

Happy LEAP Year!



We are grateful for your support!

During 2022, we served 1,536 individuals with disabilities.

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) offers a broad array of Home and Community Based Services that maximize individual choice and assist people with disabilities to live, work and remain active in the community, with the necessary benefits, supports, and resources to do so.

You helped us make a real impact!

- 934 individuals received expert assistance obtaining their benefits.
- 170 individuals participated in our Quantum LEAP recreational programs.
- 230 individuals increased their income and security by using our employment services.
- 112 individuals received independent living skills training services.
- 102 individuals were taught how to effectively assert their rights.
- And we tirelessly worked to advance the rights of individuals with disabilities across multiple local, state, & federal organizations.

Your help makes a big difference!

Our donors and sponsors provided over \$79,000 in funding, during 2023, which maximized our promotion of fully accessible and integrated communities so that all persons with disabilities can live, work, learn, and socialize where they choose, without barriers. Thank you!



Letter from our Executive Director

Building Independence

These numbers represent real people whose lives are positively changed by LEAP. Each activity, support session, and benefits conversation empower individuals with disabilities to live independently and confidently.

LEAP is a federally recognized Center for Independent Living (CIL). CIL's are non-residential places of action and coalition where persons with disabilities learn and develop necessary skills, empowering them to make their own life choices.

We help people with disabilities connect with existing resources and our own array of comprehensive, high quality and award-winning programs and services. It is all about advancing participation and equality for society in Northeast Ohio.

2024 is a big year for us: LEAP Year! We're celebrating all year with advocacy, community education, volunteer opportunities, and program spotlights. New partnerships are allowing LEAP to connect more people to the benefits, employment, and socialization they need. The greater community benefits when people with disabilities can fully participate as part of their own independent living model. We are proud to help them succeed on their journey.

Thank you for your support.
Beth Glas



Meet Curtis

Curtis, who has a developmental disability, regularly participates in programs like bowling, basketball, and bingo through our Quantum LEAP, adapted recreation program. Says Curtis, "Bowling is my favorite! But also love basketball and bingo!"

"I've seen him more confident and socializing more since joining. It's brought him out of his shell," says Curtis' mom, Ellenora, of her son. She also recognizes how much Quantum LEAP benefits parents and caregivers. "The opportunity to talk to other families has been a blessing. You think you're the only one, but it shows that (you're) not alone. It also shows to us parents what Curtis and others are capable of if given the opportunity."

LEAP exists to help individuals with disabilities achieve economic self-sufficiency, live independently, and participate fully in community life.

Through an array of award-winning, person-centered services, we help neighbors and friends like Curtis achieve their goals while advancing a society of equal opportunity, regardless of disability.

[More Heart-warming Stories](#)



Peer support advocates are crucial for success.

These are individuals with a disability who share how they have dealt with struggles and challenges related to their disability. Their experience helps a consumer feel heard and able to achieve more independence.

They are listeners, creative problem solvers, coaches, role models, and mentors!

What do LEAP peer support advocates do?

They work with any LEAP consumer who is adapting to a disability or is seeking to increase their independence. Advocates keep in regular contact with the consumer to build relationships and recommend effective referrals to other community resources and service providers. Brainstorming coping skills, acting as a role model, and teaching self-advocacy skills are also important components of an advocate's responsibilities.

People with disabilities want to be part of the community and this tool strengthens independent living success. It can fill in gaps by supporting other needed service delivery. Most importantly, it combats isolation and helps provide a way forward towards success.

[Learn More](#)

Quantum LEAP (adult adaptive recreation)

Check out our upcoming events schedule including Bowling League, Boxing, Art, Yoga and so much more. See event calendar for activity dates. Register [online](#) or download our [print and mail forms](#).

Visit our Online Event Calendar for details and to register.



Become a [Quantum LEAP program sponsor](#) or, visit our Amazon Quantum LEAP Wish List to donate needed equipment and supplies.



Mark your calendars to check out **Cleveland Terminal Tower on February 28th!**

The tower will be lit in blue and green for LEAP!

LEAP will be celebrating LEAP Year throughout 2024. You can check out all of the excitement on our website as we add more events and activities.



In-Person Town Hall



Wednesday, March 20th

We are holding an In-Person Town Hall in partnership with Disability Rights Ohio - and you are invited!

Topics of discussion will include; Diversity in Employment, Living in the Community, and Community Access/Accessibility.

Join us to:

- Build a relationship with your elected officials
- Connect with your district's office
- Speak about how the issues identified above impact you and others in the disability community
- Learn what your elected officials do to support people with disabilities

[Registration and More Information](#)

Donate today to help support our 2024 services. Thank you!



Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential

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