



We thank you
for your continued support in
Our Programs

Donate Now



STARability Foundation

720 Goodlette-Frank Rd. N. Suite 400, Naples, FL 34102

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STARability.org

info@STARability.org



As seen in The Scout Guide Naples.



STARability®
FOUNDATION

Shining light on ability, not disability.

Impact Report
2024-2025

Letter From Leadership



Dear Friends,

For more than 40 years, STARAbility has been part of the fabric of Naples—rooted in community, fueled by compassion, and inspired by the incredible individuals and families we serve.

This past year, we've continued to grow alongside our community, expanding our reach and deepening our impact. From classrooms to workplaces, art studios to volunteer sites, our STARS are learning, working and shining brighter than ever before.

Every milestone reflects what's possible when a community comes together. Families find hope. Participants discover purpose. Businesses open their doors and hearts. Together, we create a place where every person with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) is valued for their unique gifts and contributions.

As we look to the future, we stand on the threshold of extraordinary growth. Demand for our programs continues to rise, and with your help, we're ready to meet it—expanding our facilities, strengthening our partnerships, and serving thousands more individuals and families across Southwest Florida.

We're proud of where we've been, but even more excited about where we're going. There's never been a better time to be part of this journey.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission and for helping every STAR shine to their fullest potential.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Karen Govern
CEO - KAREN GOVERN

Jeff MacDonagh
BOARD CHAIR - JEFF MACDONAGHY



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STARAbility empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through lifelong friendships, personal growth, community connections, and confidence-building programs.

Empower. Connect. Include.

Learn more at STARAbility.org

Our Programs



Social Enterprises

STAR Studio
Home Collection



STAR Connections

Recreation and Sports
Monthly Socials
Art, Cooking, Improv Classes and more!
Virtual Opportunities Available

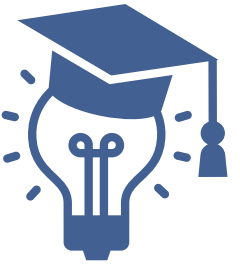


Support Services

Support Navigating Services
Quarterly Family Forms
Resources for Families



Academy Programs



Trailblazers
Jr. Trailblazers
Music Academy

Career Services



Employment Readiness
Job Coaching
Career Development
THRIVEability Garden



Trailblazers

Our community-based outreach program, the Trailblazer Academy, offers a person-centered, holistic approach with a broad range of support for participants to engage in lifelong learning and become a valued part of the community.

The Trailblazer Academy is a one-of-a-kind program in Collier County focused on building relationships between families, instructors, and vocational partners to support each participant in reaching their individual goals. Our experienced instructors receive advanced training and specialize in working with individuals with special needs.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT | SOCIALIZATION
CONFIDENCE | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
VOCATIONAL TRAINING | INDEPENDENCE

75

TOTAL
TRAILBLAZERS
ENROLLED

18+

AGE RANGE SERVED

41%

TRAILBLAZERS FULLY
FUNDED THROUGH
SCHOLARSHIPS



Vinny J. A Journey of Growth & Leadership

Vinny has been part of the Jr. Trailblazer Academy since its inception, participating for three years. Initially shy and reserved, he often hesitated to follow through on tasks despite being eager to help. Over time, Vinny grew more confident socially and now actively engages with peers, sings joyfully during outings, and takes initiative in completing tasks. His leadership has flourished as he helps classmates prepare for activities and engages in meaningful conversations. Vinny's transformation reflects the program's ability to build independence, confidence, and leadership in its participants.



Blazing a trail
FOR INCLUSION



Jr. Trailblazers

The Jr. Trailblazer Academy is our enriching after-school program that provides opportunities to high school students ages 14-22 to help facilitate a successful transition as they age out of traditional school programming.

Students participate in active and engaging community based activities that complement their educational goals and employment aspirations.

75%

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
& COLLABORATION

26

ACTIVE JR. STARS
AGES 14-22

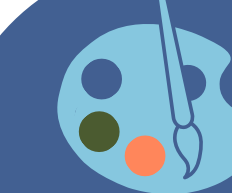
PROGRAM BENEFITS



Employment
Readiness Training
in-house & in the
community



Community connection
through projects with
local businesses and
nonprofits



Art & Therapeutic
classes foster creative
expressing



Life Skills Education
through classes & hands-
on experiences that teach
nutrition, safety, home
living & more



Indoor & Outdoor
Recreational Classes
build friendships and
independence



Joaquin & Sophie The Next Chapter

Joaquin and Sophie recently celebrated graduating high school and completing the Jr. Trailblazer Academy.

Joaquin

Joaquin excelled in job readiness skills and is now working with Career Services to pursue his aspiration of employment at Publix, where he gained valuable experience in high school.

Sophie

Sophie is enrolling in the Trailblazer Academy, building on her achievements with a focus on socio-emotional and creative growth.

Their accomplishments showcase the power of tailored vocational training, recreational activities, and holistic support in empowering participants to thrive and live more independently.



Career Services

Through our Career Services, participants learn job skills, explore career opportunities, and find employment with businesses who believe in their abilities. We purposefully connect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to supportive, inclusive employers throughout the Naples community.

Businesses that employ people with disabilities benefit from stronger workplace culture and higher retention rates. Our team serves as a resource to employers, providing education and training on best practices for inclusive employment.

As an approved provider for the Florida Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), we provide individualized, comprehensive support to participants at every stage of their careers.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SKILL AND INTEREST ASSESSMENTS RESUME BUILDING
JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE | ON-THE-JOB COACHING
TRAVEL TRAINING | CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS | AND MORE!

23%

OF PEOPLE WITH IDD
ARE EMPLOYED
COMPARED TO

65%

OF THE GENERAL
PUBLIC BASED ON US
LABOR STATISTICS

50

STARS ENROLLED IN
CAREER SERVICES

24

NEW JOBS OBTAINED



Ashlyn K. From Creativity to Confidence

Ashlyn always had a creative spark, but STARability helped her find confidence and purpose. After being homeschooled in Michigan with limited social interaction, she moved to Florida and joined STARability. Through Career Services, Ashlyn learned how to navigate professional conversations and even secured an internship with the STAR Studio after participating in a Reverse Job Fair. Offered bi-annually by STARability's Career Services department, the special event provides an opportunity for local businesses to engage with a select group of career-focused STARS, showcasing their experience, skills and abilities. She is now actively searching for a job, while continuing to strengthen her social and communication skills.



Learn, *Explore* & WORK



Support Services

Our Support Services department is here to walk alongside STARability families every step of the way. Through our collaborative approach, the team provides guidance by connecting families to local and state resources and offering ongoing support for navigating legal, financial, medical, recreational, and educational services. We also offer personalized support and advocacy for future planning. Our team is dedicated to ensuring every STARability family feels informed, empowered, and supported.

Family Forums

STARability offers Family Forums throughout the year on a variety of topics featuring engaging presentations, open discussion, networking and valuable takeaways to enhance the quality of life for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their families.



Personalized Guidance
LIFELONG SUPPORT



Jacob W. Extending a lifeline

“ Our son wakes up excited to attend programs where he feels seen, safe, and capable. The staff and volunteers create an empowering community where every participant feels important. STARability has truly been a lifeline for our family, offering real-world skills, social connection, and joy. ”





STAR Connections

STAR Connections engages our participants with the community through continuing education, art and creative expression workshops, health and wellness classes, sports leagues, and monthly social events.

Many of our in-person offerings have been adapted for virtual learning platforms through our Virtual STAR Connections program.

Participants can connect with one another and engage in innovative classes and activities from anywhere.

PROGRAM CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

STAR CONNECTIONS OFFERS DAILY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STARS TO INTERACT IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY.

MUSICAL THEATER & IMPROV | SPORTS LEAGUES

ART | MONTHLY SOCIALS | & MORE!

390

PARTICIPATING STARS

307

VOLUNTEERS

5K+

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

\$170K

\$ SAVED FROM
VOLUNTEER HOURS
GIVEN

Ashlyn K An Active Transformation

In addition to Career Services, Ashlyn has thrived in STAR Connections—joining game nights, bowling, and social events. These opportunities gave her the practice and confidence to engage socially while making new friends.



Engagement. *Enrichment.* EDUCATION.

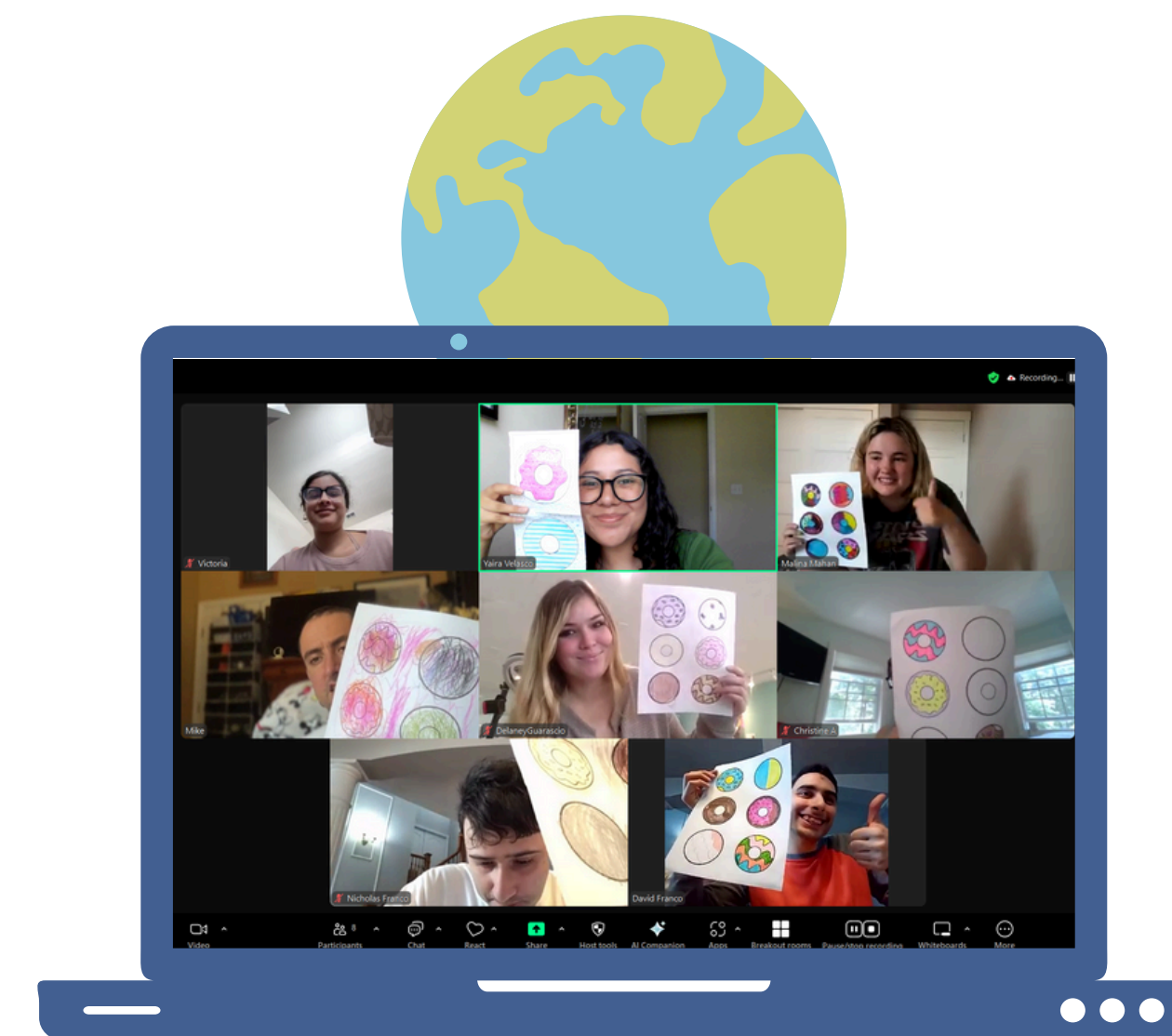


Virtual Connections

Virtual Connections brings our innovative and inclusive programs directly to you—wherever you may be. Whether you're traveling, living out of state, homebound, or simply thrive in a virtual setting, you can stay engaged with the STARability community through meaningful online classes and activities.

The Virtual Trailblazer Academy offers a high-quality virtual experience, focusing on essential life skills while providing personalized support tailored to each participant's goals. This daily, full-day virtual program features a structured schedule of engaging classes designed to support life skills development, peer connections, confidence-building, independence, and educational learning.

Virtual Connections isn't just an alternative—it's an essential and empowering way to learn, grow, and connect. Our experienced instructors provide personalized support and track progress to ensure every participant thrives.



Face to Face
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE



Victoria P. Finding Strength in Community

When Victoria joined STARability's Virtual Program, she struggled with communication and social interaction. With time and encouragement, she began to express herself more confidently and connect with peers. Following the loss of her father, Victoria faced heartbreaking setbacks—but the ongoing compassion and support of STARability helped her regain strength. Today, she is a vibrant member of the virtual community, inspiring others with her resilience and positivity. Her journey illustrates the life-changing impact of STARability's commitment to growth and inclusion in any setting.





Music Academy

STARability's Music Academy provides a supportive and inclusive environment led by experienced instructors trained in both music and specialized teaching strategies for individuals with special needs. Guided by professionals in music therapy and behavioral science, the program offers a comprehensive curriculum that fosters not only musical development but also personal growth, creativity, and confidence.

The Music Academy is committed to achieving measurable outcomes through a customized assessment process that tracks individual progress in key music skill areas. By carefully evaluating results, the program showcases transformative impact, demonstrating meaningful growth and life-changing potential for each participant.



Lifelong Music APPRECIATION

*Join us in creating a brighter future for
neurodiverse individuals through music!*



STAR Studio

The STAR Studio is an inclusive, joyful space where nearly 100 participants of STARability Foundation come together to create through vocational training, paid employment, and recreational art classes. All gifts for sale in the on-site boutique were crafted, illustrated, and packaged entirely by these STAR artists and artisans of all abilities.

ARTISAN GIFTS

NATURAL SOY CANDLES | TEA TOWELS
ILLUSTRATED CARDS | UNIQUE CALENDARS
HAND-BEADED BRACELETS

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE OR PLACING AN ORDER?
Please email studio@STARability.org or call 239.263.1894.

VISIT US IN THE NAPLES DESIGN DISTRICT
106 10th St. N., Naples, FL 34102
STARabilitystudio.square.site
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



80 PARTICIPANTS SERVED	10 WEEKLY PAID INTERNSHIPS	5 PART-TIME TEAM MEMBERS
---------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------



Create.
Shop.
SUPPORT.





Home Collection

Curated by top designers, the new Home Collection resale store is located in the Naples Design District. From luxurious furniture to statement decor, each piece is thoughtfully selected for style and quality, making it easy to elevate any space.

Every purchase at the store supports STARability Foundation and its programs to empower people with IDD.

COME SHOP WITH US

FURNITURE | DÉCOR | ARTWORK

LAMPS | ANTIQUES | RUGS

FOR FURNITURE & HOME GOODS DONATIONS

Please email photos and descriptions to
HomeCollection@STARability.org

VISIT US

470 9th St. N., Naples, FL 34102
239.331.3199 | STARability.org/store



Decorate &
SUPPORT



Events

STARability Foundation thrives through year-round special events and community activities. The funds raised directly fuel our life-changing programs and services, empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Collier County.

STAR Gala Illuminating Abilities

2025 | A Day of Giving

Presented by: **STOCK**
DEVELOPMENT



2025 STAR Gala - a shining success!

On Saturday, Feb. 1, STARability Foundation raised an incredible \$3.2 million+ at the 7th Annual STAR Gala - Illuminating Abilities: A Day of Giving presented by STOCK Development. Held at the The Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburón, it was an illuminating evening of inspiring transformation, incredible generosity, and inclusion for all abilities.

Together, we are breaking down barriers and creating a brighter future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Collier County. Thank you for being a shining STAR in our community and for supporting our mission to transform lives!

We are beyond grateful to everyone who made this event possible, from our dedicated supporters to our entire passionate committee led by the incredible Event Co-chairs Kelly Assaad and Christa Mangiello, Sponsorship Chair Jenny Haire, Live Auction Chair Carrie Cooney, Silent Auction Co-chairs Barbie Kellam and Nick Radick.



7th Annual Run, Walk & Roll 5K

On Saturday, October 19, more than 530 participants and several community partners came together at Paradise Coast Sports Complex for STARability Foundation's 7th Annual Run, Walk & Roll 5K. Together, we raised over \$90,000—making this one of our most successful races to date!

These vital funds will support the expansion of STARability's innovative, life-transforming programs and services that shine light on ability and meet the growing needs of our community.

We are deeply grateful to our presenting sponsor, Inspired Closets SWFL; event chairs Meg and Tyler — & Finn; race timer Florida Race Day; emcee Taylor Petras of WINK News; and our Grand Marshal duo, Sammy Callari and STAR participant Parker S. Most importantly, thank you to our generous sponsors, underwriters, fundraisers, and every participant who made this day unforgettable.

Our Future

A community of possibilities for all abilities

Our campus will offer a uniquely integrated approach, centralizing services so participants can access everything they need under one roof, from continuing education and vocational training to health and wellness programs.

STARability is a source of hope, strength, and opportunity. Yet, as our waitlist grows, the lack of centralized resources has become a significant barrier.

This is about creating a permanent home, a welcoming, inclusive space for STAR's and their families, a hub where they can feel valued and supported



STARability
FOUNDATION

Opening Doors

Over \$23,000,000 raised to date

Where We
Are Now

Our Future
Impact

Daily Participants

75

180

People Served Annually

390

1,100

People Waiting for a Daily Program

127

0

Board

- BOARD CHAIR**
Jeffrey Maconaghy
- PAST CHAIR**
Lisa Kahn-Allen
- VICE CHAIR**
James Varilek
- TREASURER**
Andrew Krone
- SECRETARY**
Holly Shapiro
- DIRECTORS**
Carrie Cooney
Laura Georgelos
Meg Hardt
Tony McClure
Joe Smallwood
Jerry Starkey
Melanie Miller
Michael Rubenstein
Marsha Griffin

Core Values

Mission

To transform the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Vision

To create an inclusive community that shines light on ability, not disability.



SUPPORT
TEAMWORK
AWARENESS
RESPECT



Air Bar Blowouts & Extensions
Amira Choice
Arthrex
Artis – Naples
Athletica Health & Fitness
Avow
BCB Homes
Birdie's Gelato
Bradford Square Retirement Community
Coastland Center
Collier County Public Library
Connor & Gaskins
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Cosmos Ristorante & Pizzeria
Driftwood Garden Center
Dylan's Drafthouse

Community Partners

Germain Lincoln of Naples
Germain Toyota of Naples
Golden Paws
Golisano Children's Museum of Naples
Grace Place
Greater Naples Officials Association
Gulfshore Playhouse
HomeGoods
Humane Society Naples
Kretch's Restaurant
Laces of Love
Macy's
MauRich Productions & Events
Meals of Hope
Michael's
Mister O1 Extraordinary Pizza

Naples Senior Center
Naples Therapeutic Riding Center
Naples Zoo
New Hope Ministries
Outback Steakhouse
Pampered Pet Resorts
Paragon Theaters
Publix Supermarket
Seed to Table
St. Matthew's Boutique
St. Matthew's Warehouse
STAR Studio & Artisan Gifts
STARability Home Collection
Stofft Cooney Architects
Structure Medical
Tacos & Tequila

The Naples Players
THRIVEability Garden
Twice as Nice Consignment Shop
Twin Eagles
United Commonwealth Bank
We Rock the Spectrum
Winfield Street Coffee
YMCA Collier
Youth Haven

1,743

ON-THE-JOB
COACHING HOURS

3,484

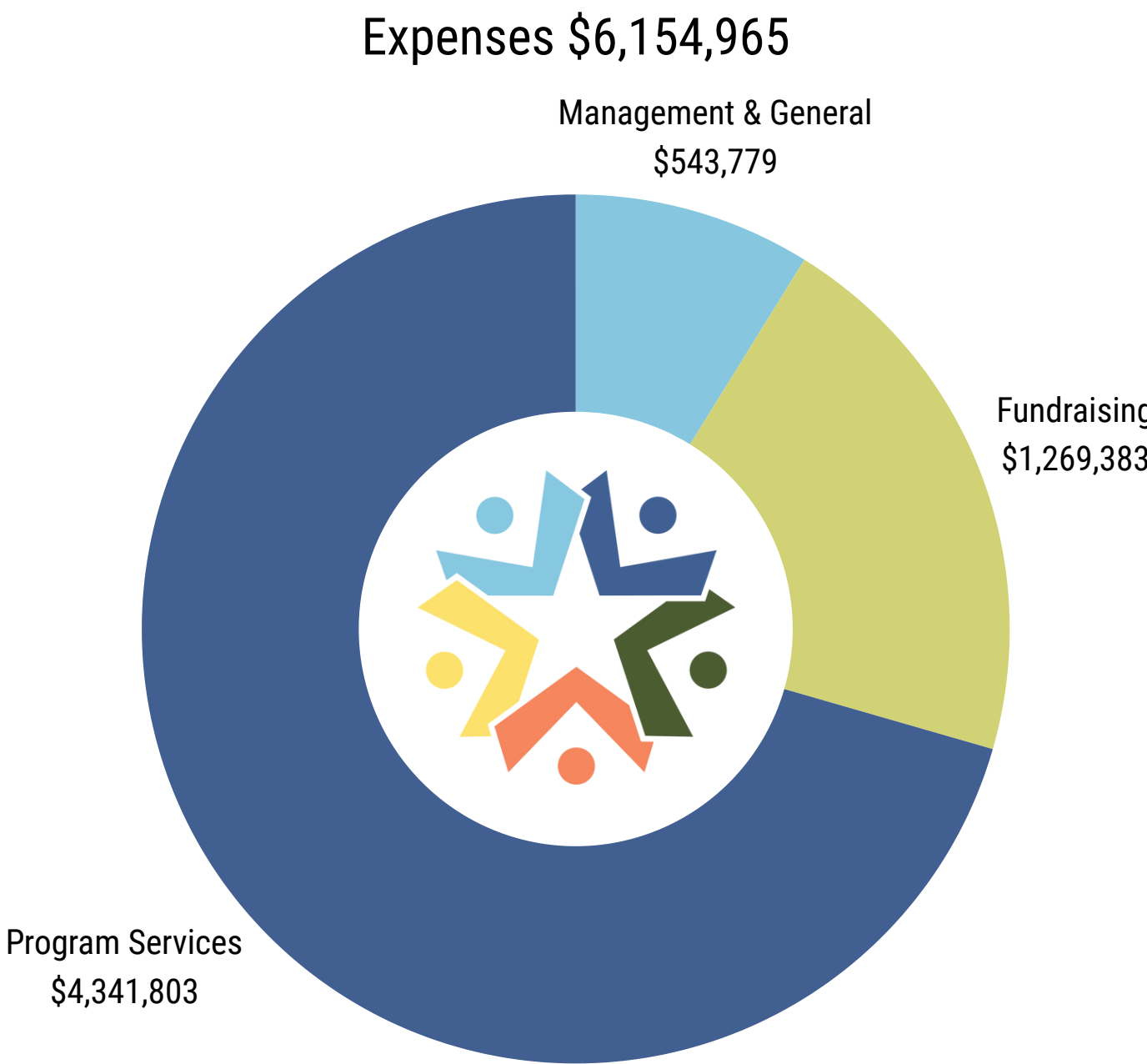
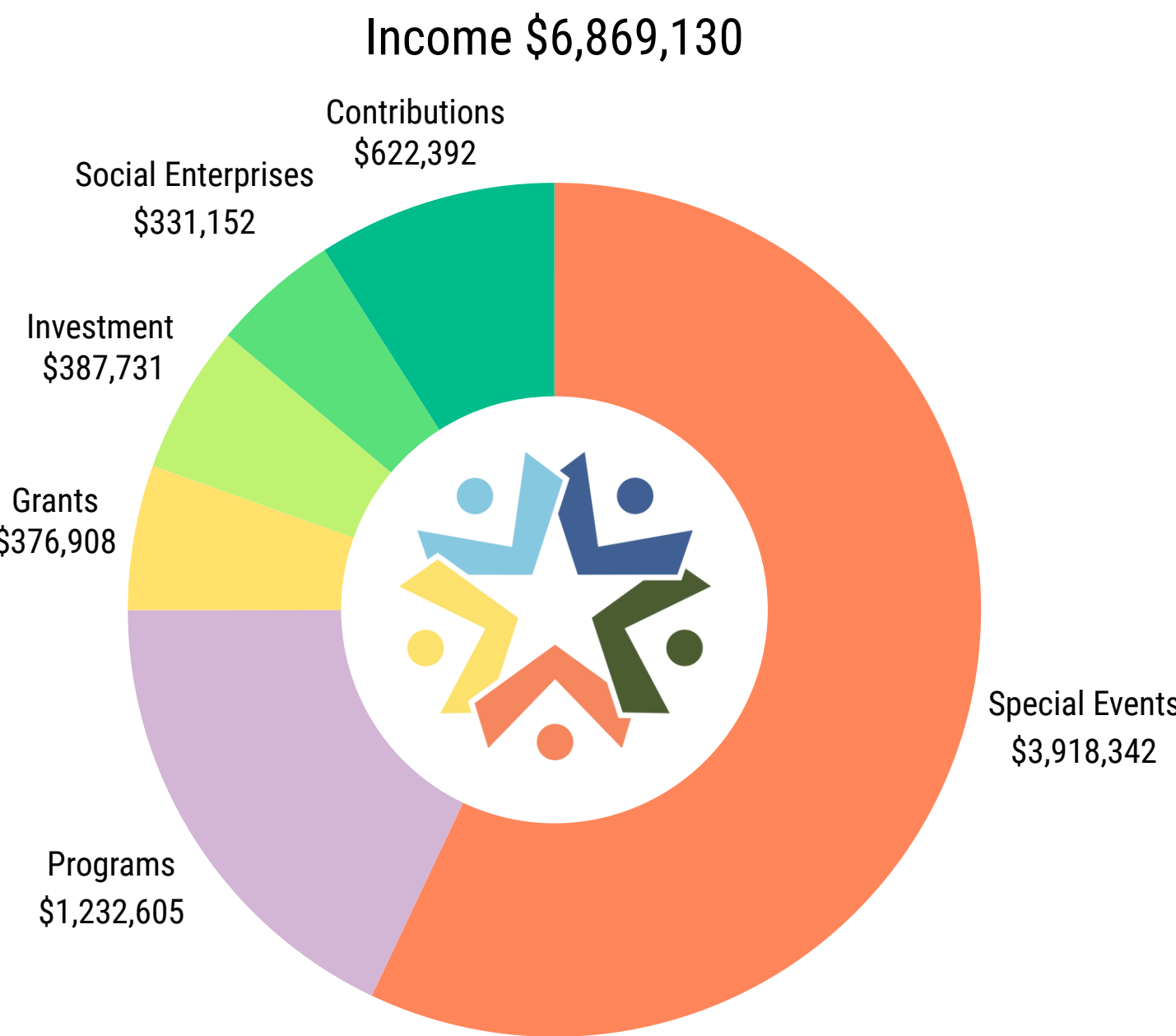
VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED BY
ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS



Financials

July 2024 - June 2025

Funding comes primarily from independent philanthropy and program fees, with limited support from government sources. 83% of our operational budget is sourced from philanthropy.



Learn more
and donate
to support
STARability
TODAY!



The Impact of STARability: A Shared Voice

STARability's programs not only transform participants' lives but also uplift entire families. Through job placements, social connections, and personal growth opportunities, STARability provides community, confidence, and purpose.

“

Thanks to STARability, our son has found purpose, routine, and true friendship. The programs are exceptional, and the support is unwavering.

”

– Jennifer W.

“

This job has given my brother the chance to learn valuable life skills and grow in confidence. It has become a meaningful part of his journey toward self-reliance.

”

– Julia R.

Together, these stories and voices remind us of the extraordinary difference STARability makes every day.