



**2022**

**Disability Rights Wisconsin**

# **Annual Report**

*protection and advocacy for people with disabilities*

A decorative graphic consisting of a dark purple rounded rectangle with a thick orange border. Inside the rectangle is a light purple grid. Scattered across the grid are various colored dots in shades of white, grey, black, and teal. The text 'disabilityrights' is written in white lowercase letters on the right side of the rectangle.

**disabilityrights**

**WISCONSIN**

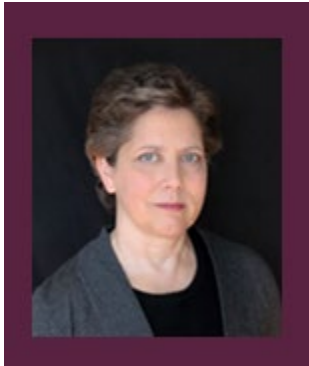
## **DRW Staff Acknowledgement**

Disability Rights Wisconsin is an approximately 75 member team of advocates, attorneys, and specialists who relentlessly execute the mission of Disability Rights Wisconsin.

### **Mission**

*DRW challenges systems and society to achieve positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.*

## **DRW Leadership**



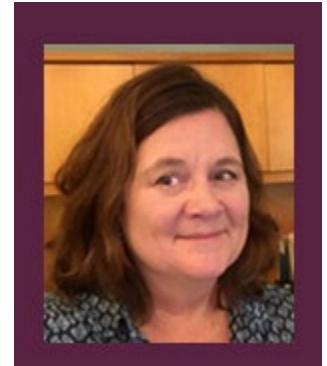
**Lea Kitz**  
*Executive Director*



**Theresa Zenchenko**  
*Board President*



**Kit Kerschensteiner**  
*Director of Legal and  
Advocacy Services*



**Amy Gallagher**  
*Director of Finance*

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**Teresa Wargo** *Vice President*  
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**Michael Sperling**  
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**Laura Lee Wright**  
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Reedsville, WI

**Tiffany Stark**

West Allis, Wisconsin

**Teresa Wargo**

Pulaski, Wisconsin

**Barbara Beckert**, *DRW*

Director of Advocacy for Southeast Wisconsin

**Kit Kerschensteiner**, *DRW*

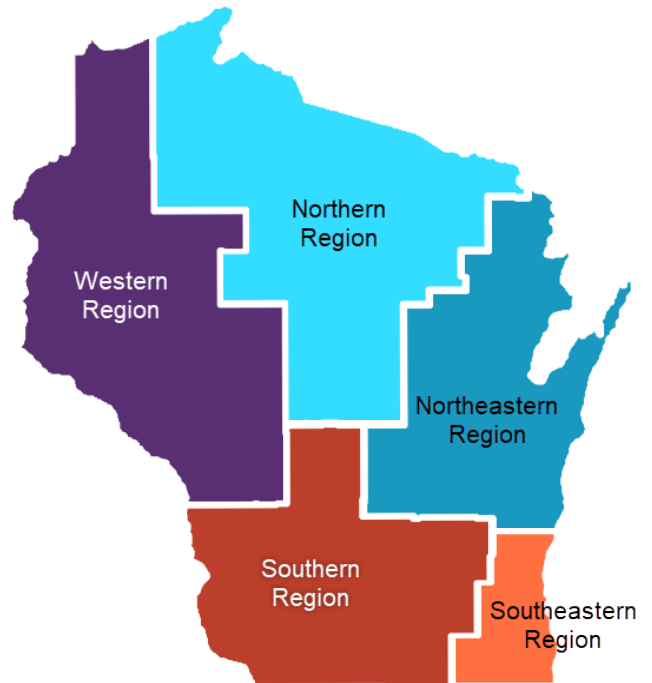
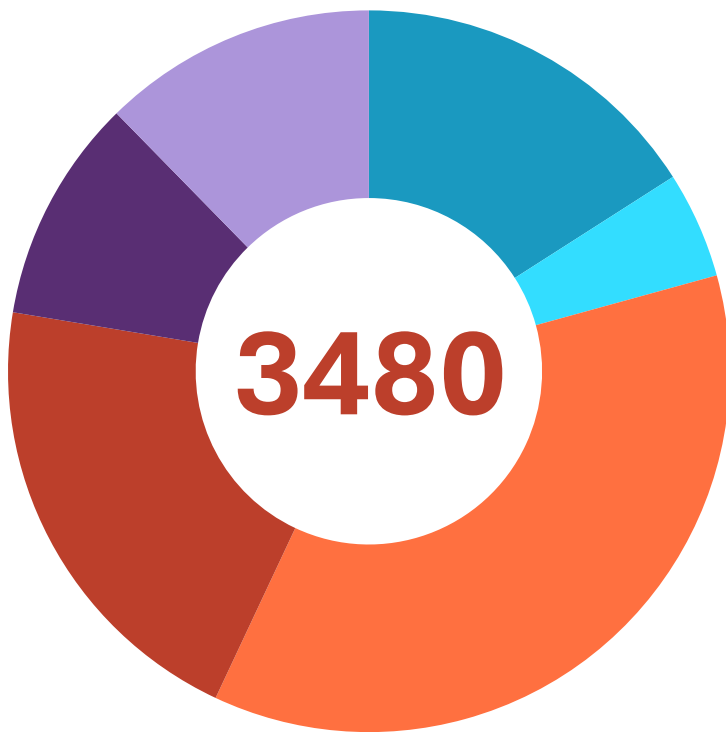
Director of Legal and Advocacy Services

## Individual Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Program Data

### Services Provided by Primary Disability of Client

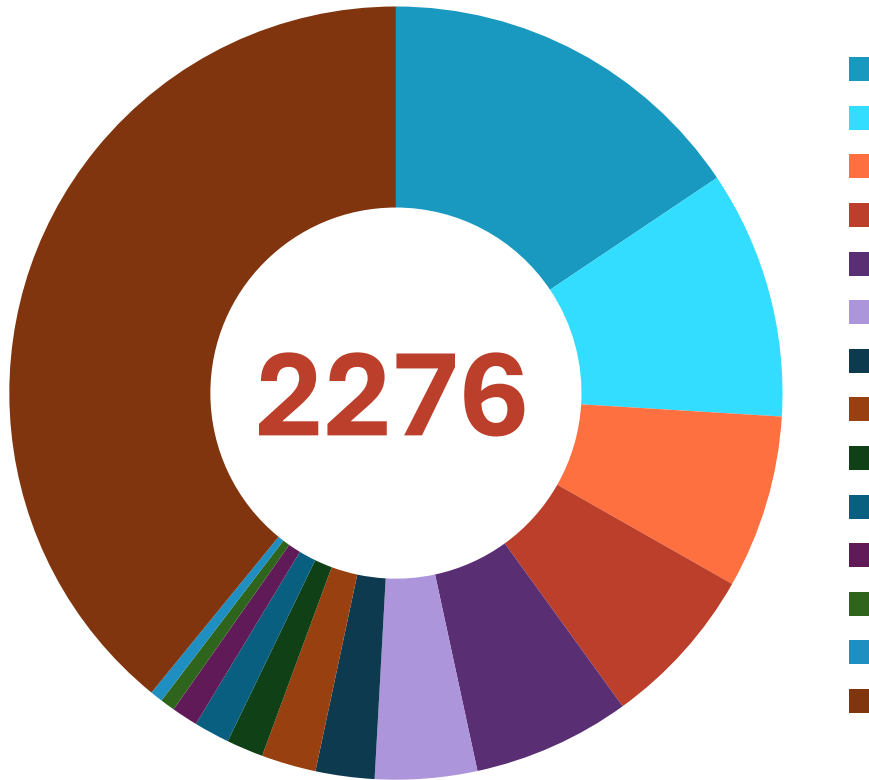
Type of Disability	Technical Assistance or Individual Representation	Information & Referral	Grand Total
Developmental Disability	406	295	701
Mental Illness	335	558	893
Physical Disability	361	1291	1652
Sensory Disability (Hearing or Visual)	58	68	126
Traumatic Brain Injury	44	64	108
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>2276</b>	<b>3480</b>

### P&A Total Services by Region

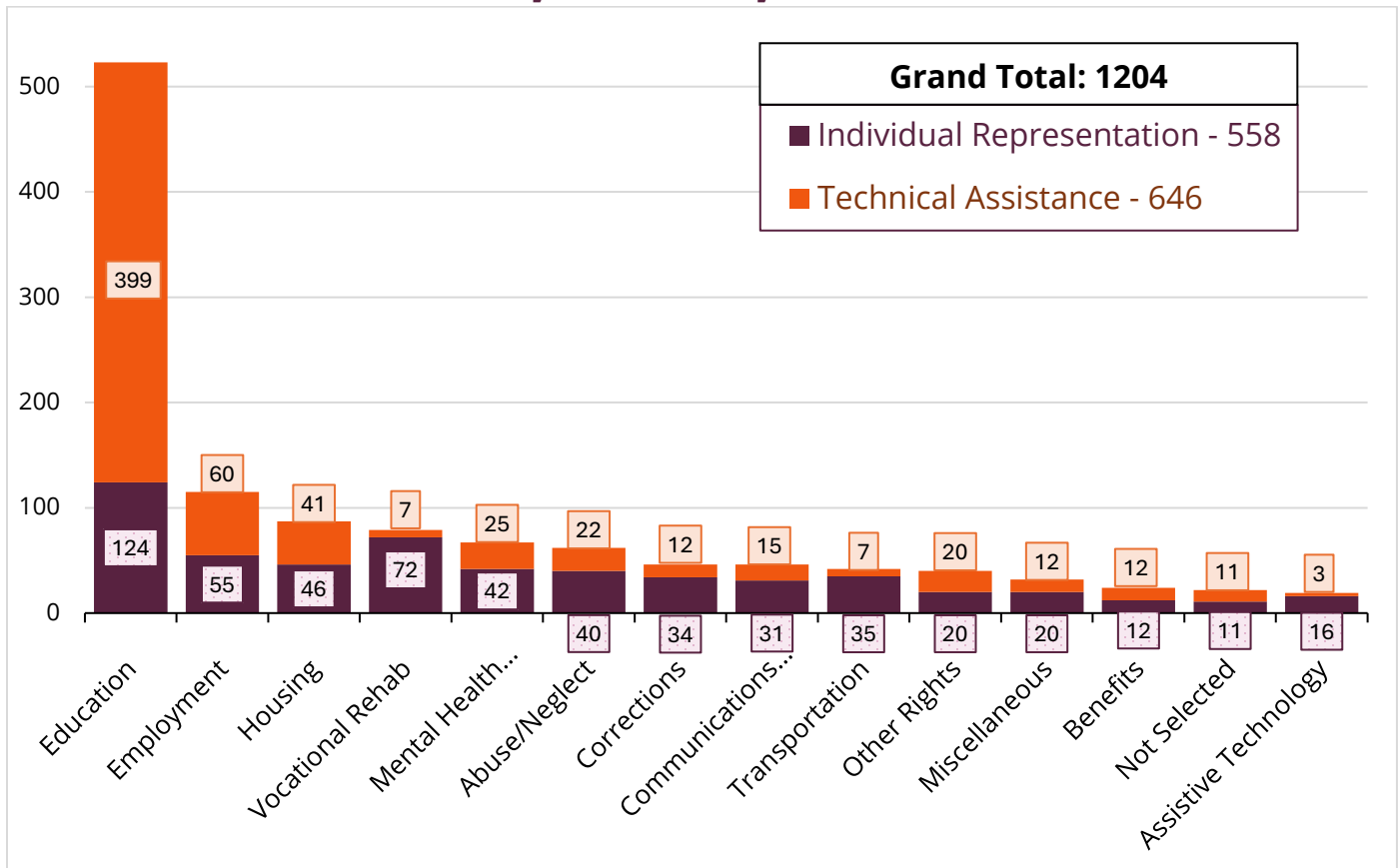


- Northeastern - 555
- Northern - 166
- Southeastern - 1262
- Southern 718
- Western - 350
- Not Recorded - 429

### P&A Information and Referrals by Topics



### P&A Services Received by Clients by Issue



## Technical Assistance and Training for Disability Benefits Specialists

The Department of Health Services contracts with DRW to provide technical assistance support and training for the Disability Benefits Specialists (DBS's) at Aging and Disability Resource Centers. This support ensures that DBSs can best help individuals with disabilities receive the benefits to which they are entitled and that match their needs. When formal legal intervention is required, DBSs can refer their clients to DRW for direct representation.

### Disability Benefits

#### Hours of Training

5,000

#### Technical Assistance Requests from DBS's

2,505

Issue Area	Number of Tech. Assist Requests	Percent of Total Tech. Assist. Requests
Social Security	1649	65.83%
Medicaid or Medicare	596	23.79%
General/Other	260	10.38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2505</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### Direct Representation Cases

18

### Disability Rights Wisconsin Medicare Part D Helpline

Since 2006, through a contract with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, DRW has had a Medicare Part D helpline for the people of Wisconsin with disabilities, their caregivers and professionals who support and work with them. The helpline provides advocacy, technical assistance, training to professionals, and outreach to Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries.

### Disability Drug Benefit Helpline – Medicare Part D

#### Helpline Calls Processed

294

## Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program (FCIOP)

The Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts with DRW to provide Ombudsman (advocacy) services for people between the ages of 18-59 who participate in or are seeking eligibility for Wisconsin’s Long-Term Care programs: Family Care, Family Care Partnership, Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE), and IRIS. People who are enrolled in Family Care/Family Care Partnership and PACE (FC/FCP) or IRIS set up care plans that identify what services or supports they will receive and who will provide them.

### Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program (FCIOP)

Request for Help	Number of People Requesting Help
814	675

Most Common Issues	Number of Service Requests <sup>1</sup>
Denial or delay of new request for service, medication, or equipment	237
Other	456
Relocation	228
Self-directed supports	109
Abuse/Neglect or Safety	92
Quality issues with provider	83

Type of Disability	Number of Clients
Developmental Disability	168
Physical Disability	323
Physical Disability and Developmental Disability	184
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>675</b>

<sup>1</sup>some requests involve multiple issues

## SSI Managed Care External Advocacy Project

The Department of Health Services contracts with DRW to provide direct assistance to people with disabilities enrolled in Medicaid HMOs. Information and Advocacy are provided on accessing Medicaid covered services; HMO enrollment, exemption and continuity of care; transportation and billing issues.

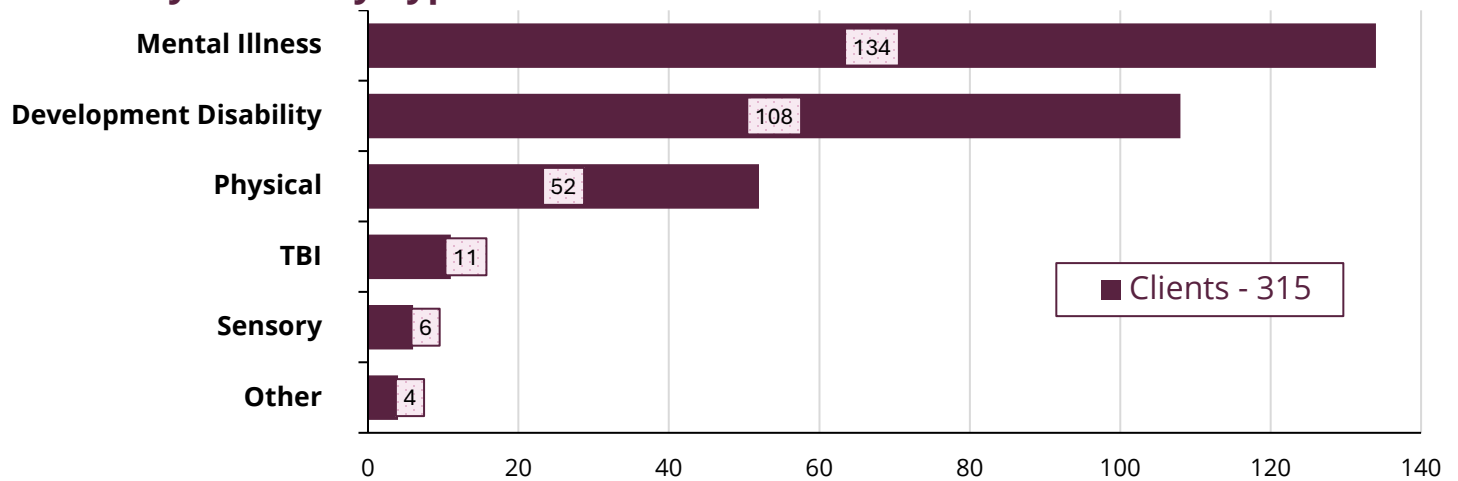
## The SSI Managed Care External Advocacy Project (SSI-MC EAP)

In 2022, the SSI-MC EAP provided 130 callers with information and referral and provided advocacy on 225 cases.

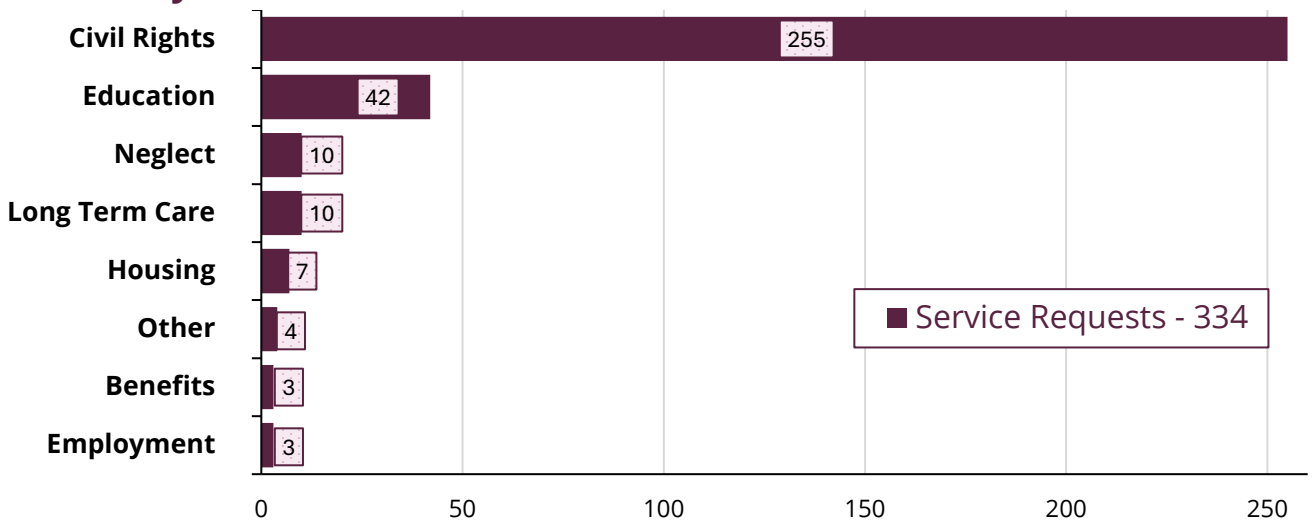
## Victim Advocacy Program

The Victim Advocacy Program (VAP) of DRW works to ensure that survivors with disabilities receive the advocacy, legal representation, services, and support they desire to move forward, find justice, and obtain safety and stability in whatever form the survivor needs. A main goal of the VAP is to promote self-determination for survivors with disabilities.

### Clients by Disability Type



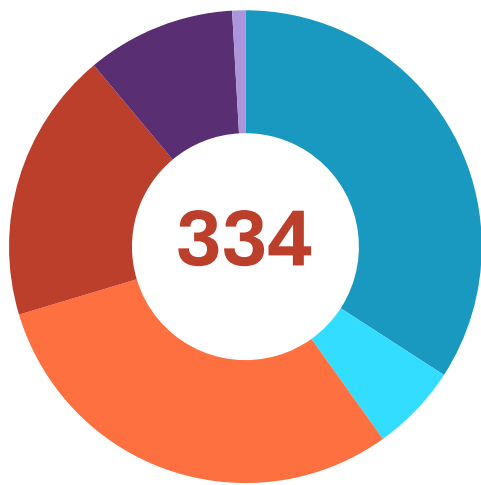
### Client Served by Issue Area



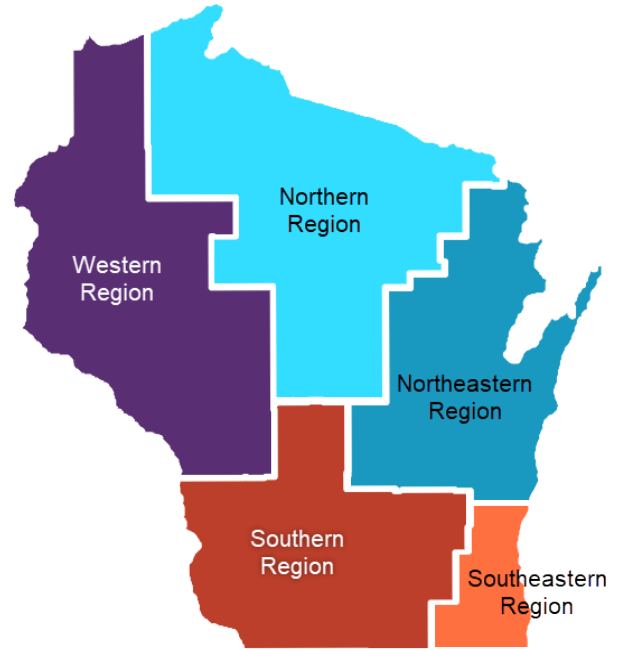
\*Each client may identify one or more victimization type



**Clients Services by Region**



- Northeastern - 114
- Northern - 20
- Southeastern - 101
- Southern - 62
- Western - 34
- Not Recorded - 3



**Victimization Type for Clients Assisted**

Client Victimization Type	Total *
Domestic and/or Family Violence	95
Adult Sexual Assault	77
Adult Physical Assault	67
Stalking/Harassment	60
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	44
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	31
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	24
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, or Physical) – CHILDREN ONLY	24
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	13
Robbery	13
Burglary	7
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other	5
Human Trafficking: Sex	4
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	4
Teen Dating Victimization	4
Child Pornography	3
Elder Abuse or Neglect	3
Other	11
Human Trafficking: Labor	2
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	2
Survivors of Homicide Victims	2
Kidnapping (custodial)	1
DUI/DWI Incidents	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>489</b>

\*Each client may identify one or more victimization type

## Summary Statement of Financial Activity

### 2022 Financial Report

Total Revenues without Donor Restrictions	\$4,307,615
Total Expenses	\$6,635,494
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$522,384
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$585,050
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$113,049
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$173,948
Net Assets Released from Restrictions, purpose satisfied	\$157,115
Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$60,899
Change in Net Assets	\$123,565

### Revenue

Federal Awards	\$2,991,635
Contracts	\$459,410
Contributions & Foundation Grants	\$337,948
Legal Fees	\$ -
Interest/Other	\$14,637
State Awards	\$2,955,429
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,759,059</b>

### Expenses

Salaries & Wages	\$4,258,707
Fringe Benefits	\$1,310,922
Fees/Contracts/Dues/Insurance	\$310,894
Occupancy	\$497,442
Travel	\$72,897
Printing & Subscriptions	\$45,387
Training & Conferences	\$51,468
Advertising	\$67,256
Other	\$20,521
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,635,494</b>

### Expenditures by Program

Protection & Advocacy	\$2,557,523	37.8%
FC/IRIS Ombudsman	\$1,641,344	24.3%
DBS Program Attorney	\$1,025,205	15.2%
SSI-MC & Med D	\$637,884	9.4%
Victim Advocacy	\$793,564	11.7%
Corporate Activities	\$103,539	1.5%

## Donors

Alan Stewart	Edward Angelina	Kristine Beck
Alicia Boehme	Eileen Newcomer	Larissa DeLain
Amy Gallagher	Elizabeth Ermenc	Lawrence Sandler
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Camilla O'Brien	Helene Nelson	Mary Sykes
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Catherine Kunze	Janice and Lawrence Bensky	Megin McDonell
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Dianne Nachtigal	Kenneth and Jeannette Golden	Paula Brettingen
Dorothy Winger	Kent Freeland	Peter Sayner
Duncan Shrout	Kilion Ku'u lei	Phyllis Greenberger
Edith Trubeck Sullivan	Kristin Kerschensteiner	Rajesh Akinepalli

## Disability Rights | Wisconsin

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Rebecca Stoffel

Richard and Harriet Redman

Rita Mueller

Robert Greenberger

Sam Williams

Scott Nushart

Sherri Voigt

Susan Beil

Susan Hancock

Suzanne Brown

Teresa Gustafson

Teresa Wargo

The Allen Family

The Bruce and Lisa Drummond Philanthropic Fund

Theresa Zenchenko

Tiffany Stark

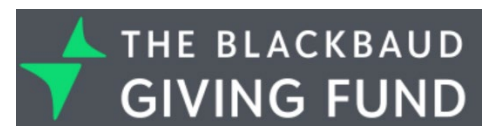
Tricia Thompson



**BOULDERS  
CLIMBING GYM**



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES  
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope



## Awards and Recognition

### 2022 Salle Sunde Family Advocate Award

#### Phyllis Greenberger - Madison, Wisconsin

*"Phyllis Greenberger has been a strong advocate for change, fairness, and justice for children and youth with disabilities since she began at Disability Rights Wisconsin over 30 years ago. She is a tireless and intrepid champion for children. A number of the battles she has been involved in have literally gone on for decades. She has helped families fight for the education that their kids have a right to as well as the community services they need to succeed at life. Sometimes the odds have been daunting but Phyllis never, ever, gives up on a child or an issue, even when others have walked away, or the child may have given up on themselves."*

-Lea Kitz, Executive Director, Disability Rights Wisconsin

**Congratulations to Phyllis on receiving this year's Salle Sunde Family Advocate Award, sponsored by Summit Credit Union . Join us in celebrating Change-Makers like Phyllis and other local leaders and organizations who are advancing social and environmental justice in our community at our 2022 Community Change-Maker Awards.**

Phyllis Greenberg, Lead Advocacy Specialist, received the Salle Sunde Family Advocate Award from Community Shares, sponsored by Summit Credit Union. The award is given to an individual whose work has had significant impact on the lives of families. Phyllis Greenberger has been a strong advocate for change, fairness, and justice for children and youth with disabilities since she began at Disability Rights Wisconsin over 30 years ago. She is a tireless and intrepid champion for children. A number of the battles she has been involved in have literally gone on for decades. She has helped families fight for the education that their kids have a right to as well as the community services they need to succeed at life. Sometimes the odds have been daunting but Phyllis never, ever, gives up on a child or an issue, even when others have walked away, or the child may have given up on themselves.

### Longtime DRW Attorney Mitch Hagopian Retires

Mitch Hagopian came to the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (now Disability Rights Wisconsin) 21 years ago to provide legal assistance and advocacy to persons with disabilities. His experience providing legal assistance to the elderly and to people in rural western Wisconsin, as well as his desire to improve the lives of people with disabilities and break down systemic challenges, brought him to DRW. Mitch retires today and is known by all as a tireless fighter of justice for persons with disabilities.

<https://disabilityrightswi.org/news/longtime-drw-attorney-mitch-hagopian-retires/>

## **Disability Rights | Wisconsin**

### **Madison**

1502 West Broadway, Suite 201  
Madison, WI 53713

### **Milwaukee**

1205 South 70th Street, Suite 500  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

## **Contact Us**

### **Toll Free Phone Number:**

(800) 928-8778

### **SSI-Managed Care External Advocacy Program:**

(800) 708-3034

### **Disability Voting Rights Helpline:**

(844) DIS-VOTE / (844) 347-8683

### **Email:**

[info@drwi.org](mailto:info@drwi.org)

*This report was made possible in part at taxpayer expense by funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Community Living/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services/Center for Mental Health Services, and the U.S. Department of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration. Report contents are solely the responsibility of Disability Rights Wisconsin and do not necessarily represent the official view of any of these agencies.*

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