

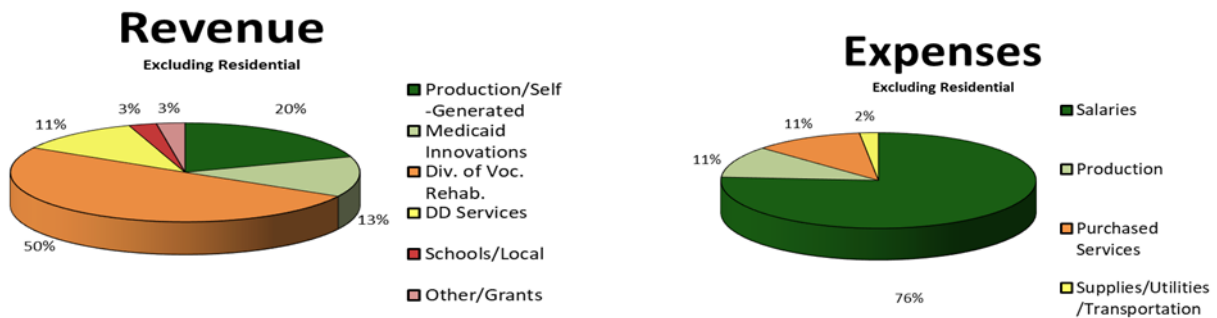
ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022-2023

Dear Friends of Watauga Opportunities,

During FY 2023-2024 Watauga Opportunities will celebrate its 50th Anniversary year. Since 1974 it has been WOI's mission to **enable self-reliance and enhance independence** by offering employment, pre-vocational, and community opportunities to the people of Western North Carolina. During the past fifty years much has changed in terms of services, systems and expectations; however, the one constant has always been the stability of our mission driven, high-quality, leading-edge services. We now proudly report our WOI Mission continues to be enhanced through ongoing growth in WOI's service area with the expansion of both our community employment and Pre-Employment Transitional Services (Pre-ETS). Pre-ETS services are now provided in 19 school systems, across 15 counties, to EC students in over 60 high schools across western North Carolina. The ability of Watauga Opportunities to continue this service evolution and expansion through continuous change is credited to the efforts of a knowledgeable, dedicated, and visionary Staff and Board. It is due to this vision, knowledge, and dedication we look optimistically toward a future which continues our WOI tradition of excellence.

Highlighting 2022-2023 was WOI's continued pursuit of service enhancement and growth targets. Through NCDVR, we further enhanced our Pre-ETS program while expanding to over 60 high schools in 15 counties. In 2022-23, we added new Pre-ETS and Community Employment services in Stokes County with services starting in Yadkin in 2024. Through VAYA Health we continued Long Term Community Support (LTCS) and Medicaid services. In the past 16 years our community immersion services have grown over 1,200% with participant community civic hours increasing from 476 in 2007 to 5,722 hours in FYE 2023. Expansion of employment services also continued in Catawba and Alexander counties. Our controlled environment medical manufacturing and plastic thermoforming produced our third highest manufacturing revenue ever, while our Quality Management System was recertified in medical manufacturing ISO 13485-2016.

We continue to partner with NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, VAYA Health, numerous County Boards of Education, and others in the provision of vocational, community, and residential services. During FY 2022-2023, Watauga Opportunities services **grew by 29% totaling 1,644 individuals served**. Our employment programs saw 64 individuals attain **self-reliance through employment**; Work Adjustment placed 29 individuals while Supported Employment accounted for 35 community job placements. Evaluation, Work Adjustment, and CBA served 54 individuals, Supported Employment served 51 individuals in job development/training and 58 in Follow-Along, LTCS served 41 individuals, Innovations served 16 individuals, School programs served 1,404 students, our group homes served 12 individuals. WOI served individuals from Watauga, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Buncombe, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Caldwell, Catawba, Alexander, Wilkes, Surry, and Stokes Counties.



Watauga Opportunities continues in our quest to **enable our own self-reliance** through reduction in the use of tax dollars in provision of our services. In FYE 2023 20% of non-residential operating revenues were self-generated. While the economic impact of Watauga Opportunities is important, the true human impact of our service is best seen in the growth of our participants' own **self-reliance**; since 1994 participant community wages earned are estimated at \$8.01 million, while their government subsidies have reduced by an estimated \$3.23 million. Community job placements now total 1,485. WOI truly is **enabling self-reliance and enhancing independence**. The above charts show the source of our revenue and its expenditure.

Thank you for your partnership,
Michael Maybee
President/CEO

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