

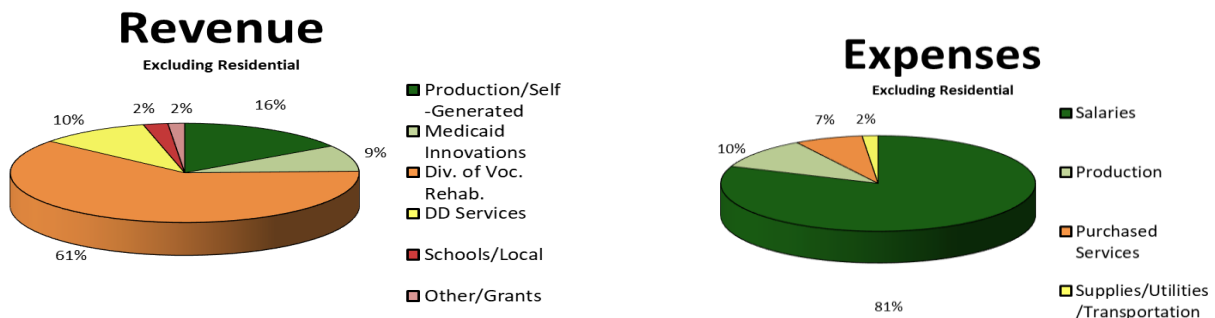
ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023-2024

Dear Friends of Watauga Opportunities,

During FY 2024-2025 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 our school-based 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 2023-2024 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 2023-24, we added new Pre-ETS services in Yadkin county. Through VAYA Health we continued Long Term Community Support (LTCS) and Medicaid services. In the past 17 years our community immersion services have grown over 900% with participant community civic hours increasing from 476 in 2007 to 4,274 hours in FYE 2024. Expansion of employment services also continued in Catawba and Alexander counties. Our controlled environment medical manufacturing and food grade plastic thermoforming continues to producer quality products, while our Quality Management System was recertified in medical manufacturing ISO 13485-2016 and is scheduled to be certified in Safe Quality Food production in the fall of 2024.

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 2023-2024, Watauga Opportunities services **grew by 5% totaling 1,718 individuals served**. Our employment programs saw 69 individuals attain **self-reliance through employment**; Work Adjustment placed 30 individuals while Supported Employment accounted for 39 community job placements. Evaluation, Work Adjustment, and CBA served 37 individuals, Supported Employment served 54 individuals in job development/training and 57 in Follow-Along, LTCS served 44 individuals, Innovations served 17 individuals, School programs served 1,486 students, our group homes served 12 individuals. WOI served Watauga, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Buncombe, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Caldwell, Catawba, Alexander, Wilkes, Surry, Stokes and Yadkin 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 2024 16 % 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 1,554. 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

P.O. Box 2330 • 642 Greenway Road • Boone, North Carolina 28607
Telephone: (828) 264-5009 • Fax (828) 264-5006 • www.woiworks.org