878	13,108

Total Expenses \$1,841,584 \$1,573,087





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“ When I first started working with Malachi, he wasn’t using his words or speaking,” explains Chelsea Siler, a teacher at A Step Ahead. “Yelling and throwing tantrums were the only ways he could communicate. I really worked with his Mom and family in their home to help him use his words ... it may seem simple, but it’s huge to a family. Not only can he now ask for what he wants, but he’s much more engaged with his family and is able to communicate and play with other kids his age.”

VISION

A community that embraces and integrates children of all abilities, and treasures the unique gifts each child possesses.

MISSION

Supporting families of infants and toddlers with special needs by enhancing their development and relationships both at home and in their community.

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