ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





Fiscal Year
2025-2026

tradewindsnwi.org

YEAR IN IMPACT

4,746 Lives. One Mission.

Individuals and families across Northwest Indiana found opportunity, independence, connection and support through TradeWinds.

4,746

INDIVIDUALS SERVED



YEAR IN IMPACT



$2.1M

INDUSTRIES REVENUE

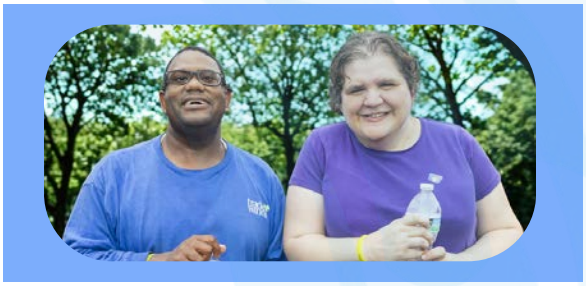
289

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

244K

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

CEO MESSAGE



Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

At TradeWinds, impact is measured not simply by the number of people we serve, but by the opportunities we help create—opportunities to learn, work, build independence, form meaningful connections, and participate fully in our community.

This past year was one of continued progress and growing momentum. Across our programs and services, our dedicated team worked each day to empower individuals of varying abilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity, integrity, choice, and community inclusion. From children taking their first steps toward learning and independence to adults developing new skills, finding meaningful employment, connecting with their community, and receiving the support they need to thrive, every achievement reflects the purpose behind our mission.

At the same time, we are preparing for one of the most significant chapters in TradeWinds' history. Our vision for the new Enrichment Center is becoming a reality, bringing us closer to creating expanded opportunities for wellness, recreation, vocational training, social connection, and community inclusion. It represents more than a new building—it represents what is possible when a community believes everyone deserves the opportunity to belong and succeed.

None of this happens alone. Our staff, Board of Directors, donors, volunteers, corporate and community partners, families, and advocates make this work possible. Your investment in TradeWinds is an investment in people and in a stronger, more inclusive Northwest Indiana.

As you explore this year's Impact Report, we hope you see more than numbers. We hope you see the people behind them, the progress those numbers represent, and the possibilities ahead.
Thank you for being part of our mission and for helping us build what comes next.

With gratitude,

Jon Gold
Chief Executive Officer

Nicole Cimbaljevich
President, Board of Directors

MISSION & WHO WE SERVE

Mission

TradeWinds Services empowers individuals of varying abilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity, integrity, choice, and community inclusion.

We serve children and adults throughout Northwest Indiana through a comprehensive range of programs, including inclusive child care, vocational training and employment services, residential and in-home support, adult day programming, behavioral services, Deaf Services, therapy, and community resources. At every stage of life, TradeWinds provides personalized opportunities that build independence, strengthen connections, and help each person thrive.

Vision

To be the leading service provider for adults and children with barriers to enhance their full potential in the community.

900

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

NUMBER DOES NOT INCLUDE COMMUNITY PANTRY

7

COUNTIES SERVED

1-73

AGE RANGE OF CLIENTS IN YEARS

Core values

Professionalism

Quality

Respect

Patience

Integrity

Teamwork

Compassion



LIVE

Independence. Choice. A Place to Call Home.

TradeWinds helps individuals live as independently as possible while receiving the support that is right for them. From 24-hour residential care to individualized support in the home and community, our services are built around each person's needs, choices and goals—creating opportunities for greater independence, meaningful relationships and a life connected to the community.



Group Living

24/7 support in community-based homes, including personal care, medication assistance, nursing support and everyday living needs.

Supported Living

Individualized support that helps clients maintain a safe, community-based life while building independence in areas such as meals, transportation, appointments, shopping and daily routines.

PAC & Respite

In-home assistance that supports individuals with daily needs while also providing families and caregivers with dependable support and respite.

143

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED*

*Individuals supported through Group Living, Supported Living, PAC & Respite

15

COMMUNITY-BASED HOMES

100K

HOURS OF DIRECT SUPPORT



THE GOAL
To fulfill her dream of living in her own home, gaining independence, and building a life centered on her own choices and aspirations.

THE SUPPORT
TradeWinds and her Individualized Support Team helped Janice transition into Supported Living, find an apartment, choose compatible housemates, and develop the skills needed for greater independence.

THE OUTCOME
Today, Janice is happier, more confident, and increasingly self-reliant. She is building daily living skills, making her own choices, and thriving in a home and life she helped create.

Janice's Journey to Independence

For Janice Flemming, living independently was a dream she had held onto for years. After dedicating much of her life to helping care for her mother during her battle with cancer, Janice was ready to begin a new chapter—one focused on her own goals, happiness, and independence.

Following her mother's passing, Janice faced an uncertain transition. With support from her family and Individualized Support Team, she began the journey toward finding a home of her own. Through TradeWinds Supported Living, Janice found an apartment, chose housemates she felt comfortable with, and began building the life she had envisioned.

Since moving, Janice has truly thrived. She is happier, more confident, and increasingly self-reliant. From managing everyday household responsibilities to becoming more involved in her community, she continues to discover what she is capable of accomplishing.

Perhaps most importantly, Janice has found her voice. She is more comfortable expressing her wants and needs, making decisions, and taking ownership of her future. For Janice, having a place to call home has meant so much more than a new address. It has given her the freedom, confidence, and opportunity to create a life that is truly her own.

LEARN & WORK

Building Skills. Creating Opportunity. Preparing for What's Next.

From a child's earliest learning experiences to an adult's first day on the job, TradeWinds creates opportunities to build skills, confidence, and independence. Through inclusive child care, youth programs, vocational training, Employment Services, and hands-on work experiences, individuals are supported as they discover their strengths and take meaningful steps toward their goals.



Learn — Prepare — Find Work — Build Experience

Early Learning & Youth

Inclusive Child Care, Summer Day Camp, and Functional Skills Summer Camp help children learn, build friendships, develop life skills, and grow in confidence.

Vocational Training

Transitional Vocational Training helps young adults build workplace readiness through hands-on experiences, resumé development, interview preparation, and exposure to community employment.

Employment Services

Individualized Discovery, job development, placement, and job coaching help clients identify their strengths and pursue meaningful community employment.

Industries

Sewing manufacturing and packaging provide hands-on work experience while delivering quality products for government and commercial customers.



84
CHILDREN SERVED

108
INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED IN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

44
COMMUNITY JOB PLACEMENTS

09 Blake’s Path to Independence

For Blake, employment has always meant more than earning a paycheck. It represents independence, personal growth, and the confidence that comes from discovering what he is capable of achieving.

Through TradeWinds Employment Services, Blake participated in Discovery services to identify his strengths, interests, and employment goals. Working alongside his Employment Specialist, he created a résumé, completed job applications, practiced interviewing, and prepared to take an important step toward greater independence.

Blake’s strong work ethic and cleaning skills soon earned him a job offer. Shortly after beginning, however, he faced a personal setback that required him to step away and focus on his health. Blake showed tremendous courage by recognizing what he needed, and his employer saw the dedication and potential in him—giving him the time and opportunity to return when he was ready.

Today, Blake is thriving at Zao Island in Valparaiso. With continued support as he learns new responsibilities and strengthens his communication with management, he is becoming more confident and independent every day.

Blake’s journey is a powerful reminder that progress is not always a straight path. With determination, understanding, and the right support, challenges can be overcome—and a brighter future can come into view.

THE GOAL
To find meaningful employment that would build Blake’s confidence, independence, and sense of purpose.

THE SUPPORT
TradeWinds helped Blake identify his strengths, prepare for interviews, and secure employment. When he faced a setback, ongoing encouragement and job coaching helped him return to work with renewed confidence.

THE OUTCOME
Today, Blake is thriving at Zao Island, building new skills and becoming more independent. His journey shows that with determination and the right support, setbacks can become new beginnings.



THRIVE

Food Security. Wellness. Access. Connection.

Thriving means having access to more than one kind of support. TradeWinds connects individuals and families with resources that strengthen health, stability, communication, and community connection. From food assistance and therapy to Deaf Services and vision care, these supports help address everyday needs while creating a stronger foundation for independence and well-being.



Food & Basic Needs

The Community Pantry helps individuals and families access nutritious food and essential resources, strengthening food security throughout Northwest Indiana.

Health & Wellness

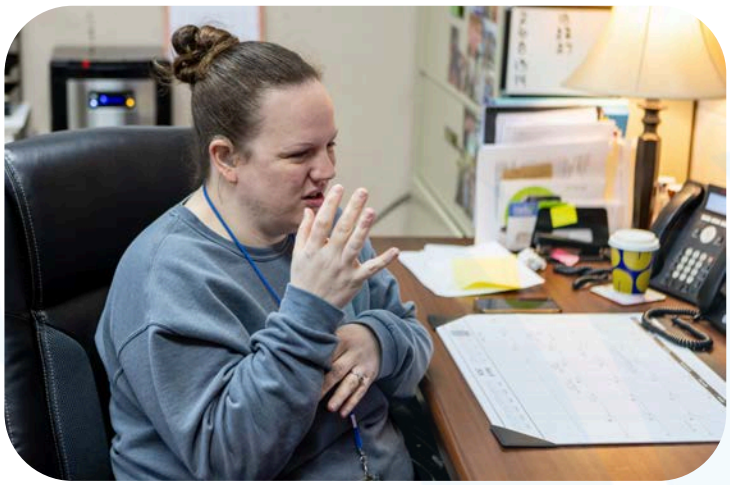
Therapy services and access to vision care through the Chicago Lighthouse Low Vision Clinic help individuals address needs that can affect learning, independence, and quality of life.

Communication & Access

Deaf Services provides ASL interpreting, case management, and assistive technology that help remove communication barriers and increase access to services and the community.

Connection & Belonging

Adult day programming, recreation, social activities, and community experiences create opportunities to build relationships, explore interests, and stay connected.



FOOD SECURITY. COMMUNITY STRENGTH.



Since opening in 2022, the TradeWinds Community Pantry has grown into an important resource for individuals and families facing food insecurity throughout Northwest Indiana. What began as a response to an immediate community need has continued to expand, providing greater access to nutritious food in a welcoming and respectful environment.

This year, the Pantry distributed more than 244,000 pounds of food, helping families stretch household budgets and put healthy meals on the table. But the impact extends beyond the food itself. Each distribution creates connections—between volunteers, community partners, families, and neighbors—all working together to strengthen the community.

For TradeWinds, food security is an important part of helping people thrive. When basic needs are met, individuals and families have a stronger foundation to focus on their health, independence, and future.

244K

POUNDS DISTRIBUTED

3,848

FAMILIES SERVED

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF WELLNESS

TradeWinds is building on this whole-person approach through the new Enrichment Center, where expanded opportunities for health, wellness, recreation, nutrition, and community connection will come together in one inclusive environment.

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Time given. Connections made. Impact multiplied.

Volunteers bring additional hands, talents, energy, and community connections to the TradeWinds mission. Whether supporting client activities, lending a hand at special events, assisting with projects, or sharing professional expertise, every hour given helps create more opportunities for the individuals and families we serve.

289

VOLUNTEERS

32

EVENTS & PROJECTS

1306

HOURS DONATED

WITH OUR CLIENTS



SHARING THEIR SKILLS



IN OUR COMMUNITY



PARTNERS IN IMPACT

Partnership in Action - Strack & Van Til + TradeWinds

For TradeWinds, the most meaningful partnerships go beyond financial support—they create opportunities, build connections, and strengthen our community.

Strack & Van Til has been a longtime partner in the TradeWinds mission, supporting our programs through annual corporate partnership, community fundraising, and employment opportunities for individuals of varying abilities. Through initiatives such as its annual Round Up campaign, Strack & Van Til invites thousands of shoppers across Northwest Indiana to turn a few cents at the register into meaningful support for TradeWinds.

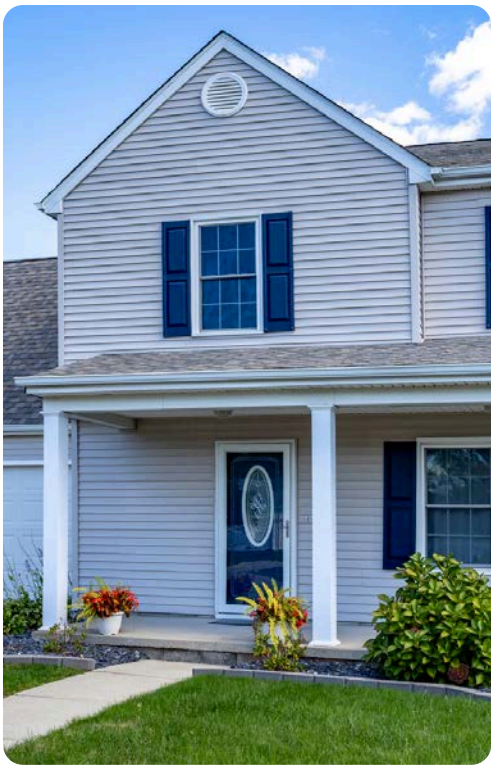


But the partnership's impact is perhaps best seen in people. TradeWinds clients have found opportunities to work, grow, and become valued members of the Strack & Van Til team—demonstrating what can happen when businesses make inclusion part of their culture.

Together, Strack & Van Til and TradeWinds are showing that a strong corporate partnership isn't simply about giving back. It's about investing in people, creating opportunity, and building a Northwest Indiana where everyone has the chance to contribute and belong.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

More than a residence. A place to belong.



Beyond Four Walls

A home is more than where someone lives. It is where daily routines take shape, friendships grow, milestones are celebrated, and people have the freedom to make choices about their lives.

TradeWinds provides residential options designed to offer the right level of support while promoting dignity, independence, safety, and community inclusion. Through Group Living and Supported Living, individuals are supported in creating lives that reflect their needs, preferences, and personal goals.

Whether someone lives in a TradeWinds group home or receives Supported Living services, the goal is the same: to provide the support that allows each person to live with greater independence, choice, dignity, and connection.



Group Homes

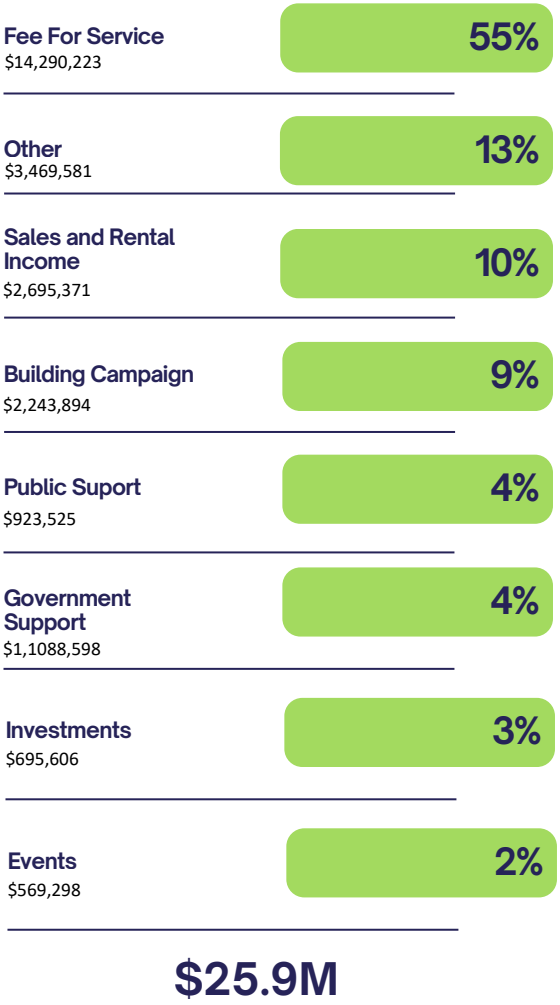
TradeWinds' community-based group homes provide a welcoming home environment with 24-hour support. Individuals receive assistance based on their needs while participating in household routines, making personal choices, building relationships, and staying connected to their community.

Supported Living

Supported Living provides individualized assistance for people who want greater independence while continuing to receive the support they need. Services may include help with meals, shopping, appointments, medications, finances, transportation, household responsibilities, and community activities.

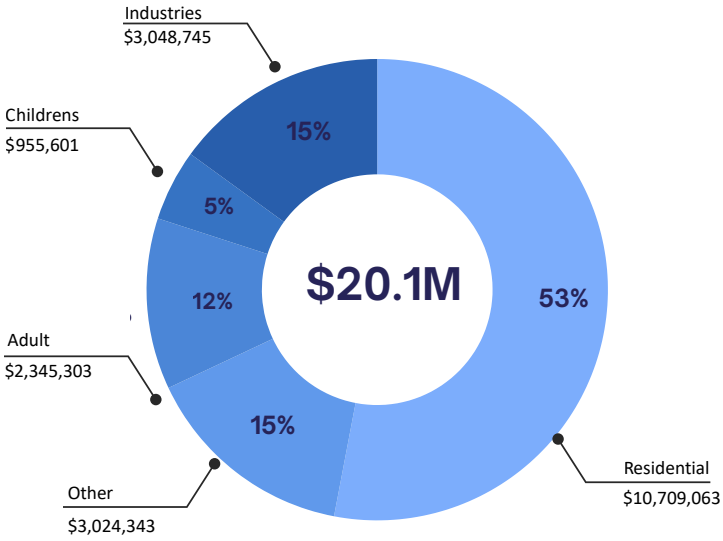
FINANCIALS

Where our Funding Comes From



$25.9M

How Resources were Used



Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Financial Snapshot

Financial Position	Amount
Total Assets	$24,074,054
Total Liabilities	$2,047,111
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions*	$15,209,420
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions*	$6,817,523

BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

Expanding opportunity. Building community. Creating what's next.



TradeWinds is preparing for one of the most significant expansions in our history. The new Enrichment Center will bring together opportunities for health, wellness, recreation, vocational training, social connection, and community inclusion in one welcoming, accessible environment.

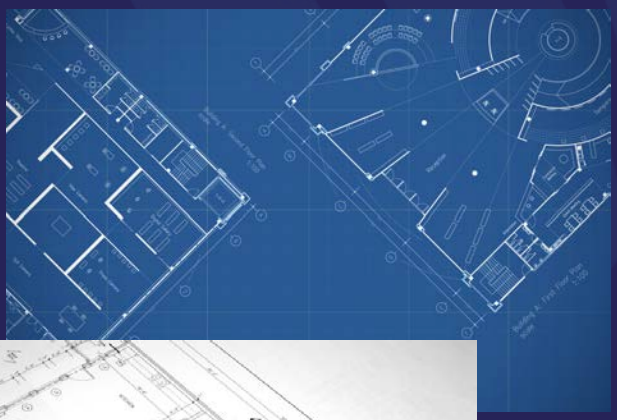
Designed to serve individuals of varying abilities while creating new opportunities for engagement with the broader community, the Center represents more than additional space. It is an investment in what comes next—for the people we serve, their families, and Northwest Indiana.

28,000
SQUARE FEET

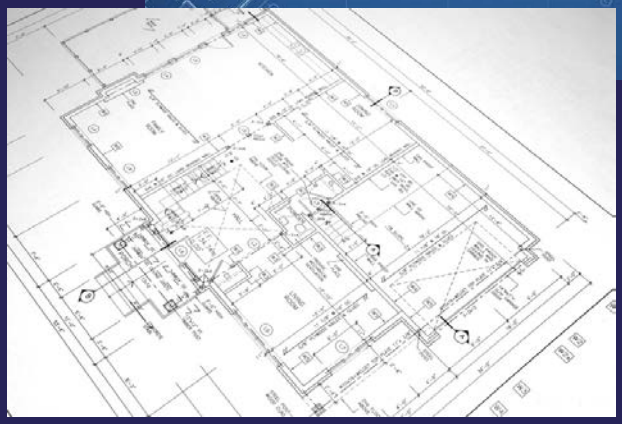
1000
PEOPLE ANNUALLY

Spring 2027
GROUND BREAKING

WE'RE NOT SIMPLY BUILDING ***MORE SPACE.***
WE'RE CREATING MORE ***POSSIBILITIES.***



ADAPTIVE FITNESS & WELLNESS
Specialized equipment and inclusive opportunities designed to make physical activity more accessible.



CAFÉ & WORKFORCE TRAINING
A public café will provide hands-on hospitality training for TradeWinds clients while creating opportunities for learning and collaboration with Purdue University Northwest.

HEALTH & VISION SERVICES
Accessible health and vision resources will bring important services closer to the individuals and families who need them.



CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE AREA
A year-round space designed to encourage movement, motor development, confidence, and play.



GYMNASIUM & RECREATION
A 12,000-square-foot gymnasium will create space for recreation, performances, community gatherings, and Special Olympics training.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION
Indoor and outdoor spaces will create more opportunities for recreation, relationships, respite, learning, and belonging.



BE PART OF WHAT COMES NEXT.

GIVE. PARTNER. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE.

tradewindsnwi.org

Learn how to get involved