



Annual Report 2021

nmdunited.org

President's Note



Dear Supporters, Friends, and Community Members,

NMD United began 2021 with the goal of re-establishing and strengthening our community's connections. After a difficult first year of the pandemic, so many of us were Zoomed out, languishing from being isolated and in a constant state of survival, and missing the physical connection with friends and family members.

We wondered: In a time where people are sick of staring at screens and logging in, how will NMD United, a primarily virtual organization, stay relevant?

Our first part of this answer was to design more ongoing social events with the mission to connect our community members through virtual games and events or in other words, fun.

No heavy topics. No lessons to learn. Just plain fun. The overarching theme of each evening was the lived experience with a neuromuscular disability. With each event, our attendance grew in number and new names and faces appeared in our Zoom landscape. People connected, formed new friendships, and resources were shared. By embracing our spirit of play, competition and curiosity in one another's lives, we reinforced the bonds of our peer community.

A second goal for the year was to build-up NMD United's leadership and administrative capacity to serve our 2400 members better.

To help accomplish this, NMD United expanded our board of directors. Valois Vera, a published poet and disability organizer, Liz Persaud, a recognized leader in the field of Assistive Technology innovation, and Aubrie Lee, a disability inclusion fashionista and engineer, joined our team. All three of these individuals bring tremendous expertise and a lifetime of NMD living to our virtual table. Our board will greatly benefit from each of these professionals' time, ideas, wisdom, and leadership, which will, in turn, take us to the next phase of our growth as a peer-directed and driven organization.

NMD United is also thankful for our Alex Landis Empowerment Fund (ALEF) Grant Administrator, Kareen Zeitounzian. With her impeccable organization, flawless attention to detail, and expert communication skills, we began the long and necessary process of revamping our ALEF program. Kareen's efforts allowed NMD United to provide a quicker turnaround on grant applications and the

President's Note

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rest of our working board members to concentrate on other projects, such as hosting our first Maker's Auction in November, where we showcased and promoted the incredible talent of our community members and raised money for our ALEF program simultaneously. We also added a division to our Virtual University program called *Survival Tool Discussions*, where our community gets together to dig deep into issues and share our stories.

Thanks to the generous donations of our supporters each year, in 2021, NMD United issued nearly 90 grants to adults living with NMDs for consumable medical supplies, assistive technology, accessible vehicle repair and maintenance, PCA advertising, and durable medical equipment purchases, repair, and maintenance - all needs that are not at all or easily covered by health insurance. We also doubled reimbursement amounts for consumable medical supplies, so our members could purchase gloves, masks, vitamins, and other life-saving items to protect themselves for this second act of the pandemic.

By the end of 2021, NMD United hosted twelve fabulous community events, added three amazing new leaders to our team, promoted the talents of more than 20 artists and makers with our first ever fundraising auction, facilitated three Survival Tool Discussions, granted dozens of individuals the funds for independent living, and established countless peer connections. We couldn't be more proud or excited of what we continue to accomplish for our community of adults living with neuromuscular disabilities.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our small, but mighty organization as we continue to meet our mission.

In solidarity,

Emily Wolinsky,
President of NMD United

Financial Report

NMD UNITED, INC. Consolidated Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2021

Assets		
Cash		\$54,172.49
PayPal Funds		591.75
Accounts Receivable		(8.17)
Prepaid Assets		11.80
	Total Assets	<u>\$54,767.87</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
	Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Assets		
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated		\$45,822.74
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions		
ALEF Purpose Restricted		8,945.13
	Total Net Assets	<u>\$54,767.87</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>\$54,767.87</u>

Financial Report

NMD UNITED, INC. Consolidated Statement of Activities January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues:			
Contributions	\$22,257.77	\$16,100.02	\$38,357.79
Net assets released from restrictions	15,593.02	(15,593.02)	-
Total Revenues:	\$37,850.79	\$507.00	\$38,357.79
Expenses:			
Program Services:			
Accessible Vehicle Maintenance	2,729.00		
Durable Medical Equipment	4,892.90		
Consumable Medical Supplies	4,165.12		
Personal Care Assistant Advertising	961.00		
Assistive Technology	3,045.00		
Education	495.51		
Community Engagement	409.47		
Total program services	\$16,698.00		
Supporting Services:			
Fundraising	1,314.62		
Management and general	4,876.34		
Total supporting services	\$6,190.96		
Total expenses	\$22,888.96		
Change in net assets	\$14,961.83	\$507.00	\$15,468.83
Net assets at beginning of the year	30,860.91	8,438.13	39,299.04
Net assets at end of year	\$45,822.74	\$8,945.13	\$54,767.87

NOTE:

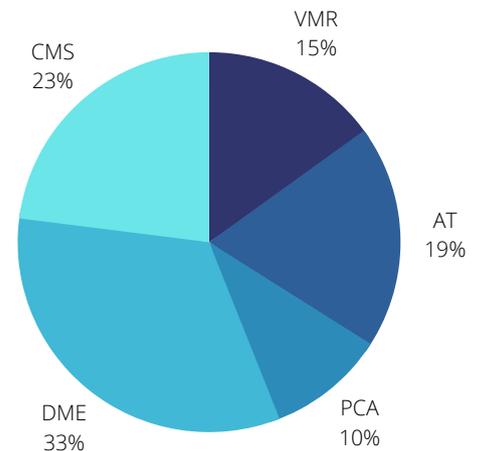
This only includes applicants who received payments during the 2021 calendar year

ALEF Grant Program

We had another successful year of serving our community with independent living grants to assist with out-of-pocket disability-related expenses through our **Alex Landis Empowerment Fund (ALEF)**. Below is a comprehensive overview of grant activity throughout 2021.

15K
FUNDS SPENT

84
GRANTS AWARDED



Accessible Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (VMR):

- \$2,529 spent
- 13 applicants served

Personal Attendant Care Advertisements (PCA):

- \$861 spent
- 9 applicants served

Durable Medical Equipment (DME):

- \$5,071 spent
- 28 applicants served

Assistive Technology (AT):

- \$3,045 spent
- 15 applicants served

Consumable Medical Supplies (CMS):

- \$3,988 spent
- 19 applicants served

#GivingTuesday

All donations for Giving Tuesday 2021 went directly to ALEF to fund independent living grants in calendar year 2022. Thanks to our amazing community, we successfully raised over \$5,000!

We are so appreciative of the support that our fundraiser received, especially in light of COVID-19. Given these donations, we can continue to keep our Consumable Medical Supplies grant at \$400 to benefit applicants who have increased supply needs during the pandemic.

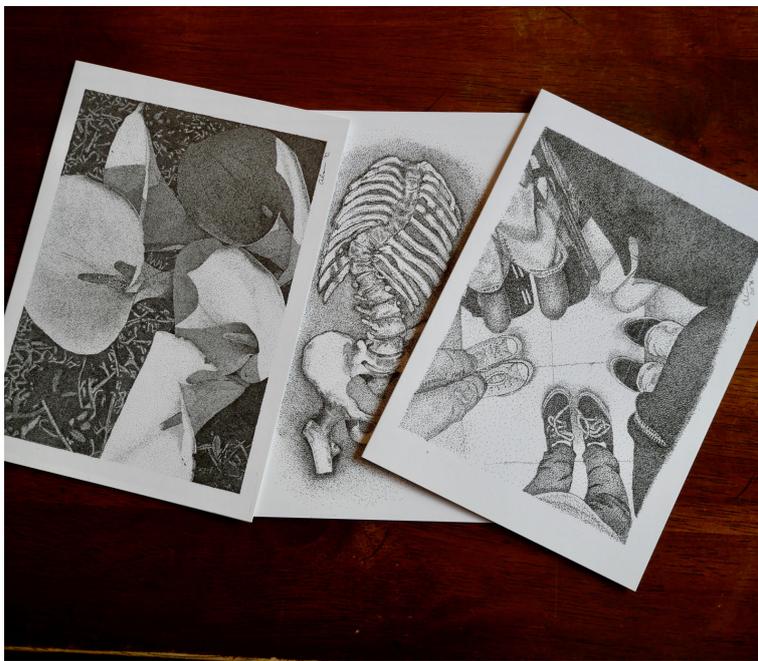
NMD Makers Auction

In November of 2021, we had our very first Makers Auction. This virtual, week-long event was intended to raise funds for ALEF while also celebrating and sharing the talent of adults with neuromuscular disabilities.

As a peer-led organization, we wanted this fundraiser to be *by* our community *for* our community. All items donated were made by adults with neuromuscular disabilities, and all funds raised went towards independent living grants for adults with neuromuscular disabilities.

We had over 20 makers participate donating their designs, art, writings, and other creations. Together, we raised \$1900 from this auction! We are grateful for the continued support of our community and all those who participated.

Below are just a few of the incredible items that were donated to our auction.



Community Connection

Virtual University

We are passionate about offering our community with free and accessible education on various areas of life with neuromuscular disabilities. We do this through Virtual University, a space for our community to connect in real time to share insights, perspectives, and resources. We had record-breaking attendance at many of our *Survival Tool Discussions* on popular topics in our community including aging with NMD, peeing independently, and applying for independent living grants.

Social Events

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to recognize a deep need in our community for social and peer-support. We committed to hosting monthly social events through 2021 to meet this need and strengthen connections in our community. We played NMD-Bingo, exercised our lungs at NMD-Karaoke, Living with NMD Family Feud, and more! These events served as a fun, safe space for members to show up, chat, and find some lightness in yet another tough year.



Social Media Report

2363

**FACEBOOK
LIKES**

+ 2% GROWTH IN 2021

568

**TWITTER
FOLLOWERS**

+ 2% GROWTH IN 2021

618

**INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS**

+ 9% GROWTH IN 2021

New Board Members

In 2021, we welcomed three incredible members to our Board of Directors.

Liz Persaud is a nationally recognized keynote, public speaker, and advocate addressing the need to build bridges and solidify the gaps between individuals living with and without disabilities. Her passion lies within education about generations of adults growing up and living independently and successfully with childhood neuromuscular diseases. Liz has dedicated her life to increasing independence for individuals with disabilities by educating on self-determination and advocacy with a focus on technology and disabilities. Liz currently serves as the Program and Outreach Manager for Tools for Life (Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program) and the Pass It On Center (The National Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Coordination and Technical Assistance Center) at the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation within the College of Design at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a graduate of Georgia State University and lives in Alpharetta, Georgia with her hero of a husband and supportive family.

Val Vera is a Disability Justice Activist, Community Organizer & Educator, Freelance Writer, and Poet out of Denton, TX. He is the Founder and Director of Disability Inclusion Society, a local grassroots group committed to Empowering Disability Culture and Inclusion. He serves as the Chair of the City of Denton's Committee on Persons with Disabilities and is the Director of Inclusion for Alpha Psi Lambda National Fraternity. A second generation Puerto Rican, Val earned a degree in Communications from Purdue University; the first in his family to obtain a college degree. His interests include interior design, music, sports, going to the movies and singing in grocery stores.

Aubrie Lee is an artist with an engineering degree from Stanford University. She's passionate about imagining the future (the art) and then making it real (the engineering). She enjoys fashion modeling to challenge how society treats Disability and beauty as opposites. Among her many aspirations is to become an expert in 3D modeling and animation with Blender 3D so that she can illustrate anything she sees in her dreams.

Liz Persaud



Val Vera



Aubrie Lee



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Emily Wolinsky

President

T.K. Small

Vice-President & Treasurer

Kendra Scalia

Secretary

Dan Darkow

Member

Aubrie Lee

Member

Brooklyn Marx

Member

Liz Persaud

Member

Ali Ramos

Member

Maria Sotnikova

Member

Val Vera

Member

Michael Wasser

Member

NMD United, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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@nmdunited

