Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

ACLD is a leader in providing employment opportunities for those with developmental disabilities through our Supported Employment Program. Our 2016 Annual Report highlights the positive impact that employees with disabilities bring to the workforce.

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“I like working here at Kramer. I have great friends that work here. I have a good job coach that comes and helps me when I need it. I have a great boss too. I feel good that I have a job that cares about me. I have been working 22 years this month. - Liz Appel, Kramer Learning Center
A CLD’s mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with autism, learning and developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, increase independence and foster supportive relationships within the community.

A leading Long Island-based 501(c)(3), not-for-profit agency founded in 1957, Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) serves the needs of more than 3,000 children and adults with autism, learning disabilities and other developmental disabilities, and provides support for their families.

To carry out our mission, ACLD employs more than 1,200 people and operates 80 different program sites including group homes and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Service programs include children’s services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, recreation programs, respite, family support services, Medicaid Service Coordination, and occupational speech and physical therapy and social work services.

So what is “an enviable life?” It’s a life where children and adults have the ability to make choices about the things that impact their daily lives. Where people know their voices will be heard and that their desires matter. Where they have the freedom and the support needed to pursue the goals they wish to achieve. An enviable life is the life we all want to live, and it’s one ACLD works every day to make sure those who turn to us for support can pursue.
Back in 1957 there were few places that existed outside of an institution for children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Parents, recognizing that their children were capable of so much more than being relegated to an institution, joined forces and formed the New York State Association for Brain Injured Children (NYABIC). Years later, the organization would change its name to Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities (ACLD) and join forces with the Suffolk Chapter, combining programming and services into an Island-wide organization. And it is this year ACLD proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary!

The ACLD we know today looks very different from the early years, but its central focus remains the same – providing an enviable life for all people supported throughout our programs. Whether it means being gainfully employed in the community, living independently in the community or working with seniors in the community to build vocational skills through volunteerism, ACLD is ensuring that no matter the disability, every person is pursuing what is most important to them.

In 2016, ACLD earned accreditation from the prestigious Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). This status not only validated all the great work we do to ensure our mission, but it also gave us the roadmap we need to ensure we continue to provide a person-centered approach in everything we do. From conducting Personal Outcome Measures (POMs) that will allow our staff to interview all of the people supported in our programs and learn what an enviable life means to them, to working collaboratively to strengthen areas that may need improvement, we continue to find new ways to stand out and be a leader in the field.

With the guidance of our Board of Trustees, the expertise of our administrative team, the skill of our staff and the support of all of you, ACLD will continue to provide a bright future for another 60 years.

Joseph J. Ortego, Esq.
President
Board of Trustees
Letter from the Executive Director

Robert C. Goldsmith
Executive Director

When I first joined ACLD three years ago, I acknowledged that it was a challenging time for agencies like ACLD who provide support to people with special needs. By building on ACLD’s foundation of success, we could strengthen ACLD for the future and any changes that may impact how services are provided.

Today I am proud to say that through the passion, persistence and commitment of our staff, families and Board of Trustees, we continue to grow ACLD into one of the most viable agencies in New York State by planning for tomorrow.

Despite the limited growth throughout New York State for services for the disabled, ACLD continues to expand with a combination of residential and day programs and commercial businesses. ACLD expanded to include six homes, formerly run by the State, and converted them from intermediate care facilities into 11 community residences where men and women can live more independently in the community. Our Adult Day Program expanded to include a Supplemental Group Day Habilitation Program, STRIVE, available to adults with developmental disabilities living at home, family care or within a supported living apartment program. Solidifying ACLD’s position as a leader in supported employment, we established our RewearAble Program to collect used and unwanted clothing while providing sustainable employment for adults with special needs. In addition, ACLD established its first NYSID (New York State Industries for the Disabled) contract to clean Heckscher State Park, and a second contract for the Huntington Department of Motor Vehicles offices. Together with the establishment of ACLD Cleaning Services, these initiatives have created 40 additional jobs for men and women with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

To strengthen ACLD for future generations, despite changes in the field and budgetary modifications, we created the ACLD Foundation, which exists to raise funds solely for the benefit of supporting the mission of ACLD. Positioning ACLD as a leader in the field by earning prestigious accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) is another example of how ACLD is preparing for the future.

While we don’t know what the future will bring, we are preparing for it by being part of the conversation and visibly representing ACLD in the field. ACLD is actively involved in collaborating with agencies that support people with special needs – the Advanced Care Alliance, the Long Island Alliance, the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc., NYSACRA and NYSRA – all to ensure we are at the forefront of the future and sharing any changes with our families.

By making sure the children and adults with autism and learning and developmental disabilities we support daily are the focus of everything we do, we will ensure that we are providing an enviable life for today’s and tomorrow’s generations.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
In 2016, ACLD operated 36 community-based residences and 39 apartment sites in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Beyond the comforts of home, these residential programs provide the counseling, training and support services that enable men and women with disabilities to work and live as part of the greater Long Island community. Collectively, 374 adults called an ACLD residence home in 2016.

DAY SERVICES
More than 450 men and women turned to ACLD in 2016 for Day Services options that foster independence, individualization, community integration and productivity. ACLD programs such as CHOICES, BRIDGES, OASIS Day Habilitation and Program Without Walls emphasize community-based training through educational, social/recreational and volunteer opportunities. In addition, the GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES program is specifically designed to address the needs of those with disabilities as they age while the CONNECTIONS program targets people who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or have similar strengths and challenges.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES
At The Gail and Don Mitzner Health Services Pavilion, ACLD’s Vocational Services Program provided job assessment, job development, travel training, on-site job coaching, school consultation and situation assessment services for more than 300 men and women with disabilities in 2016. ACLD operates one of Long Island’s largest Supported Employment Programs, working with highly motivated and qualified job-seekers and employees and matching them with an appropriate job opportunity at one of more than 100 companies throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties who hire people with disabilities.

REWEARABLE PROGRAM
In 2016, ACLD launched its RewearAble Program, a green program collecting used and unwanted clothing and fabrics while creating sustainable employment for adults with special needs. From scheduling pickups to sorting, sanitizing and baling the clothing, our integrated workforce ensures workers are building vocational skills in a work environment.

MEDICAID SERVICE COORDINATION
ACLD provides Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families in accessing and coordinating the services they are entitled to receive. The service is available to Medicaid-eligible individuals who are approved for services through New York State’s Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). In 2016, 800 people received services through Medicaid Service Coordination. A Family Support Services grant allows ACLD to provide Non-Medicaid Service Coordination to those who are not Medicaid eligible but require assistance in accessing and coordinating the services they require. In 2016, 647 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families received assistance through the Family Support Services grant.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
In-Home Respite Services are available to families of children or adults with developmental disabilities who are living at home; the Bethpage Respite Program is designed to specifically assist those caring for adults with developmental disabilities who live at home.

Our Supplemental Group Day Habilitation Program, STRIVE, is available to adults with developmental disabilities living at home, family care or within a supported living apartment program. Transportation to and from STRIVE is provided by ACLD. ACLD offers information and referral services to thousands of families throughout Long Island each year.

RECREATION
Adults with disabilities have access to ACLD’s Adult Recreation Program, which offers weekend activities and a vacation option. The fee-for-service program groups people based on their ages and interests with all participants required to pay tuition per semester along with all activity fees.

I love my job and the people I work with, I am always looking forward to work and love the job I do.
- Theresa Clarkin, Anthropologie
ACLD provides Children’s Services at two locations. The Alan and Ellen Spiegel Children’s Center in Bay Shore is the home of ACLD’s learning and recreation programs for children with autism, learning and other developmental disabilities. Offerings at the Center include a full-day, self-contained preschool that serves 45 children; a part-time, integrated preschool that serves 26 children with developmental disabilities and 10 children from the Long Island Head Start program; and an after-school program for 24 school-aged children. The Center is home to a summer camp for children with disabilities, operated in conjunction with the Great South Bay YMCA and with the support of a grant from OPWDD.

ACLD also operates Kramer Learning Center in Bay Shore, which provides comprehensive diagnostic, educational and therapeutic services to students with developmental disabilities. The programs offered at this site include a full-day, self-contained preschool that serves 88 children; and a part-time, integrated preschool that serves 39 children with developmental disabilities and 20 children from the Long Island Head Start program. This site also offers evaluations and related services to children not enrolled in our preschool programs.

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» HEALTH SERVICES
In 2016, the Charles Evans Center (CEC) celebrated the one-year anniversary of becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in order to expand its reach to the wider community. CEC, located on ACLD’s Bethpage campus, features multiple exam and treatment rooms, four dental suites and a large waiting area to reduce congestion and enhance privacy. Comprehensive health services are provided including Adult and Pediatric Medicine, Women’s Health, Behavioral Health, Dental, Neurology and Podiatry. The Center accepts all Medicare, Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care plans, as well as private insurance plans. In 2016, CEC served 1,914 patients and had 23,181 visits. ACLD continues to provide Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapy, along with Social Work Services, through its Article 16 clinic.

“Theresa is the absolute best. No one here gets the job done like Theresa can.” - Orianna Prince, Store Manager, Anthropologie
In 2016, ACLD was among the first agencies in New York State to have a person with autism employed to serve as a member of its Regulatory Affairs team, tasked with helping the team conduct the survey process and ensure the agency is in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Elizabeth (Ellie) Patrick joined the ACLD team in late 2015. Her unique perspective, living with autism, gives an insider’s view into the concerns people supported in program have and an opportunity to address them.

“I think I am an asset because I’m making my department’s job easier,” she said. “I bring insight to the job that not everyone has.”

Ellie has assisted in conducting inspections and satisfaction surveys of the people supported by ACLD. On her first assignment she visited a group home for a physical plant inspection, using a checklist to ensure the home was in compliance with safety and health regulations. For Ellie it was an interesting experience as she had previously never been to a community residence before.

A natural leader who has never allowed her diagnosis to hold her back, Ellie appeared on “Nightline” in a 2008 episode focusing on diagnosing autism in girls. She also served as a teen panel speaker at an educational conference on autism.

For Ellie, the independence she has gained from being an ACLD employee has given her a chance to move into the next phase in her life. Last Fall she moved out of her family’s home in Lindenhurst and into a supported living apartment in Levittown.

Ellie has served as a panel representative at the Job Expo co-hosted by FREE, ACLD, Life’s Worc and YAI, sharing her work experience with job seekers. In addition, Ellie has been a valued member of the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) Workgroup Basic Assurances #6, Safe Environments. Her experience in the department, coupled with her perspective as a person with autism, has led her to become an integral member of this group.

The gains in her employment have proven that anything is possible in all areas of her life when given an opportunity.
Focus on RewearAble Program

In 2016, ACLD’s focus on employment reached an innovative point as the RewearAble Program launched to create jobs for adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Through a Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) grant provided to ACLD by OPWDD, ACLD created a unique green program that helps the environment while providing sustainable employment for adults with developmental disabilities. RewearAble collects used and unwanted clothing and fabrics from the community, in any condition, and sells it to a global network of buyers. The donation is tax-deductible and each donor receives a tax receipt. The revenue generated by the Program goes directly back to support ACLD’s mission, and more importantly, creates sustainable employment for people with special needs.

From scheduling pickups to sorting, sanitizing and bundling the donations, adults with special needs are involved in every aspect of RewearAble. Working alongside a typical workforce, RewearAble workers are encouraged to strengthen existing vocational skills, learn new skills and be part of the process.

In July of 2016, RewearAble was looking to hire someone who could serve as the Program’s telemarketer to answer calls, schedule pickups and secure donations. Samantha Sheehy, 48 years old, physically challenged and diagnosed with cerebral palsy, answered that call. Samantha had been eagerly searching for a job in the community for the past several years with no luck, as employers often could not see past her physical limitations and see the potential she had for connecting with people.

After meeting and interviewing Samantha, the RewearAble administrative team decided to hire her immediately and gave her the opportunity she deserved. Since joining, she has been a wonderful addition to the team, connecting with customers through her easy-going and friendly personality. The opportunity to work for a program that fits her needs perfectly was not lost on her. Samantha was overwhelmed when she received her first paycheck and was moved to tears.

“Being in a wheelchair and having a disability doesn’t mean I don’t have dreams of working. It doesn’t mean I don’t want to earn a living, live independently or go on a vacation. Before working at RewearAble, I never had a job before because of my disability. It was difficult, but it didn’t stop me,” said Samantha.

She is one of several workers who are part of a dedicated and hardworking workforce that values the opportunity to work.

RewearAble accepts used and unwanted clothing and fabrics, of all types and sizes, and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information or to schedule a pickup, call (516) 822-2099, or visit us at www.rewearable.org.

“I really like my job, it makes me happy. I like the people I work with.”

– Michelle Dormody, Burger King
2016 HIGHLIGHTS

ACLD Provides Additional Jobs through NYSID Contract

ACLD, a leader on Long Island for supported employment opportunities, entered into its first contract with NYSID (New York State Industries for the Disabled) in June 2016. Five workers helped clean Heckscher State Park in East Islip during the busy summer season. The contract runs from the end of June until Labor Day weekend, with workers employed at the park Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Successful in its first year, the group was invited back for the Summer of 2017.

“Creating supported employment opportunities on Long Island is an important part of ACLD’s mission. I’m proud to work alongside such hardworking employees,” said Salvatore Torres, Administrator of Cleaning Services.

ACLD expanded its relationship with NYSID to include an additional contract with Huntington Department of Motor Vehicles. Three people began working at the DMV offices in October 2016, Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., removing trash, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping and maintaining the bathrooms.

“It has been a positive experience,” said Robert Ciatto, Chief Operating Officer of ACLD. “The more contracts like this we can secure, the more people with disabilities we can employ in the community.”

Encouraged by the early successes of the first two contracts, ACLD continues to pursue other NYSID contracts.

Established in 1975 and based in Albany, NYSID is a not-for-profit membership organization with a 40-year mission of creating jobs for New Yorkers with disabilities. NYSID and its member agencies are a proven procurement solution for government agency customers and NYSID is an employment resource center for people with diverse abilities. Member agencies also partner with private sector New York State businesses including minority and woman-owned businesses and veteran support programs.

Volunteer Projects Help Build New Community Relationships

A team of more than 40 volunteers from Leviton spent a day sprucing up ACLD’s Bethpage campus. Together they painted stop sign posts to improve their visibility; assembled planters that Leviton purchased for use in Bethpage and at several other ACLD residences; planted annuals and perennials throughout the campus; and spread mulch to protect the new beds.

Both MWE and Leviton connected with ACLD through the website Long Island Volunteer Enterprise (LIVE), an initiative of the United Way of Long Island and the Long Island Volunteer Center.

In addition to their collective volunteer efforts, both MWE and Leviton placed collection bins in their offices for the RewearAble Program, ACLD’s green recycling program, demonstrating their commitment to further ACLD’s mission.

If you are part of or know a business or community group that would like to donate time to ACLD through volunteer projects, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jan DiGeronimo at (516) 822-0028, ext. 211 or digeronimoj@acld.org.

I love working at ACLD, what else can I say?
– Joseph Mercurio, ACLD Cleaning Crew, Bethpage
In 2016, supporters were offered a variety of ways, new and existing, to raise funds for ACLD Foundation, raise awareness about programs and services and make new friends.

» ACLD Foundation Annual Golf Outing
More than 250 people joined together at ACLD Foundation’s Annual Golf Outing on September 12, 2016 at Glen Head Country Club to honor Bruce Libman, Founder and President of Total Networking and Consulting, LLC. The event was a record-breaking one, with more than $160,000 raised to benefit ACLD. Helping to make the event the most successful in ACLD’s history was the addition of a card party. Major sponsors included: Tournament Sponsor, Pilot RB; Tote Bag Sponsor, Fusion Architecture, PLLC; Card Party Sponsor, Gail and Don Mitzner; and Birdie/Special Golf Sponsors, Compass Workforce Solutions, Emblem Healthcare, Irwin Siegel Agency, Inc., Jarro Building Industries, L&M Painting, Margolin Winer & Evens, LLP, Moritt Hock & Hamroff, LLP, NBCUniversal, Performance Contracting, and Valley National Bank.

» ACLD Foundation The Enviable Life Ball
The largest and most prestigious fundraising event of the year for ACLD Foundation was held November 3 at The Garden City Hotel. More than 300 people joined together to honor Corporate Leadership Awardee, R. Mark Wilkins, Senior Managing Partner of Aveniras, LLC and Humanitarian Awardee, New York State Senator Phil Boyle. NBC4 New York Traffic Reporter, Lauren Scala, served as emcee for the event, and Bethpage High School Jazz Combo, under the direction of James Stehlik, performed during the cocktail hour.
Major sponsors included: Diamond Sponsors, NBCUniversal, and Pilot RB; Emerald Sponsor, Carol Lever and Roy Grover; Amethyst Sponsor, R. Mark Wilkins, Aveniras, LLC; Platinum Sponsor, Alan and Ellen Spiegel; and Sapphire Sponsors, BioReference Laboratories, Inc., Brian Levine of Goldman Sachs, Irwin Siegel Agency, Inc., Moritt Hock & Hamroff, LLP, the Patel and Rudder Family together with Plum, Susan Sha, CPA, CGMA, TD Bank, and Valley National Bank. The evening raised $269,000.

» ACLD Foundation Bowling for An Enviable Life
More than 300 bowlers and spectators packed Farmingdale Lanes in Farmingdale to raise more than $18,000 at ACLD Foundation’s first Bowling for An Enviable Life. The event brought together children and adults supported by ACLD, business partners and members of the community to strike up some fun while helping ACLD pursue its mission.
Major sponsors included: Event Sponsor, Heffernan Insurance Brokers; T-Shirt Sponsors, L&M Painting and Raia Landscaping; Awards Sponsor, S&L Store Front & Glass; Lane Sponsors, A&C Pest Management Corp., ASG&C, the Breuninger Family, Bussani Mobility Team, the Emmerson Family, Metropolitan Valuation Services, and Summit Graphics/Bill Bohn; Photography Sponsors, BK Fire Suppressions & Security Systems, Iron Mountain, the Korytkowski Family, and Medisked; and Media Sponsor, WBLI-FM.

» ACLD Foundation Walk/Run: Journey to an Enviable Life
Rainy weather couldn’t dampen the spirits of the more than 200 walkers and runners at Heckscher State Park in East Islip for ACLD Foundation’s first Annual Walk/Run: Journey to an Enviable Life.

The event brought people supported by ACLD together with families and staff, community members and business partners to raise more than $26,000 to help ACLD pursue its mission. Senator Phil Boyle (R-Bay Shore) and Assemblyman Phil Ramos (D-Brentwood) were in attendance to celebrate ACLD at the Walk/Run.

Major sponsors included: Pacesetter Sponsor, Heffernan Insurance Brokers; Parking Sponsor, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; Runner’s High Sponsors, Aveniras, LLC, BioReference Laboratories, Inc., Chem Rx, Doctor Print, Enterprise Fleet Management, L&M Painting, and Ultimate Software; and Media Sponsor, WBAB-FM. HopeFITNESS provided a pre-walk warm-up, and nearly two dozen in-kind sponsors helped to make the day a success.

For information on ACLD Foundation’s 2017 fundraising events, visit www.acld.org.

“I like working at Old Navy and with customers and it makes me feel great.”
– Maureen Boyle, Old Navy, Commack
I like the people I work with. They are friendly and helpful. This job has taught me certain skills I didn’t have before. – Cory Zimmerman, Summit Manufacturing
We, here at Summit, have been honored to be able to help the ACLD community through employment at our company. It has been a joy to have these employees on our team, and we are very proud of their accomplishments. – Management Team at Summit Manufacturing
Most of ACLD’s funding comes from government sources, but it is the financial support of caring, committed members of the community that allows us to go above and beyond for the children and adults supported through ACLD. There are a wide range of ways you can help ACLD Foundation make a difference in the lives of children and adults supported through ACLD (and donations are always welcome at www.acld.org):

» **Major Gifts** allow donors to give major support to ACLD spaces and programs, or to the organization in general. Donors who provide such gifts can be assured they will have a substantial impact on the lives of those supported through ACLD.

» **Commemorative Gifts** let donors mark special occasions, celebrate accomplishments or honor the memory of a loved one while making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Acknowledgement of the donation is sent from ACLD Foundation to the individual or individuals of the donor’s choice.

» **Capital Campaigns** offer the opportunity to support new construction and major renovations to existing facilities, helping ACLD to continue building for the future while maintaining the quality of services it provides. A current project is the expansion of The Alan and Ellen Spiegel Children’s Center. The Center is expanding to include four additional classrooms, additional seating in the gym and a connection in the existing gym so that preschoolers can easily access it year round in all types of weather.

» **Annual and Year-End Appeals** let donors make an annual gift or holiday-time gift with levels of giving to fit any budget. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift toward the Annual Appeal.

» **Matching Gift** programs allow donors to increase the size of their donations to ACLD while boosting the charitable giving of their employers or companies. Please check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program.

» **Planned Giving** helps donors use their estate planning process to ensure the futures of those supported through ACLD while providing valuable tax benefits to their loved ones. Consider supporting future generations of children and adults with disabilities through a bequest in your will, trust or other planned giving instrument.

» **Gifts of Appreciated Stock** give donors the opportunity to make donations of publicly traded securities and/or closely held securities. Donated stocks, held for more than one year, may offer donors substantial tax savings because by donating stock rather than selling it, donors can avoid capital gains tax.

» **Life Insurance Policies** can name ACLD Foundation as the beneficiary and irrevocable owner of a given policy. Such gifts to the Foundation are valued at their interpolated terminal reserve value or cash surrender value at the time they are received, and any additional premium payments a donor makes will be recorded by the Foundation as a gift in the years they are made. Retirement plans can also include ACLD Foundation as a beneficiary.

» **ACLD’s Community Trust Program** helps family members and others provide financial resources specifically for a loved one without affecting the loved one’s eligibility for government benefits. Community Trust A allows a parent, relative or any other person to establish an account within the Trust and designate a disabled loved one as beneficiary, with income and principal in the account available to the beneficiary for expenditures not covered by government benefits. Community Trust B is designed to protect people with disabilities who have money in their own names through income, inheritance, lawsuit award or settlement. Funds in a Trust account can be used during the person’s lifetime to enhance their life. Upon the person’s death, funds remain in the Trust to benefit other beneficiaries with disabilities, thus avoiding a payback of government funds. Participation in either Community Trust is not limited to people supported through ACLD, and the Trustees welcome inquiries from the greater community and other service providers.

For more information about any of these opportunities to support ACLD and ACLD Foundation, please contact Aimee C. Keegan, Director of Development and Community Relations at (516) 822-0028, ext. 206 or keegana@acld.org.

Coaches are kind, supportive and always available to assist on the job. The coaches have helped to assist Ben become a real part of our team at Bren-Tronics. – Necip Eskicioglu, Bren-Tronics
2016 SOURCES OF FUNDING

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2016 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

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Happy to be working there as I have lots of friends.
– Andrew Abbett, Huntington Senior Center
ACLD 2016 Annual Report
A publication of Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) – 2017

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