



**2014 | 2015**



# A SEASON OF CHANGE

MISSION EMPOWER ANNUAL REPORT 2014 — 2015

# A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

“If an organization is not changing, looking forward, moving toward a goal; then, the organization is moving backwards or stagnating. There is no such thing as standing your ground or treading water. We are either moving forward or moving backward.

This is the mindset with which we developed our five year strategic plan based on valuable insight gathered from families, school district personnel, social service agencies, community partners, Board members and staff. On September 22, 2015, the Board of Directors adopted the strategic plan with the five sub-strategies of:

1. Positioning Mission Empower as a “*Center of Excellence*” in disability services.
2. Developing an *organization structure* to support future growth.
3. Developing *transitional services* for high school youth & young adults with disabilities.
4. Diversifying *funding streams* to ensure long-term sustainability.
5. *Enhancing awareness* of Mission Empower services and why we are important to the community.

Join us, as we reflect on the year 2014–2015, and all the families you helped us empower as our generous donors, supporters, community partners, board members, staff and volunteers.

We truly couldn’t have done it without you!”

**Jill Hrinda-Patten**

**Executive Director, Mission Empower**

*Jill Hrinda Patten*





# A YEAR IN REVIEW



## OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Facilitated **147 unique individuals** with advocacy & support services.

Of these 147 individuals, **101 (68.7%) were male and 46 (31.3%) were female.**

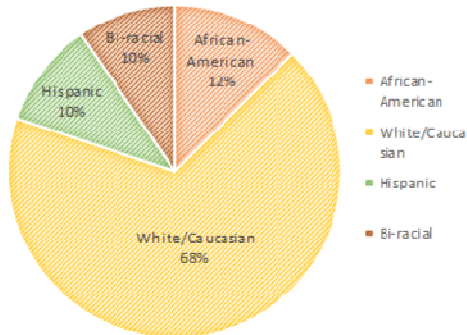
We delivered 29 trainings covering key topics such as **Educational Rights & Responsibilities, Implementing IEPs, Educational Advocacy, and Building Effective Family School Partnerships.**

Our advocates hosted **208 face-to-face meetings, 190 phone meetings, 165 email requests and 6 mail requests.**

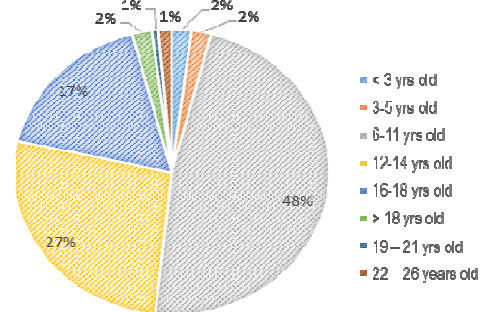
25 of the trainings delivered were **in person** whereas 2 were **webinars.**

The trainings positively rated as **high quality by 95.2%** of participants, as **useful by 92.3%** of participants and as **relevant by 85.7%** of participants.

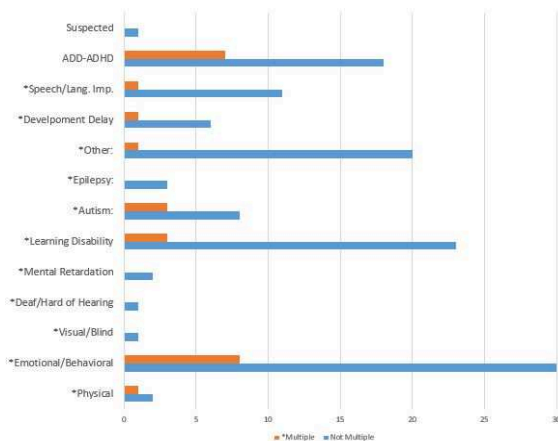
# THE FAMILIES WE SERVED



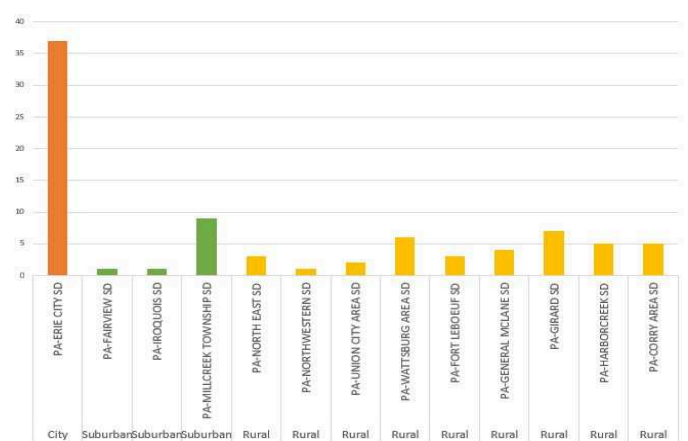
Ethnicity Distribution



Age Distribution



Common Disabilities Experienced



Geographic Distribution

## OUR STORIES

"I truly recognize Mission Empower as an essential advocate for our local community. Parents rely on this organization because they know Mission Empower will do everything in their power to help students succeed"

Katie L. White, Edinboro University Student

"I was thoroughly impressed with the amount of services and resources Mission Empower provides the Erie County community. As a parent of a child with Autism, I am very pleased there is such a valuable resource that is available for the parents, students, and school districts in our area"

Victoria L. Bille



Our relationship has changed; the school knows that I'm here to fight this fight and with Mission Empower by my side, I have the confidence and strength to represent my son in a positive and educational light. " - Shawn Rogers, Parent



# THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS



## Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community:

1

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community took place on Saturday June 6, 2015 and raised **\$6,392** in funds for Mission Empower through team registrations and individual contributions.

## Preparing to Launch Youth Envision & Mission Read:

2

In a press conference, Erie Insurance generously provided a **grant of \$10,000** and **Michael and Michelle Plazony generously gave \$5,000** for Mission Empower to launch its Youth Transition Success Program 'Youth Envision' and 'Mission Read – A Dyslexia Center for Excellence' based on improving reading skills through the Barton Reading and Spelling System. Mission Read would not be possible without Carolyn Taylor, who is one of the very few individuals certified as a Barton Dyslexia tutor across the nation.

3

## The Launch of a New User-Friendly Website:

Mission Empower received a **grant of \$1,800** from the Erie Community Foundation to redesign our website to better educate the community and to recruit and engage volunteers to be mentors, tutors & parent leaders.

4

## Erie Gives Day 2014:

The annual Erie Gives Day on August 12, 2014 organized by The Non-Profit Partnership helped Mission Empower raise a valuable **\$1,383** in funds.



# OUR SUPPORTERS



## Our Board of Directors:

1. President, & Treasurer, **Vanessa Kefauver**
2. Secretary, **Johnny Johnson**
3. Director/Parent, **Mike Plazony**
4. Director/Parent, **Celeste Morales**
5. Director/Parent, **Stacy Wisniewski**
6. Director, **Angela Johnson**
7. Director/Parent, **Mikki Myers**



## Our Staff:

1. Executive Director, **Jill Hrinda-Patten**
2. Director of Trainings & Leadership Development, **Curtis Jones**
3. Director of Family Support & Advocacy, **Harriet Langer-Williamson**



## Our Community Partners:

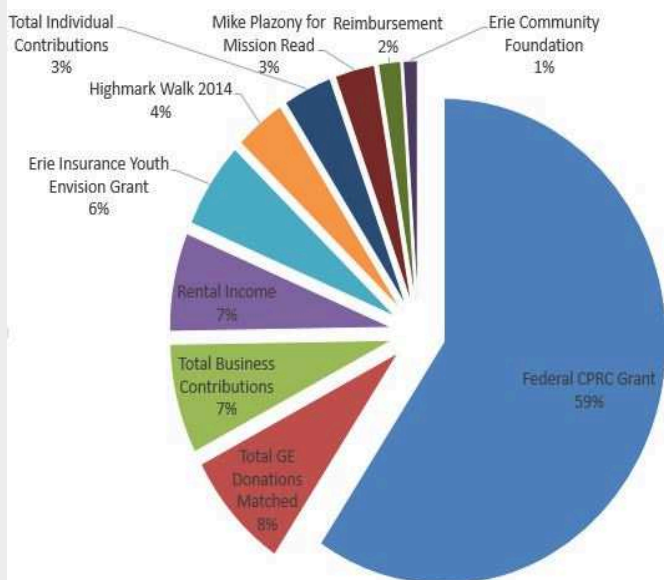


# OUR FINANCIALS

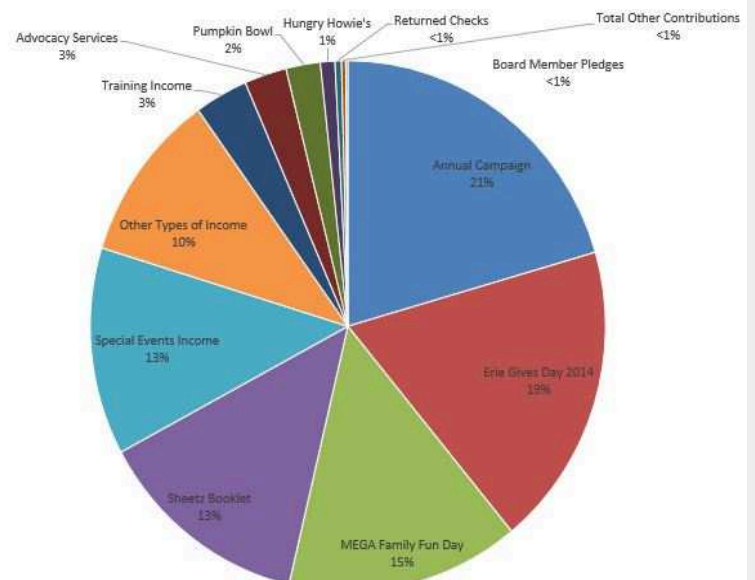
**Total Income for 2014-2015:** \$179,348.87

**Total Expenses for 2014 -2015:** \$158,847.64

**Net Balance for 2014-2015:** \$20,501.23



>95% Contribution to Total Income



<5% Contribution to Total Income



Distribution of Expenses



*"Serving as a Community Resource Center, Mission Empower provides advocacy, education, and the promotion of inclusion, assisting families and their children with disabilities to enable their children to use their gifts and talents to reach their potential and become productive members of our community."*

If you would like to learn how Mission Empower could help you and your child, or if you would like to volunteer with us, please visit:



[www.missionempower.org](http://www.missionempower.org)



[www.facebook.com/missionempower.org](http://www.facebook.com/missionempower.org)



Or subscribe to our **Newsletter** on our Website.



Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth

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