I am art in progress
I wonder if I will ever be truly free
I hear pain and crying
I see poverty
I want to succeed in school and in life
I am art in progress
I pretend to be happy
I feel sorrow
I touch my grandma’s heart
I worry if I am going to make it in life
I cry about the mistakes I have made
I am art in progress
I understand that I can’t be perfect
I say I can do this
I dream of peace and love
I try to do good
I hope for change
I am art in progress

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4 EDUCATION 6 OUT of HOME CARE 8 MENTORING/OUTREACH 10 INDEPENDENT LIVING
12 HUMAN TRAFFICKING 14 THANK YOU 16 LEGACY GIVING 18 FINANCIALS
ART IN PROGRESS. What does an unfinished piece of art look like? To some, it may look like a heap of lines and colors. For others, the potential of beauty is waiting just behind the next brush stroke. The process of creating a beautiful painting can sometimes be arduous and time-consuming. It is certainly never easy. The end result, however, holds the possibility of beauty and inspiration.

What follows is a collection of stories about Lad Lake children and teens coping with unimaginable circumstances. They are all art in progress – drawing closer to success every day.

For example, for a young girl struggling with abandonment and drugs, each day of counseling brings her one step closer to healing and a drug-free life. For the countless boys and girls struggling to escape the cycle of violence that plagues their neighborhoods, a chance to make up credits can mean the difference between high school graduation and failure. For a teenage boy with Asperger’s, walking to the store to buy bread is a major breakthrough. Or a young woman, who after years of abuse and instability, is connected to employment resources and becomes the first one in her family to graduate college.

For these young people, success is outlined each day by what most take for granted. Basic health and safety is an aspiration. Yet, they are optimistic. Lad Lake staff, counselors, therapists and educators are there every step of the way, helping to mold and shape their future.

Investors and partners play a critical role in creating the future for Lad Lake’s youth. We thank them for their continued support of Lad Lake’s independent living support, therapeutic education, out of home care, outreach, in-home mentoring, and spiritual care programming to support more than 1,000 high-risk youth every year.

Together, we can help Lad Lake’s youth paint a picture of accomplishment they can be proud of.

Dan Magnuson, CEO
Cheryl Hill, BOARD CHAIR
“WE ONLY have one life. We might as well live it to the fullest.”

— Issah, 16
Most teenage boys are preoccupied with cars, sports or girlfriends. Not Issah or Bobby. They think about how to simply get through each day.

Coming from different families and different homes, both boys grew up living with the same grim reality: an immediate family member in prison, financial insecurity, and a neighborhood permeated with drugs, gangs and violence. It was a recipe for disaster.

"Hurt didn’t even matter to me anymore," said Issah, "I’ve seen people get killed in front of me… that’s a scary sight."

For different, but similar reasons, they each turned to drugs. They gave up on school. Acted out. And started hanging with the wrong crowds.

“It’s hard to escape the drugs, guns and gangs because they were everywhere in my neighborhood,” explains Bobby.

Then they were sent to Lad Lake’s Synergy School where they found refuge and an opportunity to change their lives. Instead of just getting by, they got better. In a single semester, they each made up lost credits and improved their grades. Most importantly, both severed their dependency on drugs.

“I got hooked on it [drugs] for stress stuff. But now I’m straight, I just deal with stuff... I can’t let this stop me from doing what I really want to do in life,” says Issah.

At Lad Lake schools, kids like Issah and Bobby have a chance to get back on track. Smaller class sizes and trusting relationships with teachers play a critical role in student success. Today, both Issah and Bobby are both doing well in school and back to nearly grade-level. They are focused on studying, graduating, and making a difference in the community.

When asked what he wants for his future, Issah says, “I want to keep the stuff that’s happened to me in the past. I just want to let it all go. I want to change the world. I want to stop the violence. I want get Milwaukee right. After all, we only have one life. We might as well live it to the fullest.”

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1. Future of Children Study, Princeton and the Brookings Institution
2. Future of Children Study, Princeton and the Brookings Institution
WEN NICOLE WAS ONE, her parents sent her from Minnesota to live with her grandmother in Wisconsin – hoping she and her sister would have a chance for a better life. Her mother battled with mental illness, while her father struggled to provide and often couldn’t make the rent. There simply wasn’t enough to get by.

After moving, Nicole remembers her childhood fondly. She recalls camping with her grandmother and catching frogs with her sister every summer. It was as complete of a family as she could have … without a mother or father in her life.

Then, as a teenager, life took a turn for the worse. Her older sister experimented with drugs and Nicole was dragged into a different world. She started hanging out with the wrong crowd, skipping school and failing classes. In an attempt at a fresh start, her grandmother enrolled Nicole in a new school. Unfortunately, Nicole started dating someone there who also used drugs, and she once again headed down a dark road of despair.

“I really didn’t know what was going to happen, until it happened,” explained Nicole. “I just wasn’t thinking straight.”

Life quickly spiraled out of control until she was eventually arrested and sent to a group home. This past January, she ran away, finding herself alone on the streets and freezing in the dark. The police found her suffering from hypothermia, and brought her back into custody where she was transferred to Lad Lake’s St. Rose campus.

A few months later, with the help of St. Rose therapists and counselors, Nicole is drug-free and getting her life back on track. The medication she takes for her anxiety and ADHD is helping her maintain concentration in school. Her F’s are now B’s, and she’s back to her original grade level. She receives therapy and help coping with her addictions almost daily. The staff are working diligently to create a sustainable plan for success once she moves back home.

When asked about the St. Rose staff, Nicole says, “When I’ve had issues and I’m crying, the staff have come up to my room and talked to me and calmed me down. And they actually care. They do.”

Nicole has learned coping mechanisms to help her deal with her anxiety and anger. Now, instead of doing drugs, she listens to music, plays her flute or spends time with her pets.

“Without St. Rose, I wasn’t going to graduate.” maintains Nicole. “I think if I would’ve stayed using, I would’ve just said ‘forget it.’”

Now 17-years-old, Nicole is hoping to become a veterinarian or psychologist. When asked what she’s learned from St. Rose, Nicole says, “You really don’t know what’s going to happen, until it happens … so the only way is to think before you do anything – and make good decisions.”

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1 Dropout Nation Report by PBS 2 National Survey on Drug Use and Health
"WHEN I’VE HAD ISSUES and I’m crying, the staff have come up to my room and talked to me and calmed me down. And they actually care. They do."

— Nicole, 17
“I’M SO GRATEFUL for Lad Lake ... It’s been a long road, but I’m so proud of him and what he’s become.”

— Angela, Jacob’s mom
You wouldn’t notice anything if you ran into him at a fast food place. You wouldn’t realize he has any kind of disability. But if you started a conversation, you’d realize Jacob can’t look you in the eye,” explains Jacob’s mom. Jacob has Asperger’s, an autism spectrum disorder characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction and communication. For the first ten years of Jacob’s life, his family struggled to understand what was wrong. Jacob lashed out physically and barely spoke. After exhausting all possibilities, Jacob’s mother, Angela, took him to a hospital where he was diagnosed with Asperger’s.

“When he was really little — before he was diagnosed — not knowing what the problem was made it ten times harder … After we learned about the disorder, we got plugged into the community and began advocating for him at school.”

Jacob’s mom studied autism and enrolled him in special education classes. Jacob improved, but when summer came, life became difficult. Without the structure of school, he simply couldn’t function at home.

It was then that Angela contacted Lad Lake and that Jacob formed a relationship with his Lad Lake mentor, Bob Tieberg, who provided support to Jacob and his family for the past six years.

Bob helped teach key life skills to Jacob – everything from personal hygiene to ordering off a restaurant menu. Angela was particularly excited that Jacob developed self-sufficiency skills such as walking to the grocery store to buy bread. She believes that type of skill boosted Jacob’s self-respect, self-understanding and confidence to interact with people.

“Jacob has really come out of his shell. At first, he was a real introvert and wanted to be by himself,” says Bob. “But we broke the mold. Now we play tennis, go fishing, geocaching, bicycling – the whole nine yards.”

Recently, Jacob’s parents applied for guardianship because, although Jacob is 18, his maturity level is actually closer to that of a 13-year-old. Life is not easy, but it is better. Jacob graduated from high school this past May, and with Lad Lake and his mentor’s help, he secured a job. It is a dream Jacob’s mother wasn’t sure would be fulfilled.

“I’m so excited that he graduated from high school … knowing he walked across that stage is still unbelievable to me,” expresses Angela. “I’m so grateful for Lad Lake. He’s finally learning to step up and take control of things. It’s been a long road, but I’m so proud of him and what he’s become.”

Lad Lake is proud of him, too. And although the two spend less time together now, Bob believes that they’ll keep in touch because, “I’m his mentor, but also his friend.”

1 Autism Speaks, (http://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/facts-about-autism)
For most, Bregetta’s experience as a child was unimaginable. Her mother was the victim of domestic abuse and Bregetta and her sisters suffered alongside her. They lived in extreme poverty, often with not enough to eat and sometimes no heat or light. They bounced from place to place and she remembers visiting her mother in the hospital from all the beatings. It was a dark time.

“It was hard. Not knowing if we were going to have food sometimes… and not knowing what was going to happen next. I couldn’t cry. I had to be strong for my sisters. They looked up to me.”

Then, that chapter in her life thankfully ended. Child services took her into foster care at age 14, but it was almost too little, too late. Bregetta’s life of instability wavered as she shifted from one group home to another. She started skipping school and rebelled. At 17, she was pregnant. She was about to age out of the foster care system when a social worker referred her to the Connections Independent Living program at Lad Lake.

Lad Lake helped Bregetta with things like housing, childcare, school and, equally important, someone to talk to. Soon, she began working at Lad Lake as an Outreach Assistant, where she worked for several years. Lad Lake continued giving Bregetta the support she needed and she set her sights on a college degree. After eight years of part-time school and full-time work, she graduated. Her dedication paid off this past May with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Service Management from Cardinal Stritch University.

“No one in my family ever went to college and I didn’t think I could do it. But I did. I had a will not to quit. I think my success also lies in the permanent people in my life. I’m grateful for my experience with Lad Lake.”

Today, Bregetta is a major advocate for youth in foster care, and is an influential voice both locally and nationally. In fact, her work has even aided in the passing of foster care training and health insurance laws. She was the first Wisconsin Foster Club All-Star, and has won several community awards and accolades for her efforts.

Bregetta now works as a Community Health Navigator for Children’s Hospital where she helps connect foster care families with needed resources. When asked how she did it all, Bregetta says, “In order to get what else is out here for you, you have to let things go. I just try to be the light.”

Lad Lake congratulates Bregetta on her degree and is proud to be a part of her success. We wish her happiness in her career and know that she will shine on as an inspirational light to those who were once, like her, in the dark.

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1 Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, (http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/indliving/PDF/IndependentLiving-rpt.pdf)
“LAD LAKE has always been a very supportive network for me. It’s like my second home.”

— Bregetta, 30
Art therapy is an important part of the healing process at Lad Lake.

“BEING AT Lad Lake: Eastwood, I feel healthier than when I was in the sex trade. I have learned to be healthier. They have helped me to ask for help when I need it and accomplish my goals.”

— Anonymous Resident in Lad Lake’s Sex Trafficking Rescue Program
With the onslaught of internet solicitation, the number of children entrapped by human trafficking is alarming. Locally, according to the Wisconsin Department of Justice, more than 200 victims of sex trafficking were identified across half of Wisconsin’s counties. It’s not just a problem that surfaces in the city, as experts note human trafficking in rural areas is also on the rise.

That’s why last fall, Lad Lake opened a specific out of home care campus to offer a safe-haven for girls involved or impacted by the sex trade. As one of the few facilities of its kind in the U.S., the center offers a safe, therapeutic and trauma-sensitive environment for victimized girls. The program works to remove young girls from the sex trade, while focusing on treating complex traumas, and teaching life skills needed to return home safely to their parents or guardian with reintegration into the community.

With help from the families, community team members and a dedicated staff, the girls are offered a variety of therapeutic interventions and supports. Lad Lake’s foundation of success has helped guide the vitality of the new program on campus. Life in the sex trade takes time and patience to be unlearned and Lad Lake provides an extensive program to the young ladies involved. The program currently serves a small population compared to the need; however, the hope is that with more funding and expanded outreach, Lad Lake can help remove even more young girls from the sex trade. To help make a difference, you can donate to Lad Lake by calling: 262-965-9412.

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2013 INVESTORS
A sincere thank you to all of those who have invested in Guiding Growth.

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Christine Lenske
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Chuck & Jackie Konkol
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Diane Blair
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Paul Oden
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Phil Vetterkind
Phillip & Liz Katz
Phil Vetterkind
Phyllis Picciolo
Polish Fest
Radisson Hotel
Rich & Maribeth Meeusen
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Rosalie Rellin
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Sarah Woods
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St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
Steve Eilmann
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Su Casa Mexican Restaurant
Susan Kathrens
Suzanne Zipperer
Sybille Hamilton
The Milwaukee Wave
Theresa Newman
Tracy Shilobrit
Tripoli Shrine Circus
Women in the Wind

In Honor of
Dr. William Buzogany
Elizabeth & Bruce Buzogany
Gary Erdmann
Edward Hipke
Spano Pratt Executive Search
Daniel & Linda Magnuson
Mike Gehl
Mark & Lisa Krueger
Tom & Eddy Magnus
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James Smart
Shirley Smart

As of Aug, 2014. Lad Lake has made every effort to assure the accuracy of these investor lists. If you have an omission or discrepancy, please contact Dave at (414) 339-8910.
2013 INVESTING IN LAD LAKE
Planned Giving and Charitable Bequests

For over one century, Lad Lake has helped guide the growth of at-risk kids in our community. It’s that kind of permanence that offers the security that your legacy will live on for the next one hundred years. With Lad Lake, it’s amazing what your will can do.

A WILL TO HELP OTHERS We all want to leave an impression that extends beyond our lifetime. When you leave a legacy gift to Lad Lake, you can. With some planning today, you can ensure thousands of children will live a better life tomorrow.

GIVING YOUR WAY There are many ways to give and many ways to fit charitable giving into your overall estate planning. A legacy gift guarantees that the issues that matter to you continue to be supported in your family name, long after you’re gone. Following are some examples of legacy gifts; many of which also allow you to save on taxes including:

- Charitable gift annuity
- Charitable bequest
- Stocks
- Retirement assets
- Charitable remainder trust
- Real Estate
- Life Insurance

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS Your unrestricted gift lends us the flexibility to commit funding to areas where it’s most needed. It goes directly toward solving Lad Lake’s most pressing needs, bridging the gap between where we are today and where we hope to be tomorrow.

DESIGNATED GIFTS A designated gift benefits specific programs of your choice, whether you designate it to a particular school within Lad Lake’s educational services or a certain program area as a whole.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS This is an excellent way to increase your giving potential to Lad Lake. You may work for a company willing to match your donation, or perhaps even double it.

MEMORIAL GIFTS/HONOR GIFTS Memorial gifts are made in memory of a loved one, colleague, or friend who has passed away. Honor gifts recognize someone special and pays tribute to him or her. When such gifts are made, special notification is sent to the family or individual being honored.

ENDOWMENTS Your gift to the endowment demonstrates a commitment to the lasting impact of the programs at Lad Lake. The endowment is carefully managed for growth as well as current income, and serves as the foundation for the long-term stability and fiscal success of Lad Lake.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE Lad Lake appreciates the donation of a variety of goods and services. These types of donations allow us to allocate much needed funds to our programs serving at-risk youth and families.

CONTRIBUTING ONLINE Go to www.ladlake.org, choose the “Donate Online” button, and complete the subsequent pages on our secure server.

For more information about giving options, and how you can leave a legacy for our community’s most at-risk youth, please call (414) 339-8910.
“WE make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

— Winston Churchill

HOW WE INVEST YOUR CONTRIBUTION
2013 FINANCIALS

HOW YOUR GIFT IS INVESTED

6% INDEPENDENT LIVING
50% OUT OF HOME CARE
20% EDUCATION
18% ADMINISTRATIVE & DEVELOPMENT
6% OUTREACH

how your gift is invested
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
BASED ON PRELIMINARY AUDIT FIGURES

Operating Revenues $13,876,964
Operating Expenses $14,509,030

Operating Revenues in Excess of Expenses ($632,066)
Investment Loss/Gain $513,162

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets ($118,904)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $125,444
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets $5,831

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $12,371

OPERATING EXPENSES
CALENDAR YEAR 2013

Out of Home Care 50% $7,257,014
Education 20% $2,855,654
Outreach 6% $882,766
Independent Living 6% $873,032
Support Services 18% $2,640,564

TOTAL $14,509,030

HOW AND WHO WE HELP

328 EDUCATION STUDENTS
served in 2013

293 INDEPENDANT LIVING STUDENTS
served in 2013

443 OUTREACH STUDENTS
served in 2013

185 OUT OF HOME CARE STUDENTS
served in 2013

CLIENT STATISTICS
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

Male 67%
Female 33%
TG (M/F) 1%

African American 58%
Caucasian 28%
Hispanic 9%
Asian <1%
Native American <1%
Bi-Racial or Other 3%
East-Indian <1%

PROGRAM AREA

Education 26%
Independent Living 23%
Outreach 35%
Out of Home Care 15%

COUNTY

Milwaukee 71%
Walworth 13%
Waukesha 6%
Washington 3%
Dane 1%
Illinois <1%
Other 5%

statement of activities
based on preliminary audit figures

Operating Revenues   $13,876,964
Operating Expenses    $14,509,030
Operating Revenues in Excess of Expenses    ($632,066)
Investment Loss/Gain  $513,162
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Support Services 18% $2,640,564

TOTAL $14,509,030

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served in 2013

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independent
living students
served in 2013

443
outreach
students
served in 2013

185
out of home care
students
served in 2013

how and who we help

328
328
education
students
served in 2013

293
293
independent
living students
served in 2013

443
443
outreach
students
served in 2013

185
185
out of home care
students
served in 2013

client statistics
for year ended december 31, 2013

male
female
TG (M/F) 1%

African American 58%
Caucasian 28%
Hispanic 9%
Asian <1%
Native American <1%
Bi-Racial or Other 3%
East-Indian <1%

program area

education
independent living
outreach
out of home care

county

Milwaukee 71%
Walworth 13%
Waukesha 6%
Washington 3%
Dane 1%
Illinois <1%
Other 5%

statement of activities
based on preliminary audit figures

Operating Revenues $13,876,964
Operating Expenses $14,509,030
Operating Revenues in Excess of Expenses ($632,066)
Investment Loss/Gain $513,162
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets ($118,904)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $125,444
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets $5,831

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $12,371

Operating Expenses
Calendar Year 2013

Out of Home Care 50% $7,257,014
Education 20% $2,855,654
Outreach 6% $882,766
Independent Living 6% $873,032
Support Services 18% $2,640,564

Total $14,509,030

328 Education
Students
served in 2013

293 Independent
Living Students
served in 2013

443 Outreach
Students
served in 2013

185 Out of Home
Care Students
served in 2013

Client Statistics
For Year Ended December 31, 2013

Male 67%
Female 33%
TG (M/F) 1%

African American 58%
Caucasian 28%
Hispanic 9%
Asian <1%
Native American <1%
Bi-Racial or Other 3%
East-Indian <1%

Program Area

Education 26%
Independent Living 23%
Outreach 35%
Out of Home Care 15%

County

Milwaukee 71%
Walworth 13%
Waukesha 6%
Washington 3%
Dane 1%
Illinois <1%
Other 5%