

**LDA of Minnesota**  
**2003 Annual Report**



Building Success Over the Lifespan



## *Dear Friends of LDA,*

Learning disabilities do not go away as a person grows older, but can be effectively managed for a productive and fulfilling life. Recognizing the needs of individuals with learning disabilities over the lifespan, LDA provides services that meet the unique challenges children, youth and adults with learning disabilities (LD) face. From teaching parents the importance of early brain development and emerging literacy to providing children a strong reading foundation, to promoting family literacy and parent involvement in their child's education, to youth making successful transitions from school to work, and adults discovering their strengths and weaknesses and applying their knowledge to become more successful employees, LDA has been a successful partner in helping Minnesotans for 37 years achieve their potential despite their learning disability or learning difficulty.

2003 was an especially impressive year for Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota. Not only did our programming and outreach grow with the addition of several community-based collaborative partnerships and our affiliation with the national organization, LDA of America; LDA was also recognized for its distinction in management and governance by receiving the first Nonprofit Excellence Award. The award, sponsored by Marquette Financial Companies, and coordinated by The Management Assistance Program (MAP) for Nonprofits and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), was created to promote use of the Principles and Practices for Nonprofit Excellence created by MCN in 1998.

With the support of our growing membership and partnerships, we look forward to 2004 with anticipation of greater contributions to the field of learning disabilities and exciting new opportunities for the beneficiaries of our services and expertise. LDA's organizational lifespan, and the resilience demonstrated by those we serve, are tributes to individuals working through challenges, using strengths while understanding weaknesses, and finding success despite difficulties. Behind every number in this annual report is a story of the human spirit striving to achieve its highest potential. Our community benefits from individuals taking responsibility for their personal development and success. LDA's board and staff appreciate the broad base of support from our many stakeholders to make this vision a reality.

Warmest Regards,



Kitty Christiansen

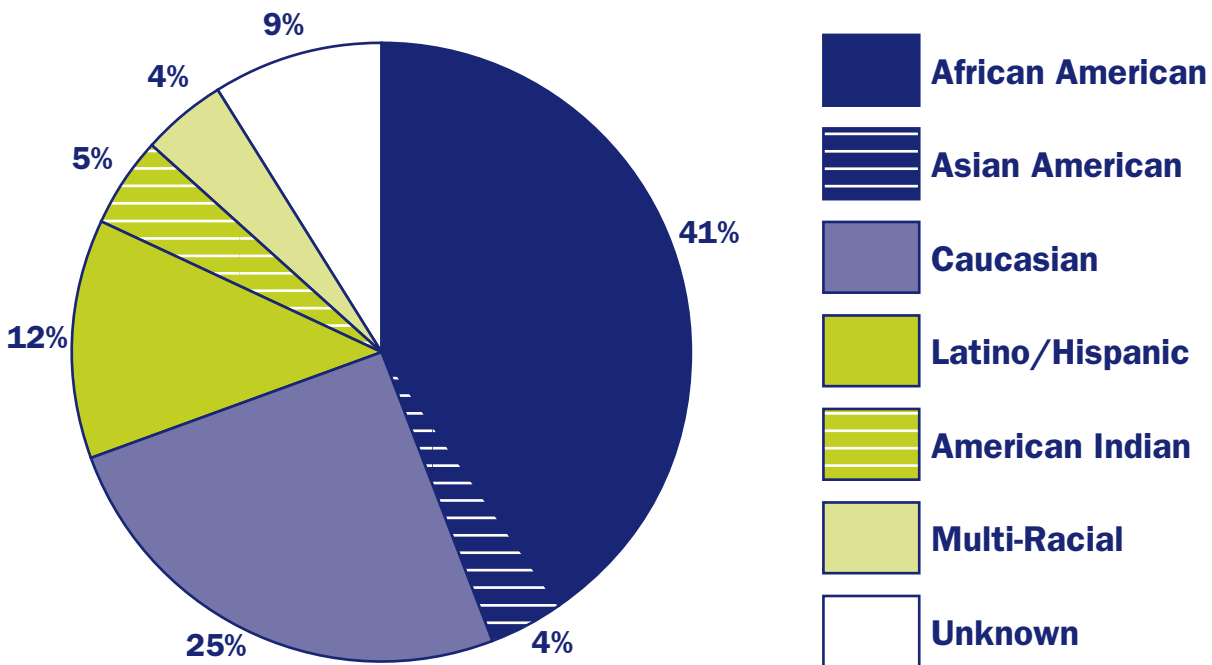
Executive Director



Jan Eian

Board President

# Client Demographics



LDA directly served 2,110 individuals in 2003. An additional 74,395 individuals received information and resources about LDA's services and learning disabilities. LDA's geographic area of services includes Twin Cities metropolitan area for children, youth and family services. LDA's adult services and public education efforts are provided to individuals statewide.





# Learning Connections

Learning Connections for Children & Families focuses on preventing severe reading difficulties or school failure by providing early intensive reading instruction, individualized tutoring, and diagnostic assessment services to children and their families. Parents are involved to support their child's education and learning. In 2003, 1,765 children and families were served directly.

- ❑ *Children's 1:1 and group tutoring, & summer camp: 89 children received instructional services at LDA Learning Center. 98.5% of those post-tested demonstrated academic skill gains.*
- ❑ *Assessment and Consultation services: 96% of 30 parents gained knowledge about their child's learning profile. Services include: LD Diagnostic Assessments and 1:1 Consultations.*
- ❑ *Intensive Reading Instruction: 345 children participated in supplemental reading tutoring services at their schools in partnership with LDA. LDA's community-based programs partner with public, private and alternative schools with high percentages of low-income families, ethnic & racial diversity, and students exhibiting high-risk reading indicators. 92% of children who post-tested demonstrated academic skill gains.*
- ❑ *Parent Involvement & Education: 396 family members from LDA's community-based partnerships gained knowledge or tools to improve family literacy and their children's learning.*

## PROGRAM PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY-BASED SITES:

Andersen Elementary School, Andersen Open School, Four Winds Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, North Star Elementary School, Golden Eagle Program of American Indian Center, Powderhorn Elementary School, Southside Family School, YouthLink's My Academy

**Of the children served at partner schools in 2003, 95% are from low-income families, 94% are children of color, and approximately 80% are between ages 5 to 9.**

**“My students love to read now.** They want

to read for me any chance they get.

They ask me to read to them and end

up reading to me. I see my students

being more comfortable and confident

reading, an improvement over the fall.

**Great program.”**

– **Minneapolis Public Schools teacher**

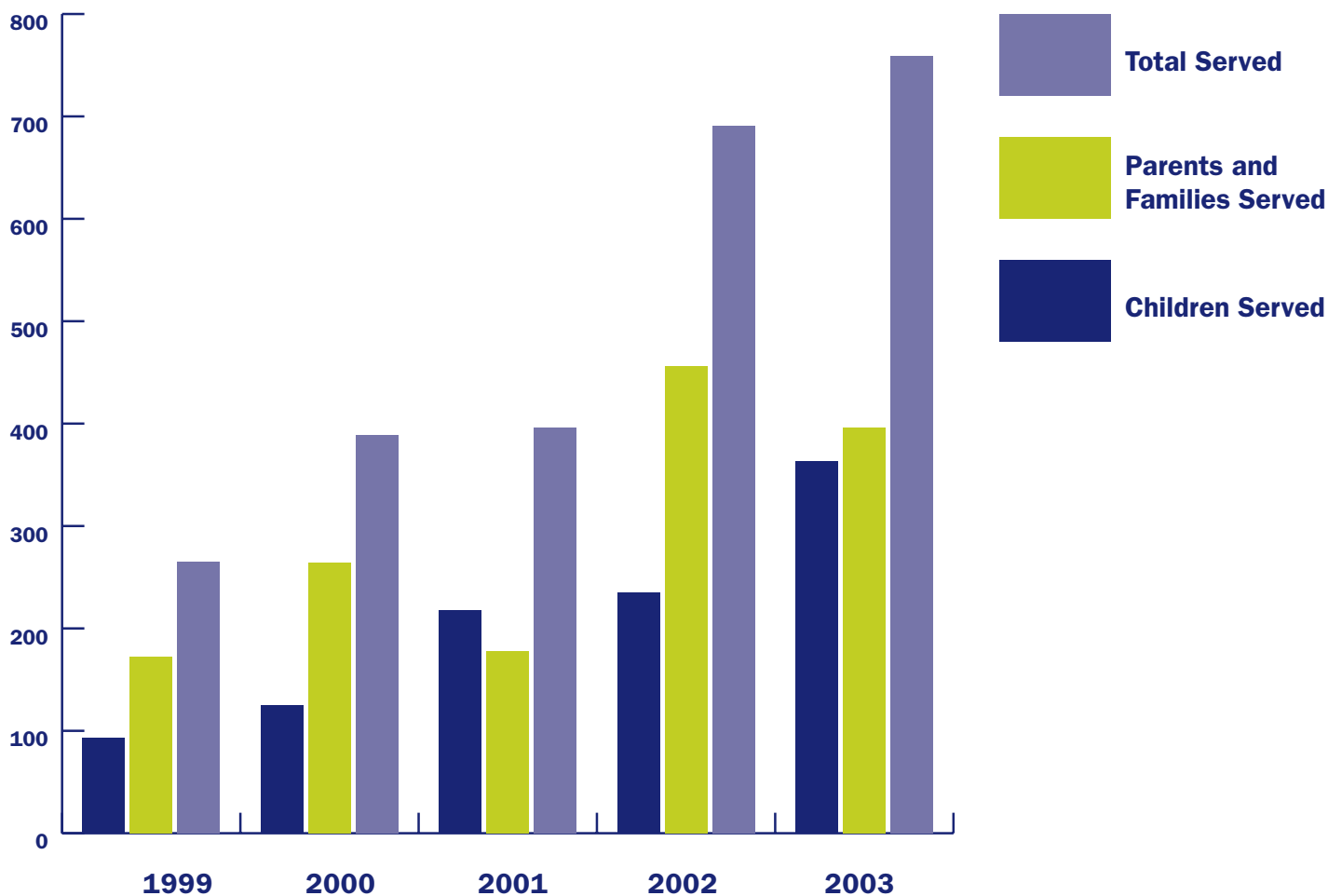
Operating at a systems level, LDA also involves school administrators, teachers and parents by providing training, consultation and mentoring to impact entire schools and organizations with the goal of better serving children who experience the most difficulties learning.

- *Organizational Capacity Building for Academic Success: 339 teachers, parents and volunteers received training, information, and/or individual coaching to improve academic results of students, potentially impacting 495 students with 100% of those reporting having applied knowledge to improve learning for children. 18 students were referred for specialized services and parent/teacher consultation.*

**CONTRACTING ORGANIZATIONS:**

Risen Christ Elementary School, Southside Family School, and YouthLink’s My Academy

**Although several programs have grown over LDA’s 5-year strategic planning period, Learning Connections is LDA’s signature program, in terms of breadth, depth of service, and impact in the community.**



**LDA's Community-Based Learning Connections Partnerships For Children & Families (1999-2004)**

# Transition Connections

Transition Connections for Youth concentrates on the critical transition time from high school to adulthood for youth with learning disabilities. LDA has created a successful program designed to gain self-awareness, knowledge about career and training opportunities, and self-advocacy skills that will help them to make informed decisions about their future and increase the likelihood of their success and self-sufficiency. In 2003, 216 youths participated, approximately 75% youths of color, and 69% male/31% female. (youth may have participated in more than one service)

- ❑ *Student Transition Planning: 151 high school students. 100% demonstrated progress toward implementing an individualized transition plan*
- ❑ *Community Resource Access: 164 youths. 98% demonstrated increased knowledge of post-high school training, employment and/or educational options*
- ❑ *Organizational Capacity Building for Transition Success: Teacher Training, Consultation and Resources were provided to 58 teachers. Of the respondents, 86% reported gain in knowledge of implementing quality transition programming. 220 Transition products were disseminated to teachers and students.*

## COLLABORATING PARTNERS:

Minneapolis Public High Schools: *Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, South, Southwest, Washburn, and Transition Plus*; Edina Public Schools: *Valley View, Southview, and Edina High School*; 4 metro Community Transition Interagency Committees; and LDA Volunteer Employer Advisory Committee.

# Public Education & Outreach

Public Education & Community Outreach about learning disabilities is provided through LDA's communications, website, information and referral center, speaker's bureau, educational conferences and seminars. In 2003, the agency became the state affiliate of Learning Disabilities Association of America, a national nonprofit organization made up of volunteers dedicated to information, advocacy, research and education focused on learning disabilities. This position places LDA as the leading resource for learning disabilities in Minnesota. In 2003, LDA provided direct training and public education to almost 2,500 people and an additional 74,395 individuals received information and resources.

## ACTIVITIES:

- ❑ *Training Workshops: 345 teachers and parents; 94% of respondents gained knowledge*
- ❑ *Free Phone Consultations: 19*
- ❑ *Communications: 46,487*
- ❑ *Outreach: 1,486 individuals*
- ❑ *Web site Visitors: 23,573*
- ❑ *Information & referral calls: 448*
- ❑ *LDA of MN Members: 146*





# Adult Connections

Adult Connections improves the quality of teaching, employability, and learning for adults with learning disabilities and learning difficulties. In 2003, 104 adults directly served.

- ❑ *Adult 1:1 tutoring: 24 adults received service. 92% of those who post-tested demonstrated success (Outcomes include gains in academic skills)*
- ❑ *Assessment and Consultation services: 98% of 80 gained knowledge of their learning profile. Services include: LD Diagnostic Assessments, Assessments for GED testing accommodations, 1:1 Consultations*
- ❑ *Organizational Capacity Building for Adult Success which includes:*

- ***Adult Basic Education (ABE) Teacher Training and Consultation:*** 439 individuals received training and information about adult issues through workshops and individualized consultation. Of the respondents, 97% reported gain in knowledge, potentially reaching 4,451 adult learners throughout Minnesota.
- ***Adult Resources: Taking Action, Step-by-Step Teacher Manuals, Adult Literacy Tool Kit products and NetNews Newsletter:***

*Five publications of NetNews were sent to 198 contacts who disseminated them to approximately 1400 adult teachers and 271 products were disseminated to adult teachers throughout Minnesota. Taking Action is a new resource for ABE instructors who work with English Language Learners (ELL) with significant learning difficulties. LDA will be pilot testing LD-ELL assessments in 2004. Evaluation results will be reported in 2004.*

“I would like to point out that **the quality of service received from LDA has consistently been excellent** and as an organization, they are concerned and committed to evaluating their work and producing results. They are excellent stewards of the public trust and highly qualified and competent in their field of expertise.”

– Dr. Barry Shaffer,  
Minnesota Department of Education

## COLLABORATING PARTNERS:

Minnesota Department of Education, Adult Basic Education (ABE) through approximately 60 local ABE consortium sites and ABE Statewide Supplemental Service Providers including Literacy Training Network, Minnesota Literacy Council, and LDA Volunteer LD Adult Advisory Committee

# Gifts to LDA

## 2003 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS, GOVERNMENT GRANTS & CONTRACTS FOR SERVICE

### Foundation Builders (\$30,000 +)

*The Cargill Foundation*  
*Greater Twin Cities United Way*  
*Minneapolis Public Schools*  
*Minnesota Department of Education, Adult Basic Education*  
*Risen Christ School*  
*YouthLink, My Academy*

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### LEADERS (\$10,000 - \$29,000)

*American Express Minnesota Philanthropic Program*  
*The Bayport Foundation of Andersen Corporation*  
*The Carolyn Foundation*  
*Albert W. Cherne Foundation*  
*Deluxe Corporation Foundation*  
*E.M. Pearson Foundation*

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### Partners (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

*The Andersen Foundation*  
*The Hugh J. Andersen Foundation*  
*Edina Public Schools*  
*Gannett Foundation*  
*Margaret Rivers Fund*  
*Southside Family School*  
*Star Tribune Foundation*  
*Tozer Foundation*  
*Whittier Elementary School*  
*Xcel Energy Foundation*

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### Guardians (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

*American Express Foundation - Employee Matching*  
*Burdick-Craddick Family Foundation*  
*Grand Management Company - Sidney's*  
*Kopp Family Foundation*  
*Malt O'Meal Company*

*M&I Marshall & Ilsley Bank*

*Metris Companies*

*Minnesota Mutual Foundation*

*Peregrine Capital Management/Minneapolis Foundation*

*Rosemount, Inc.*

*Target Stores*

*The Tennant Company Foundation*

*James R. Thorpe Foundation*

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### Sponsors (\$250 - \$999)

*The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation*

*Medtronic, Inc.*

*MINCO Products*

*Minnesota Vikings Children's Fund*

*The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation*

*PGN Foundation*

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### Friends (\$5 - \$249)

*Alliant Techsystems Citizenship Fund*

*GMAC-RFC*

*Michael Foods*

*Open Philanthropy Foundation*

*The St. Paul Companies - Employee Matching Gift*

**“This is a great way of sharing information with parents.** I think it was helpful

to come and see that others are having the same problems. I found two things in tonight's workshop that I'd like to apply at home. Thank you!”

**– parent training participant**



## **2003 INDIVIDUAL GIFTS**

### **Guardians (\$1,000 - \$4,999)**

Gary McKinley  
Thomas Ritchie  
Lisa Steffes  
Joe Stoebner

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### **Sponsors (\$250 - \$999)**

Pamela Bednar  
Kitty Christiansen  
Jan Eian  
Janet Gulden  
Michael & Cecelia Kava Dolan  
Steve Larson  
Charles Moore  
Eric Remjeske

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### **Friends (\$5 - \$249)**

Carol Brumwell  
Pamela Freske  
Karen Hansen  
Bonita Janda  
William Kellum  
David Kienitz  
Lawrence Kremers  
Ming Ligh  
David Marshall  
Linda Moriarty  
Dave and Kay Owen  
William Phillips  
James Rustad  
Laura Severson  
Arlene Sondag  
Marjorie Steffes  
Janet Watson

## **IN-KIND GIFTS**

*Risk Management Audit, Jack  
Hungelmann, Insurance &  
Consulting*

*Donated Art, The Cargill Foundation*

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS**

*General Mills Retirement Plus volunteers  
Charles Moore, legal counsel  
Bob Radde, IT consulting  
Molly Sandberg  
Dan Moriarty, Freelance Design*

### **LEARNING DISABILITIES (LD)**

#### **EMPLOYER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Rico Her, LDA of Minnesota,  
Transition Coordinator  
Neal Binsfeld, Allina Health System,  
Disability Case Manager  
David Dubovich, Allina Health  
System, Disability Case Manager  
Susan Forsyth, MN Department  
of Employment & Economic  
Development  
Mike Huggins, Hennepin County  
Corrections, Rehabilitation Program  
Specialist II, Transition & Ticket  
to Work  
Liz Morque, Resource, Inc.,  
Mgr/Employment Services  
Mady Ronning, Lutheran Social Services,  
Human Resources Manager  
Ann Rustad, Northwest Airlines, Inc,  
Basic Behavior Safety Specialist  
Lisa Todd, Northwest Airlines, Inc,  
Senior Accommodations Specialist*

## **MINNESOTA ADULT LEARNING DISABILITIES (LD)/ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Marn Frank, LDA of Minnesota, Adult  
LD Specialist and ABE Coordinator  
Mike Anderson, LDA of Minnesota,  
LD Assessment Specialist  
Barry Shaffer, Minnesota Department of  
Education (MDE)- ABE State Director  
Diane Pecoraro, MDE-ABE, English as  
a Second Language (ESL) & Welfare  
Reform Specialist  
Bella Hanson, MDE-ABE, Consultant  
Alberta Adams, NW Hennepin ABE,  
Brooklyn Park  
Susan Ault, Adult Options in  
Education, Hopkins  
Janet Dixon, Adult Education Center,  
Columbia Heights/Fridley  
Eleanor Junge, Harmony ABE  
Annelyn Kerr, Lehman Center,  
Minneapolis  
Bea Larson, Area Learning Center, Duluth  
Charles LaRue, Metro North ABE  
Maggie Lauer, Hubbs Center, St. Paul  
and SHAPE, Bloomington  
Patty Mensing, Mankato Area ABE/ESL  
Betsy Parrish, Hamline University,  
ESL Instructor  
Marilyn Solberg, Mankato Area ABE  
Linda Strand, Statewide Supplemental  
Services Provider-Physical Disabilities  
Juline Thomley, Mankato Area ABE/ESL  
Judy Thompson, SHAPE, Bloomington*

*LDA makes every effort to ensure that we have acknowledged all of our donors and volunteers. Please accept our apologies for any unintended omissions or inaccuracies.*

### 2003 BOARD OFFICERS

**Janet Eian**, President; Endurant Business Solutions, CFO & Eden Prairie Schools, LD Teacher

**Dave Dehne**, Past Co-President; Sage Brush Corporation, Sr. VP of Operations

**Karen Hansen**, Past Co-President; Medtronic Corporation, HR Director

**Charles Moore**, Vice President; Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Trial Associate

**Eric Remjeske**, Treasurer; Devenir, Financial Investments

**Lisa Steffes**, Secretary; American Express Financial Advisors, Vice President

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### BOARD MEMBERS

**Pamela Bednar**; PBS, Marketing

**Carol Brumwell**; Healthpartners

**Pamela Freske**, PH. D.; Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Inc., Psychology Fellow

**Donna Minter**, PH.D.; Minnesota Epilepsy Group, P.A., Clinical Psychologist

**Gary McKinley**; retired CPA

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### RETIRED MEMBERS IN 2003

**Dana Buska**

**Ellen Cree**

**Ming Ligh**

### ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Kitty Christiansen**, Executive Director

**Lori Boynton**, Youth and Adult Program Director

**Victoria Weinberg**, Ph.D., Children and Family Program Director

**Martha Moriarty**, Resource Development Director

**Rhoda Radde**, Business Manager

**Barb Simonson**, Accounting Consultant

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### PROGRAM STAFF

**Michael Andersen**, Assessment Specialist

**Susan Ault**, Teacher

**Sharon Aune**, Teacher

**Polly Bayrd**, Psychologist

**Rowan Buckley**, YouthLink Consultant

**Christine Clay**, Teacher

**Erin Fetzer**, LD Consultant

**Mary Sue Freseman**, Teacher

**Margaret (Marn) Frank**, LD Adult Specialist

**Deb Frederickson**, Transition Specialist

**Miriam Kragness**, Psychologist

**Rico Her**, Transition Coordinator

**Kim MacKenzie**, Reading Specialist & Learning Connections Coordinator

**Colin Marsh**, Teacher

**Sharalee Marsh**, Teacher

**Loren Meinke**, Learning Connections Teacher

**Wendy Noakes**, Learning Connections Teacher

**Emily Nordhus**, Marketing/ Client Services

**Kara Oettinger**, Teacher

**Michelle Pollis**, Teacher

**David Schreiber**, Teacher

**Erin Schroeder**, Teacher

**Maia Sheie**, Teacher

**Todd Sigler**, Psychologist

**Mariah Wold**, Teacher & Program Support

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### GREATER MINNESOTA

#### PSYCHOLOGIST NETWORK

**Kimberly Bednarek**, Sauk Rapids

**Susan Chwalek**, Monticello

**Kevin Haggerty**, Mankato

**Lynn James Halmrast**, Moorhead

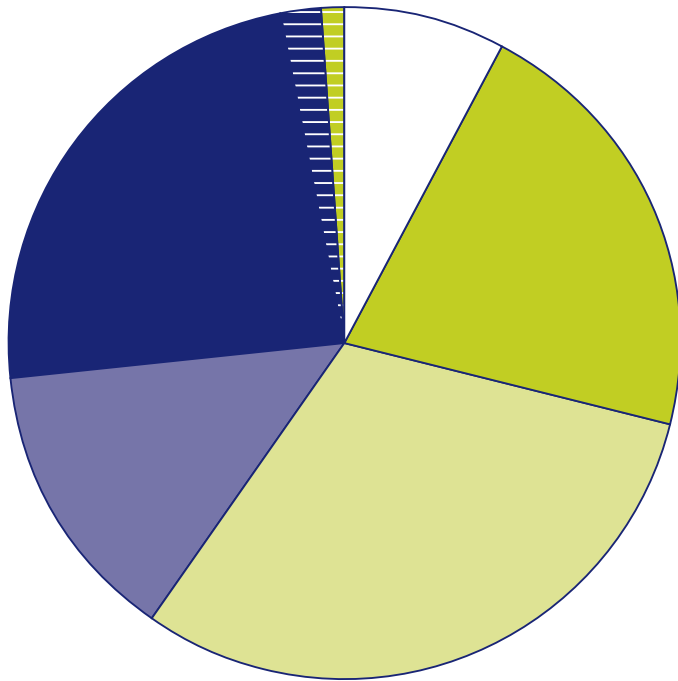
**Colleen Nardone**, Grand Rapids

**Lisa Skifton**, Houston

**Dawn Roppe**, Bemidji

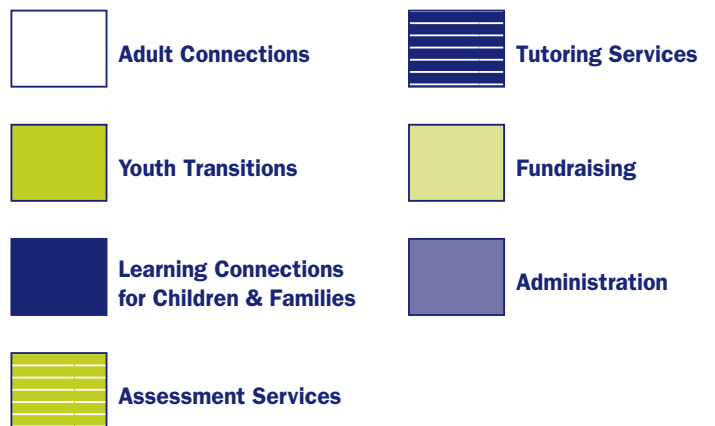
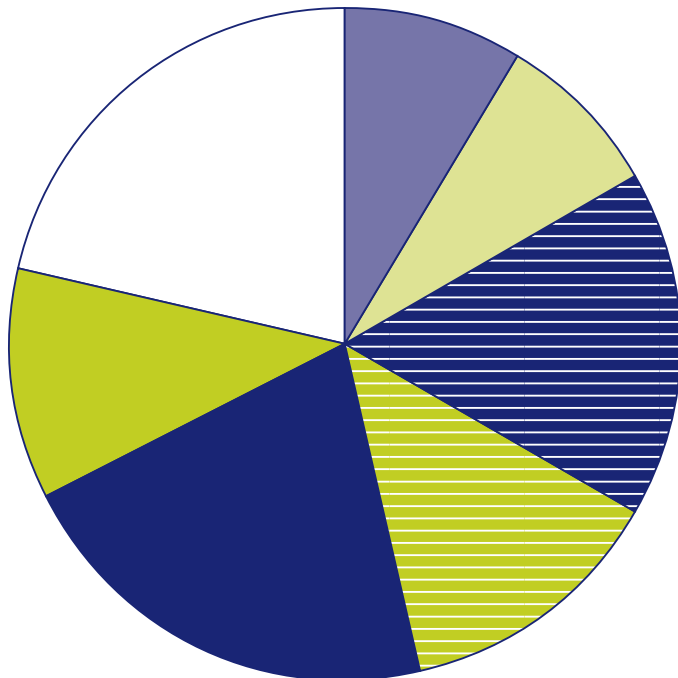
# 2003 Financials

## Revenues



Total Agency Revenue: \$879,121

## Expenses



Total Agency Expenses: \$889,232

**LDA of Minnesota**

**Learning Disabilities Association, Inc.**

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Minneapolis, MN 55416

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[www.ldaminnesota.org](http://www.ldaminnesota.org)

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Minneapolis, MN

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The mission of Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota is **to maximize the potential of children, youth and adults with learning disabilities (LD)** or related learning difficulties *so that they and their families lead more productive and fulfilled lives.*