

The Best of 2020

It's easy to focus on the worst parts of 2020, but there were a lot of bright moments. Let's end the year on a high note by looking back on some of Tangram's greatest hits from 2020.



Front-Line Heroes

Tangram's front-line employees take the cake when it comes to bright spots. These individuals provided essential, face-to-face services to our clients, despite the health risk and other challenges associated with COVID-19. These individuals are the backbone of our mission and we applaud their commitment to our clients.

COVID-19 Relief

Like many non-profits, Tangram relied on assistance from our community to weather the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We received \$200,000 from the COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund (C-CERF), enabling us to provide hazard pay bonuses to front-line employees, provide rent and utility assistance to clients, and purchase PPE. We also received more than \$12,000 in PPE reimbursement from Non-Profit Restart, nearly \$50,000 in approved funding from the United Way of Central Indiana COVID-19 Facilities Modification Grant, \$5,000 from Hancock County Community Foundation, many individual donations to our COVID-19 Relief Fund, and donations of PPE from Delta Faucet Company, Luminous Device Technologies, Project Hoosiers Help Heroes, and individuals mask-makers.



Liam Price Receives Award

Early in 2020, Liam Price, a Tangram client, was nominated for and received the Justin Dart Personal Achievement Award through the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF). Though the in-person awards ceremony was cancelled due to the pandemic, you can watch Ruth Asher-Lynch present Liam his award in [this video](#). And you can watch Liam's nomination video, [here](#). Congratulations, Liam! We're proud of you!

Tangram Business Services Works with MCCOY

The trainings offered by Tangram's Business Services were originally designed for businesses to learn more about employing and retaining people with disabilities. Tangram was introduced to the staff at MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth) and their work in providing professional development for those working in the local youth services community. Tangram was asked to provide a series of disability related training session for MCCOY, which has led to the expansion of our training and consulting services beyond employment.



Tangram Leadership Academy

In February 2020, Tangram's managers and leadership team graduated from the Tangram Leadership Academy. This training series spanned about nine months, with trainings provided by Purple Ink LLC and others. This series focused on giving managers and leaders the tools they need to be more effective supervisors, including identifying and promoting individual strengths, and understanding the strengths of others. This training was made possible in part by Lilly Endowment Inc.



Staycation Raises \$7000 for Tangram's Mission

Tangram had planned to celebrate its 35th Anniversary with a special trivia night fundraiser. Of course, plans had to change with restrictions on in-person gatherings. So, Tangram launched a virtual summer fundraising series, Staycation, that included activities like a coloring contest, virtual art classes, t-shirt sales, a tag weekend, and, finally, a virtual trivia event hosted by Hambone's Trivia. We raised nearly \$7000 for our mission, only possible because of the support we received from everyone who participated in events as well as our amazing sponsors, including our headlining sponsor, Old National Bank.



Jobs for America's Graduates

As part of an agreement with EmployIndy, Tangram worked this year with local high schools to speak with students in the Jobs for America's Graduates program about jobs in the disability field. These discussions include an overview of what a disability is, career pathways in our industry, and other sectors where you can work with people with disabilities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic these presentations have been delivered virtually or through taped recordings.



Come Fly With Me

Creating extraordinary lives for people with disabilities can make for some truly amazing moments, as Tangram Direct Support Professional (DSP), Barbara Mussler, recently learned. In October, we highlighted the many ways that Barbara continued to connect her clients to the community, even during the pandemic. One incredible experience she and her clients shared this year was a helicopter ride where they saw many Indianapolis landmarks from a new perspective. Awesome!



WFYI Partnership/Move to Include



WFYI-TV, the Indianapolis PBS affiliates, is one of several PBS stations across the country participating in the Move to Include national initiative. Move to Include is using the power of public media to promote inclusion and share stories from people with disabilities in the local community. WFYI has contracted with Tangram to provide video trainings for their employees on disability inclusion and awareness, and some of Tangram's employees have participated in several roundtable discussions on issues impacting the disability community in central Indiana.

Wedded Bliss

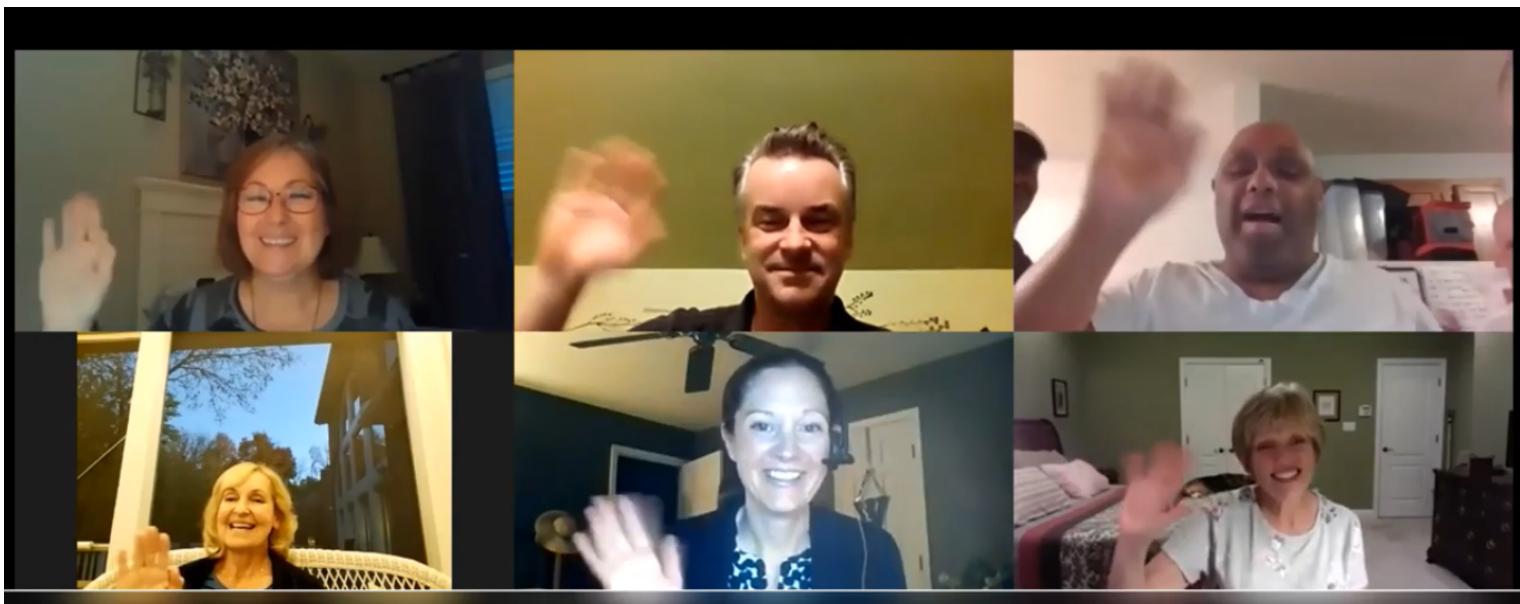
Few moments in life are happier than weddings, so, of course we had to include Bill and Pam's wedding on our Best of 2020 list! This was definitely a bright spot this year. Bill had been married before and was adapting to life as a bachelor when we was introduced to Pam. After dating for a while, the pair started to talk about getting married, and in September, they tied the knot in a small ceremony in front of a handful of family and friends. You can read their full story, [here](#). Cheers to the happy couple!



Business Services Launches Video Training Series

As with many in-person activities, Tangram's disability inclusion trainings needed to be retooled for a socially-distanced world. Tangram partnered with DirectEmployers Association, a nationwide association for federal contractors, to turn our disability inclusion trainings into a six-part video series. The goal was to make these trainings more accessible to businesses, especially during a period when so many are working remotely. These videos are available for DirectEmployers members to purchase in the Learning Management System being launched by DirectEmployers. They can also be purchased directly from Tangram. Learn more by watching [this video](#).





Tangram Music Club Goes Virtual

Change was the name of the game this year, and Tangram's Music Club is a shining example of adaptability. When Music Club, which has been meeting for more than 5 years now, couldn't hold their meetings in person, Tangram's fabulous volunteers searched the Internet far and wide to figure out a way to continue the group via Zoom. Though technology posed some initial challenges, volunteers and participants made the best of the "new normal" and never lost their positive outlook, smiling and singing through it all! The group always starts their sessions by singing "Down in My Heart," and this year, the lyrics took on new importance. Keeping joy in one's heart has never been more difficult or more important, and thanks to Tangram's volunteers, Music Club was a great source of joy for our clients and employees. Now, *that's* a high note!

**Thank you for making 2020 a
year to remember.**



Learn more about Tangram:
www.thetangramway.org

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