



# First Chance Center Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022

A private not-for-profit, 501-C-3 Corporation. Incorporated in 1969.

Services Provided:

- ◆ Early Intervention Services
- ◆ Adult Vocational Services
  - FCC Industries
  - Community Employment Service
  - Mobile Crews
- ◆ Day Habilitation Services
- ◆ Orange County Transit
  - Facility Transportation
  - Public Transit Service
  - Medicaid Transportation
- ◆ Services are provided in:
  - Orange County
  - Washington County
  - Lawrence County
  - Greene County
  - Crawford County
  - Martin County
  - Dubois County
- ◆ CARF Accredited Programs:
  - Employment Supports
  - Job Development
  - Community Integration
  - Home and Community Services
- ◆ AbilityIndiana Partner
- ◆ SourceAmerica Community Rehabilitation Partner
- AbilityOne Contracts-Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center



## A Message from the Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2022...the year of uncertainties. What color is our county and what does that mean? Do we mask? Do we social distance? Is the Pandemic over? What does the current guidance say? Oh, what about quarantining, close contact, extra cleaning protocols and vaccines? This was the world we lived in for an entire year. We, like many employers, had the added challenge of finding and hiring enough people with the passion to serve the mission of First Chance Center.

Although the last few years have been like no other, our dedicated and experienced members of our workforce has never wavered. The Day program's service hours are back to normal. Our staff have hung in and stepped up to make sure our individuals received quality services. We were also able to secure funds, such as, the OBRA stabilization grant and HCBS Stabilization grant to support the program during the process of fully reopening.

Our vehicle fleet got a needed facelift this FY. We were also able update our vehicle fleet with ten newer 5310 vehicles and have plans to retire 11 vehicles from the First Chance Center Fleet.

Even though we had a year of uncertainties, we have had many accomplishments to celebrate. I am certain as we look forward to another year, we will have many more successes to celebrate.

*Catherine G. Strother*

*Executive Director*



*First Chance Center's mission is to promote abilities and provide opportunities for persons with disabilities and other barriers to fully participate in their community.*

# DAY SERVICES ON SITE

First Chance Center Day Services Program seeks to serve individuals in the community with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Through individual and group activities taking place in both the facility and community, we strive to provide a foundation of basic living skills. The program provided for 60 of individuals during the 2021-2022 year. We are currently partnered with 3 community volunteer sites (Lost River ReSale Store, Lost River Market and Deli and Head Start) and hope to continue to build back up to the previous amount of 13 volunteer sites.

*The Day Services program is funded primarily by Medicaid Waiver, ResCare Community Alternatives, and the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services State Line Budget.*

**First Chance Center Offices are open Monday through Friday 8am until 4pm**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 267  
Paoli, IN 47454

**FCC Site Locations:**

First Chance Center  
986 W. Hospital Road  
Paoli, IN 47454  
(812) 723-4486; Fax (812) 723-4487

Tot-To-Tot  
1337 W. Hospital Road  
Paoli, IN 47454  
(812) 723-2273

FCC Industries  
635 N Greenbriar Drive  
Paoli, IN 47454  
(812) 723-2950

**First Chance Center Board of Directors**

**Officers**

**Larry Blanton.....President**  
**Diann Mathers.....Vice President**  
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**Heather Leone.....Secretary**

**Directors**

**Mary Magner            Susan Gilmore**  
**Stacey Burton        Kyle Neukam**  
**Kristal Painter        Jim O'Connell**  
**(Directors as of June 30, 2022)**

**DAY SERVICES-ON SITE**

**MEET LYSIE.....**

This year, the day service program would like to acknowledge Lysie McCabe. Lysie has been with First Chance since 2010 and is an active participant both in the facility and throughout the community. She is an active volunteer at our two current sites (Lost River Market and Deli and Lost River Resale Store) and



has also completed projects with the art programs. She is a part of the First Chance Center Ambassador Program that works to recognize community leaders as well as maintains several of the Blessing Boxes in the area. Whenever there is a chance to volunteer, help out, or be involved, Lysie is one of the first people to ask to join in. She has recently started working at the French Lick Resort through the Community Employment program at First Chance Center. Thank you Lysie for all of your hard work!

**Submitted by:** Laura Watson-Lindley

# Our Dedicated Staff

(as of June 30, 2022)

Congratulations to those staff members who have reached these milestones in their tenure at First Chance Center.

## 25+ Years of Service

Catherine Strother

## 20+ Years of Service

Amanda Bush  
Angela Chisham  
Calvin Curry

## 15+ Years of Service

Deborah Brand  
Eva Dunn  
Valerie Moon  
Deirdre Wyman

## 10+ Years of Service

Edward Bush  
Shawnda Deweese  
Crystal Mattingly  
Tricia Strong  
Melissa Webb

## 5+ Years of Service

John DeRobertis, Tamelin Free,  
Christian Kelley, Jeff Kendall,  
Shanna McKitrick,  
Barbara Penn, Bailey Purkhiser

### Program Generated Revenue

Day Services	24%
Early Intervention Services	1%
Community Employment Services	3%
Janitorial Services	7%
Lawn	4%
Orange County Transit Service	28%
Crane/AbilityOne	28%
FCC Industries	3%
Envision Designs	2%

### Revenues and Support

Government grants/contracts	\$ 681,612
Non-government grants/contracts	\$ 135,452
Sub-contract income	\$ 40,660
County Support	\$ 45,000
Service Crews	\$ 581,975
Donations	\$ 36,897
Donation-Financial Assets	\$ 259,734
Interest & Dividends	\$ 25,260
Unrealized gains	\$ (178,351)
Miscellaneous	\$ 52,434
Total Revenue and Support	<u>\$ 1,680,673</u>

### Expenses-Program Services

Orange County Transit	\$ 400,939
Habilitation	\$ 530,464
Early intervention	\$ 62,381
Community employment	\$ 77,868
Service Crew-Janitorial	\$ 84,070
Service Crew-Lawn	\$ 118,017
Crane	\$ 247,492
First Chance Industries	\$ 209,686
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,730,917</u>

Decrease in unrestricted Net Assets \$ (50,244)

# Early Intervention Services

The Tot-to-Tot Early Childhood Program provides a toddler playgroup for children with special needs ages 2-4 and this year, we decided to implement Tot Boxes for 18-month-olds in order to help with the classroom transition. The playgroup has been offered on Monday and Wednesday mornings with Tot Boxes delivered on Fridays. With lack of staffing, we have been unable to open our Friday class. A total of 11 children participated this fiscal year.

With a combination of staff shortage and the pandemic still roaring its ugly head, the classroom was shut down a few different times. We received a Sol Strauss grant to purchase a new SMART TV for the classroom, an upgrade from our VCR player.

After 16 years we said good-bye to one of our teachers Carol Black. Carol retired Aug. 27, 2021. For the summer months Amy Tuell, a Special Education teacher from Springs Valley, joined the classroom.

A FCC fan, Harmony Flick, made pillows for all the Tot to Tot students. This was a nice addition to the Tot Boxes.



Submitted by: Allison Strother/ Valerie Moon

## Day Services-Off Site

This year has been a challenge for Off Site Services as we have not been able work with our clients until the last few months due to COVID. This has been stressful for the clients, parents and staff. Day Services (Off Site) were provided for a total of 2 consumers in the fiscal year 2021-22.

### Meet Rebecca...



The Off Site Service Staff would like to recognize Rebecca McKitrick. Rebecca is a bubbly young lady who is full of smiles and laughter! Becky started having PAC services through FCC in December of 2018. Becky has a goal to build relationships with people in her community that will help keep her safe. Her main objective is to become more independent. This program has allowed Rebecca to become more independent and be able to explore her community. COVID-19 made things difficult for Rebecca in 2021 as she could not be active in the community. In 2022, they still

take precautions but Becky and her staff have been able to get out more and explore new places. Becky spends time with her sister, Shanna, her PAC caregiver in the community and at her sister's home. This service has given her opportunities to participate in things she loves to do such as eating out, camping, shopping, playing puzzles, doing crafts and swinging. Becky has gotten to take the reins and make decisions of what she would like to do. Family and Church are very important to Rebecca. Becky's staff have made sure that they incorporate these two things into her activities. They have gone to her Grandmother's for dinners along with cookouts, they have attended crafting events at her church, and spent a week at Buffalo Trace for church camp. Additionally, Becky and Shanna have went camping with their family several times, went to the French Lick Museum for Circus Days, had picnics or ice cream in the park and the list goes on. The offsite service staff are so proud of Rebecca. PAC services have given Becky the support to experience a new world and has made it a safe environment for an independent young lady! We look forward to 2023 to see what new adventures are in store for Becky and Shanna .

**Submitted by:**

Missi Weeks Jones, Support Specialist

## Orange County Transit

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

Passenger boardings: 8,536

Miles driven: 101,771

With Covid-19 it has made it difficult to function normally. We have worked hard to keep things moving along. Drivers still continue to sanitize the vans and wear masks when necessary to keep the environment safe. Big shout out to the drivers who have stuck through this. Calvin Curry, John DeRobertis, Nancy Wolfe, Lisa Beasley, Crystal Mattingly.

Some new changes have happened in transit. Lisa Beasley is the Early Dispatcher/Driver.

Hired a new driver in September but left in February for personal reasons. Two other full-time drivers left as well to pursue other opportunities.

We have added a new driver William Messer, he joined transit in April.

We never had to shut down transportation completely. Three drivers had to go into quarantine due to Covid. All has recovered from it.

**Submitted by:** Crystal Mattingly, Transit Director



Your ride is here

## FCC Industries

At FCC Industries in FY 2021 – 2022 we are still feeling the effects of the global pandemic including: supply shortages, inflation, high fuel costs, and a worn out work force. We are constantly reevaluating and changing our processes to find creative solutions to meet the needs of our customers and most importantly our employees in an ever changing work environment.

In the last year we have taken a step back and are trying to focus on what we can do well, and excel at that. With focusing more on quality over quantity. We have lost some key employees this year but have had others step up, and we have hired a few new employees to help fill in the gaps.

Our hardworking janitorial crews are still working diligently to provide the best cleaning services that we can provide. One of the areas that has hit us hard with inflation has been on janitorial supplies. We have seen several price increases due to supply and demand. Our crews do a great job of using our resources wisely. We have changed our schedule to doing early morning cleanings before business's open for the day eliminating the need for night and weekend cleans at some of our local janitorial sites. This has improved morale and made things better for our employees with very little impact to our customer.

With employee shortages we have had to combine lawn and our service crew. This proved to be very challenging in the start of our current lawn season and our crew has struggled to keep up. This is one of the areas that we are working on trying to refocus and streamline in the coming fiscal year so that we can better manage both. We were fortunate to pick up a college student for the summer and she has helped tremendously fill the employee shortage gap.

Stone City and CM Conveyor both continue to see growth and they are keeping us busy but we have seen them struggle with supply and demand as well. Sometimes they are faced with product shortages. When parts comes in this puts pressure on our crews to have to assemble our jobs quickly to keep our customers afloat. Our crews jump to this challenge and this makes us a valuable asset to the companies we do business with.

Envision Designs is working hard this summer to build up our inventory for our fall shows. This is another area where we have pulled back from doing as many shows and focusing on inventory for the shows that we do well at. We have been working on our Facebook page to post more content. We do interactive postings with giveaways to peak customer's interest. We did Easter baskets this year and had a huge turnout for those. We have seen an uptick of foot traffic coming in to purchase with the push of our social media. In the next year we hope to improve our online presence with a better website so that our customers can buy directly from there, and can navigate it easier.

At FCCI we promote a family atmosphere. Some days our family is a little dysfunctional but all in all we take care of each other like family, and each person on our team plays an important role in making the chaos work.

**Submitted by:** Amanda Bush, Industrial Director

## Community Employment Services

In 2022, we were able to start to have in person meetings and put away the masks...hopefully for the last time. Community Services Staff provided services to an average of 29 clients throughout the year. We placed four of our clients into community employment, and we have three clients in the process of being hired. Additionally, we have grown our Extended Services to three clients. That area will continue to grow as we place current clients. The best news of all is that we found an amazing candidate in Michael McGary. Michael is joining the team as a new Employment/Support Specialist. This addition will allow us to spend more time with our current clients along with growing the program.



### CES SPOTLIGHT

The CES department would like to recognize Jesse Lane. Jesse was referred to the CES program late fall in 2020. But with family commitments and COVID, Jesse was on hold with CES until the spring of 2021. The Employment Specialist and Jesse had to learn to social distance, learn how to do virtual meetings, wear masks, carry hand sanitizer, and the list goes on. Jesse wanted to get a job to earn money, meet people and to stay busy. FCC Employment Specialist, Jesse and his mother, Jill, discussed different vocations. He was offered a position of bus boy at McAlister's. Jesse's job description entailed removing plates when customers were finished eating, bussing tables, sanitizing tables, and doing refills. Jesse added the task of greeting customers on their arrival and telling them "Have a nice day" as they left McAlister's. He caught on to the tasks very quickly and achieved Milestone One and Two within the first month. Jesse was able to achieve stabilization on 11/30/21 and then achieved Milestone 3 on 2/28/2022. Since that time, Jesse has had extended services. An Employment Specialist checks on him once week. During every visit, FCC staff found him working hard. The ES has been told by managers and other staff how they love him. Jesse puts a smile on both the staff and the customers faces every day. They praised Jesse for his work ethic and accountability. He works independently. It is great to see Jesse gaining new friendships, confidence in himself and having a positive outlook. ES is very proud of this young man. The Community is also proud of Jesse as the Bedford Times Mail came to write an article about Jesse deeming him an inspirational example. The article states that "Jesse is a beam of inspiration who is already proving to be quite popular with his colleagues and customers." The CES Department and FCC looks forward to watching him succeed with his endeavors in the future!

**Submitted by:** Missi Weeks Jones, Support Specialist