



Alternatives   
*Your quality of life, our passion.*

# IMPACT

**FY20-FY21**



Dear Friends of Alternatives,

Aging is so cool – everybody is doing it!  
And that's a very good thing as we continue  
to learn resilience from those we serve.

Yes, we have moved right into the second year of this  
global pandemic. Yet, Alternatives' professionals, volunteers  
and donors remained ardent champions for older adults, adults  
with disabilities and their families no matter what barriers they faced.

**Alternatives did not reduce services and was one of the first agencies to get  
back out into the field meeting directly with individuals:**

*"I hadn't been able to see my Mom for over a year because of the pandemic and inability  
to travel. Your Care Coordinator was so helpful to me over the phone. She visited Mom and  
then set up supports. Our family can already see how well she is doing."*

**Alternatives set up a Vaccine Call-in Center and established a network of volunteers, who together  
with staff and partner agencies assisted more than 4,300 older adults to register and obtain COVID-19  
vaccinations:**

*"It was so nice to talk to an actual person who answered my questions. And, this nice person got me  
signed up for a vaccine and set up a ride to get there. We just didn't know what we were going to do."*

**Alternatives distributed more than \$220,000 in emergency funds to provide respite, caregiver support,  
in-home medical equipment and rent, (just to name a few items).**

*"I'm trying to work, take care of my family and take care of my Dad who is needing more and more help.  
It's a lot. Your staff have been such a resource."*

With age, we gain wisdom and experience to identify a path forward. For Alternatives, working day in  
and day out on behalf of older adults, is our path. We remain inspired by the wisdom of those we serve  
to live longer, healthier and more sustainable lives...together.

Please take a moment to read through this annual report. You will see the continuing, positive impact  
made by nearly 70 professionals throughout 16 counties; one person at a time.



**Susan Lerschen-Cassatt**  
President,  
Board of Directors



**Kathryn E. Weiman**  
Chief Executive Officer

**We would love to stay connected with you! Follow us on Facebook and watch for beneficial  
information to support your loved ones on our website at [www.alternativesforyou.org](http://www.alternativesforyou.org).**

# \$92 Million

saved for Illinois taxpayers by supporting older adults to remain safe at home (rather than in a costly nursing home.)

## MISSION IMPACT

### 89%

of older adults (eligible for nursing home care) remained safe in their own home throughout 2021.

### 994

cases of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation were investigated by Adult Protective Services. This represents a 12% increase year to year.

### 11,000

nursing home residents across a sixteen county region were provided advocacy and support by Alternatives' Ombudsmen

### 240

caregivers were provided critical respite and support.

### 3,250

hours of support given to 90-100 participants by staff and volunteers of the Money Management Program

### 1,307

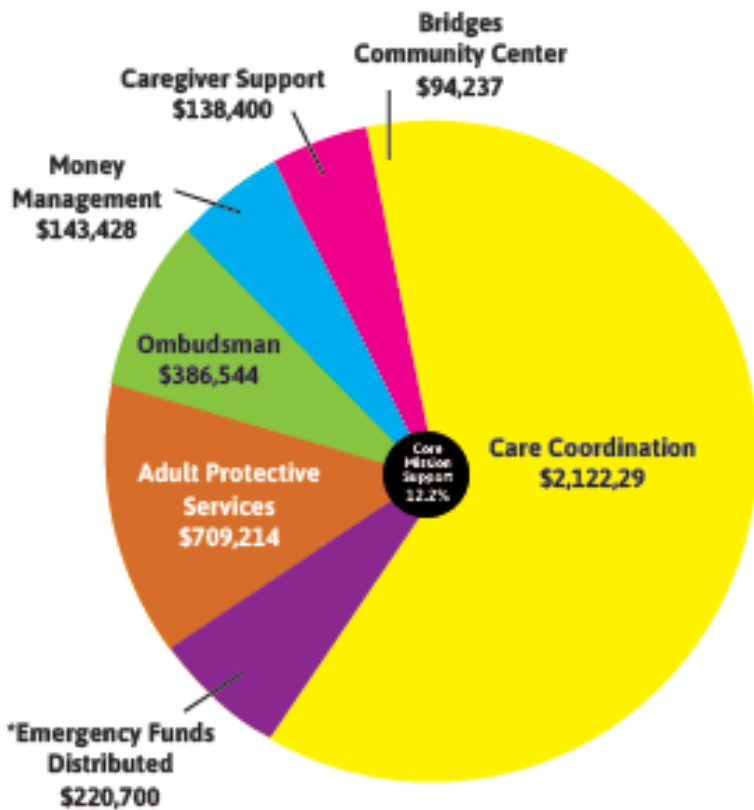
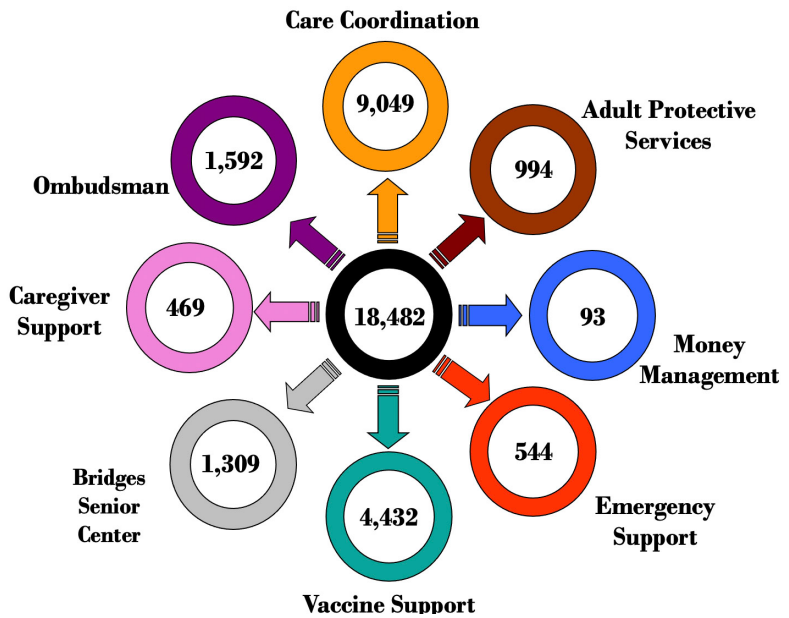
older adults in LaSalle County were served by Bridges staff, saving each person an average of \$937.92 in benefit costs.

### 4,432

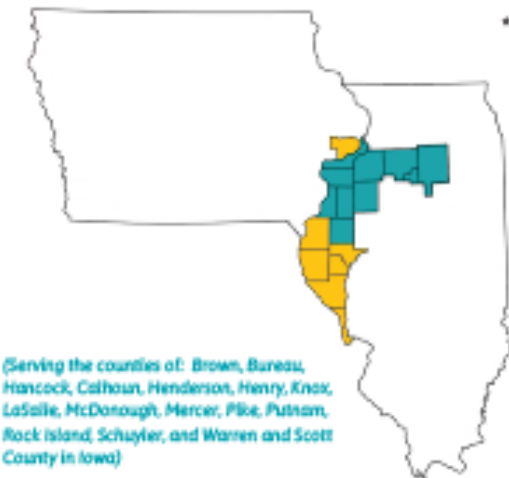
older adults were assisted to register and receive a COVID-19 vaccine through Alternatives' call-in center.



- Culver's of Ottawa
- Dayton Township
- Doris & Victor Day Foundation
- Fall River Township
- Farm Ridge Township
- Geneseo Community Chest
- Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
- Groveland Township
- Help at Home
- Henry County 708 Mental Health Board
- Heritage Woods of Ottawa
- Kewanee Area United Way
- Manlius Township
- McDonough County United Way
- McDonough Power Cooperative
- Modern Woodmen of America
- Molyneaux Insurance
- Ottawa Savings Bank
- Ottawa Township
- Riverside United Methodist Women
- Rock Island County Federation of Women's Clubs
- Schweickert Ganassin Krzak Rundi LLP
- Senior Watchdog INC
- Small and Cousins Family Endowment
- Streator Area United Way, Inc.
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- United Way Illinois Valley
- Wallace Township
- Warren County United Way



\*Emergency Funds Distributed \$220,700



“For the unlearned, old age is winter; for the learned, it is the season of the harvest.”

HASIDIC SAYING



## OUR MISSION

Alternatives promotes the independence and quality of life for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their families.

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