

# I ALWAYS GET

# HELP

·····and •···

# SUPPORT I need when I REACH OUT TO REACH PIN



Last year was remarkable for RIPIN's peer professionals and the community we serve, with continued growth and accomplishments while staying true to the peer model that makes RIPIN special. The vast majority of RIPIN's board and staff are parents or caregivers to loved ones with special needs.

In furtherance of our strategic plan, we:

- Told RIPIN's Story by reaching 10 times as many Spanish-speakers with capacity-building workshops than ever before;
- Enhanced our Community Connections by deepening relationships with partners like Conexion Latina Newport, Progreso Latino, and the Woonsocket Education Department;
- Remained the Best Employer with the Best Employees paying all staff at least \$20/hour, enhancing professional development for leaders, and introducing restorative practices into our culture; and
- Forged Systemic Solutions at the policy table by advocating for improved IEP processes, protecting the right to critical health care under the Affordable Care Act, and launching a year-long policy initiative focused on access to preschool special education.

It was also a year in which we launched two new significant programs: the Alliance for Community Health Worker Employers, a forum for organizations in the sector to share best practices and coordinate advocacy, and our Self-Directed Support Program for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who self-direct their services. RIPIN supported so many of these families when the adults were children, and so many RIPIN staff who had children with disabilities when they joined us now have adult children in this system.

None of this is possible without support from an incredible group of funders, partners, board members, and staff.

Thank you!



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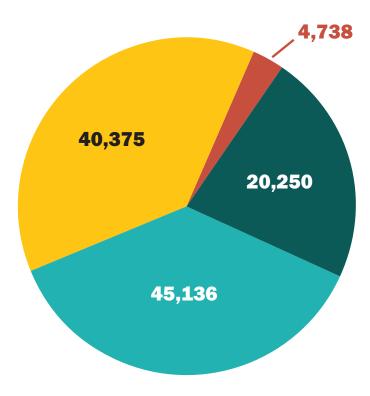
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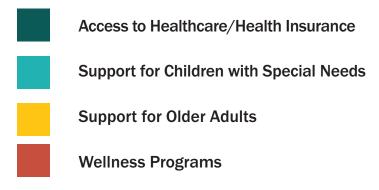
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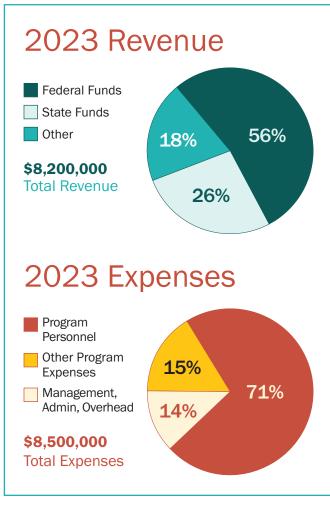
van Beuren Charitable Foundation

## 2023 by the numbers











## 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Named a PBN Best Place to Work

901

IEP Meetings
Attended

95%
Customer
Satisfaction

## \$7.8 MILLION

Saved on Healthcare Costs (2018-2023)

**126,452**Social Media
Reach

328

Policy & Advocacy Meetings

# Strategic Initiatives

# Community Health Worker (CHW) Workforce

RIPIN leads in the advancement of the CHW workforce. As the State's largest employer of certified CHWs, we play a lead role in various initiatives building a foundation for the CHW sector, including the CHW Roadmap, RIDOH's CHW Network Strategy Workgroups, and the Alliance for CHW Employers. In 2023, we were proud to support Rhode Island's first CHW Conference, creating a new platform for CHWs to share best practices, build connections, and elevate their impact.





#### **Policy Advocacy**

RIPIN is committed to championing for systems that our community needs to thrive. Always centering the voices of people with lived experience, we seek to ensure Rhode Islanders can access special education, health care, and resources for healthy aging. In 2023, our Fall Policy Forum focused on preschool special education, a high-priority need likely to be at the center of our policy agenda for years to come. We're also proud to be advocating for improved policies to foster meaningful parent engagement in the IEP process, increased reimbursement rates for behavioral health and social and human services providers, and making critical financial support available to more low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

#### **New Support for Adults with I/DD**

The launch of RIPIN's Self-Directed Support Program in 2023 was a significant step forward in empowering individuals and families who self-direct their services for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Through workshops, peer support, online resources, and connections to partner organizations, this program increases transparency and consistency while reinforcing the philosophy of self-determination on which the self-directed model is built.





# **Empowering Spanish-Speaking Communities**

In 2023, RIPIN served 250% more Spanish-speaking clients than we did in 2019. This growth was fueled by intentional outreach to and partnership with strategic allies and community leaders. We advertised on Latina Radio in addition to numerous outreach events targeting Spanish speakers. We have a formalized system for compensating multilingual staff, and more than half of our client-facing staff speak Spanish. We offered more Spanish workshops and online resources than ever before. And we are proud of multiple strong partnerships with organizations that specialize in supporting the Spanishspeaking community.

RIPIN helped me 25 years ago with my Bipolar son + now is helping me with my 71 year old husband who has moderate/ severe Alzheimer's Thank you!

Muchas **Gracias** por brindar su ayuda y **Gran Apoyo!** 



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The advocacy of the program helped me tremendously with getting **nursing** care for the boys I am fostering.