

Venture

COMMUNITY SERVICES



1975-2025

Celebrating 50 Years of Making a Difference Together!

1970s

2025

\$50K

annual revenue



\$72M

annual revenue

16

employees and growing



1000+

employees and growing

2

community residences



59

community residences

8

people receiving residential services



250

people receiving residential services

0

people attending Day programs



310

people attending Day programs

0

people receiving transportation services



130

people receiving transportation services

TH

ANNIVERSARY



Message from the President



50 years, also known as half a century, is a long time. It is remarkable just how quickly it seems to have passed. This year, Venture is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and I am noticing just how many things have changed and how many things have remained the same since 1975. Let's start with some of what has remained the same.

At the top of the list is the agency's unwavering commitment to helping people through a practice of delivering compassionate and specialized care. In 1975, people with disabilities were largely shuttered in institutions and Venture embarked on a mission to help people thrive safely in the community. That is still what we do. When the agency began, there was a devotion to protecting the dignity of the people we support and this remains a core tenant of all of our programs to this day. When we started, there was a need to educate the community around us about the rights of people with disabilities while dispelling cruel myths and stereotypes. Today, we continue to inform those around us, about the rights of those we support and the importance of protecting those rights and opportunities. Now, just as then, we have many friends and allies who happily step forward to value and support the work we do.

Many things have changed since Venture opened its doors for the first time. The agency has grown exponentially of course, most noticeably our recent merger with Life-Skills Inc, a strategic decision that allows the agency to strengthen its impact on our community. Venture now provides services in 30 cities and towns in

Massachusetts with five offices and more than 1,100 employees. Some of our new programming includes providing free community events for children with autism and we work closely with a network of other provider agencies to ensure the safety net in Massachusetts remains solid. In addition, we have an elite group of clinicians whose professionalism and creativity allow us to help some of the most at-risk people in the state. The world around is everchanging and seems smaller now, mainly due to technology. This technology shapes much of the work we do, from electronic records to adaptive equipment to the innovative use of assistive technology that enhance independence and safety.

So, what will the next 50 years bring? We need to be ever vigilant of the fragility of government funding sources. We must constantly push back on those who would minimize the importance of what we do and, by extension, the importance of the people for whom we do it. We'll continue to embrace technology while remembering that the human connection of the work we do will always be the heart of this agency. We must continue to lead in creating opportunities and opening doors for people who are marginalized and too often left behind. As always, we thank our Board of Directors, our donors, and our many friends and partners for helping us to shape the next half century of helping others. Let's continue making a difference together.

Mike

Mike Hyland
President & CEO

Venture Community Services provides support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment, and opportunity.

Venture at 50: How we came to be

Venture was founded in 1975 as South Central Massachusetts Rehabilitative Resources, Inc., in response to the deinstitutionalization movement for individuals with developmental disabilities. A group of citizens spent two years fundraising to acquire two properties, establishing community-based residential programs for those transitioning from institutional settings. These two homes became the first residential programs in Worcester County for individuals moving out of Belchertown State School.

Programs Come to Life

The agency hires its first Executive Director to start developing programs for community living. The first two group homes operated by SCMRRI are opened. One on Cherry Street in Spencer (for adults) and one on Prospect Street in Webster (for adolescents). The Home Teaching Program, now known as Individual Supports, is also established.

1977

Individual Supports	100,000
Home Teaching	15
Group Homes	45

1977

The agency hires its first Executive Director to start developing programs for community living. The first two group homes operated by SCMRRI are opened in Spencer and Webster. The Home Teaching Program, now known as Individual Supports, is also established.



1990

The name of the agency is shortened to South Central Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. (SCRRRI). SCRRRI has 17 community residences spanning 8 towns.



2005

Agency moves from a 7,500 square foot building at 171 Charlton Road, Sturbridge to a newly renovated 54,000 square foot space located on Picker Road in Sturbridge.

1999

The Rolland lawsuit (initiated by Loretta Rolland) settled with intent to move 1,500 people from nursing homes to community services and obtain specialized services for hundreds more. This lawsuit proved that even people with complex medical conditions can live and thrive in the community and paved the way for our medical model homes to be constructed. Loretta would eventually move into the Venture residence located on Main Street in Holden.

The Massachusetts system became a model, not just for the United States, but for the world.

SCMRRI is Born

In response to the 1973 class action suits brought against the five State Schools, US District Judge Joseph Tauro issues the historic Consent Decree, which enforces humane standards in the state schools and calls for the movement of thousands of residents to clean and safe community homes. South Central Massachusetts Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. (SCMRRI) is incorporated to meet this need.

1975

1975 – SCMRRI is Born

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1983

Transportation services begin throughout the state. People are transported to and from their day programs with funding from the Department of Education. Community residential services continue to expand as more people are moved from Massachusetts institutions. SCMRRI Transportation and Administrative offices are located on Elm Street in Southbridge.

Expanding in the Commonwealth

The name of the agency is changed to Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. (RRI). The reference to Central Mass is removed to reflect the expansion of services across the state. New community residences are established in Holyoke, Oakham, Westmoreland, Palmer and Barn.

1999

1994

SCRRRI holds its first charity Road Race to raise funds for communication devices. The race will continue to be held and grow over the next 20 years. Due to limited funding from the state and no cost of living increases for many years, fundraising becomes a way of life for the agency.

1999

The name of the agency is changed to Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. (RRI).

2007

Our first medical model home opens on Hope Street in Fitchburg. The home provides around the clock nursing care to people with complex medical issues allowing them to live in the community instead of in rehab facilities or nursing homes. This shift in care was a direct result of the 1999 Rolland lawsuit.

2009

The second Community Day Program opens in Leominster to provide services to people in the North Central region of the state. Additional transportation services are also provided in this area in conjunction with the day program.



2006

Our first Community Day Program opens in Sturbridge. The program was created to provide a stimulating environment for people with developmental disabilities to explore their interests and learn new activities while receiving the supervised medical attention they may require.

Celebrating 40 Years

On the agency's 40th Anniversary, RR1 undergoes a major rebranding. The company name is changed to Venture Community Services, a set of core operating values is established and the mission statement is updated: Providing support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment, and opportunity.

2015

Annual operating budget	\$32,000,000
Number of Employees	878
Number of People Supported	298

2015

On the agency's 40th Anniversary, RRI undergoes a major rebranding. The company name is changed to Venture Community Services, a set of core operating values is established and the mission statement is updated: Providing support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment, and opportunity.

2017

Venture joined fellow providers Open Sky Community Services, LUK, Inc., Center for Living & Working, Elder Services of Worcester Area and AdCare to create Central Community Health Partnership (CCHP). CCHP is part of a statewide system aimed at helping members of MassHealth with care coordination services.

2015/2016

Venture acknowledged as a 'Top Workplace' from the *Worcester Business Journal* and 'Employer of Choice' from The Employers Association of the NorthEast.



Blackstone Valley Presence

A newly-renovated facility opens at 670 Douglas Street in Uxbridge, our first in the Blackstone Valley region. The building houses both an active community day program for young adults with autism and our forthcoming autism support center that will provide vital support services. The new location is a hub for adaptive yoga classes, social skills groups, and other recreational opportunities for children and young adults with autism.

2017

2017

A newly-renovated facility opens at 670 Douglas Street in Uxbridge, our first in the Blackstone Valley region. The building houses both an active community day program for young adults with autism and our forthcoming autism support center that will provide vital support services. The new location is a hub for adaptive yoga classes, social skills groups, and other recreational opportunities for children and young adults with autism.

2024

Venture and Life-Skills merger becomes effective on July 1, 2024. The consolidation allows for greater leverage due to scale to attract staff, increase influence, and most importantly, enhance the impact on the community.



"This merger represents an exciting time for Venture and Life-Skills. It allows us to grow together in forming an elite agency that is innovative, impactful, and successful."

—Cathy Lewis, Venture CEO

A Stronger Presence

Venture and Life-Skills merger becomes effective on July 1, 2024. The consolidation allows for greater leverage due to scale to attract staff, increase influence, and most importantly, enhance the impact on the community.



2024

Annual operating budget	\$70,000,000
Number of Employees	1,040
Number of People Supported	575

Interview with Patrick Tucker:

Our Longest Standing Employee



Patrick Tucker, 1988

Behind every milestone our company has achieved, there are dedicated individuals who have played a crucial role in shaping our success. Their journey is a testament to our values of commitment, integrity, and compassion. This year, we celebrate Patrick Tucker, who has been with us for 37 years.

Tell us about your career journey with Venture

I have been fortunate to be able to advance my career over the last 37 years I have spent with Venture. I first started in 1988 as a Direct Care worker at Prospect street in Webster, MA. I spent 18 years working in residential before I was promoted to the Accounting department. In 2010 I was promoted to the position of Accounting Manager and most recently I transferred to my current role of Fiscal Contract Manager.

What has kept you motivated and engaged over the past 35+ years?

Seeing the success and personal growth of the individuals we serve has been my greatest motivation. Over the years, I've had the privilege of witnessing incredible transformations. Some that come to mind are how one individual transitioned

from Residential to Shared Living services, gaining greater independence. Another, who once struggled with severe anxiety and fear in a new living environment—sometimes reacting physically—grew to the point where he secured a job as a bank courier. Watching these achievements unfold has been truly inspiring.

What have you enjoyed most about the people you've worked with?

Their tolerance of my abrupt and dry humor.

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“I have great pride being a member of an Organization that helps promote changes in people’s lives.”

— Patrick Tucker

What do you hope the company will achieve in the next 50 years?

I hope the company earns greater recognition from legislators for the important work we do, along with the financial support it deserves. Our employees provide invaluable services every day, and their dedication should be acknowledged not just with appreciation, but with meaningful financial investment.

What has this company meant to you personally?

I have great pride being a member of an Organization that helps promote changes in people’s lives. I would like to wish Venture a Happy 50th Anniversary and hope for more continued success in the future.

Looking forward: The Next 50



As we look ahead to the next 50 years, Venture remains steadfast in our mission to empower individuals with disabilities and create a more inclusive world. Our vision is built upon three key pillars: expanding our services, continuing our advocacy, and adapting to the ever-evolving needs of our community.

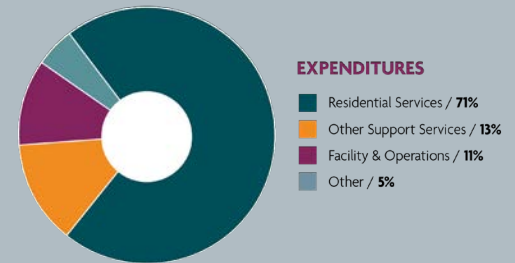
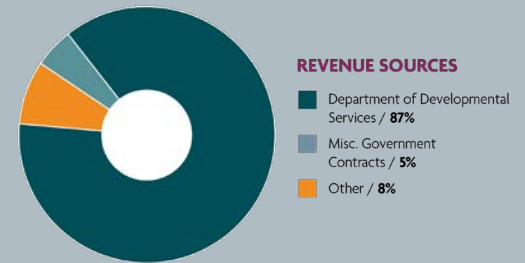
Over the next five decades, we will:

- Develop new programs that provide innovative, person-centered care.
- Expand mental health and behavioral support services to address growing needs.
- Embrace technology and assistive tools to enhance independence and quality of life.
- Increase workforce training initiatives to ensure the highest standard of care and support.
- Strengthen our voice at the state and federal levels to ensure critical funding and legislative support.
- Educate the broader community on the value and contributions of individuals with disabilities.
- Lead efforts to eliminate barriers to employment, housing, and healthcare.
- Remain agile in response to economic, social, and technological shifts.
- Prepare for the next generation of individuals and families who rely on our services.

The future of Venture Community Services is one of growth, leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment. Together, we will continue to build a community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Here's to the next 50 years of impact, advocacy, and transformation.

Statement of Activity



Venture Community Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment, and opportunity. Federal Tax Identification 04-2593315

Agency Leadership

Mike Hyland

President & Chief Executive Officer

Mary Bellezza

Chief Financial Officer

Tiffany Breau

Vice President of Property Management

Kevin Hughes

Vice President of Clinical Services

Kerrie Mason

Vice President of Advancement & Marketing

Damien Pittola

Chief Human Resources / I.T. Officer

Pam Sampson

Chief Program Officer

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Thank you for your continued support

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many donors and corporate sponsors who generously support our mission.



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