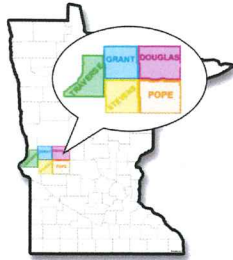


“Helping **PEOPLE.....**
Changing **LIVES”**



 *Helping People. Changing Lives.*
**community
Action**[®]
PARTNERSHIP
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

2017 *Annual Report*



WCMCA, Inc. has been serving those in need in our communities since 1964.

Community Action Promise

“Community Action changes lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We are about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

Dear Board members, staff and friends of West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.:

We are pleased to present to you the 2017 Annual Report of West Central MN Communities Action, Inc. (WCMCA). As you will see, the 53rd year of providing services to children and families in west central MN has been extremely busy with growth in programming as well as in partnerships.

In 2016-17, WCMCA, Inc. completed a real-time strategic planning process. Out of the sessions that included board and staff, a new mission, vision, identity statement, and core values were developed. To assess what the needs in the area were, WCMCA, Inc. involved the people that are served by the agency, partners, and staff. The following list are the needs that were identified by those groups:

- Affordable Housing
- Transportation
- Employment
- Access to food
- Childcare
- Mental health, chemical dependency & health and wellness



An exciting growth area is our partnership with Alexandria Technical and Community College – where WCMCA, Inc. Head Start has two new classrooms! This partnership benefits the families that are attending the school as well as the students in the school.

WCMCA, Inc. moved from its location with United Way in Alexandria to a new office space down the street from United

Way! Program and administration staff are located in the new Alexandria office space located at 503 Hawthorne St.

In September, we celebrated our volunteers who without them we would struggle in carrying out our mission. There were 819 volunteers that contributed 17,791 hours to WCMCA, Inc. A huge thank you to all volunteers for their gift of time. Thanks to board and staff, WCMCA, Inc. had another clean audit!

In June 2017, WCMCA, Inc. received the Outstanding Housing Partner Award from USDA Rural Development for our work in housing programs.



(L-R:) Katie Jacobson, USDA Rural Development intern; Allan Cowles, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development; Scott Knutson, Area Director, USDA Rural Development; Deb Hengel, Elbow Lake Mayor; Missy Becker-Cook, Chief Executive Officer; Pam Mueller, homeowner; and Joe Niehaus, Lead Housing Auditor

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all WCMCA, Inc. agency staff, board members, volunteers, and community partners – without all of you, our work would not be possible. We are all in this together and committed to “Partnering to build community and empower people to overcome poverty and achieve their full potential!” It begins with each of us treating our neighbors with the dignity, respect and equality they deserve. We are delighted and humbled to work alongside caring staff, board members and volunteers. We are proud to share with you the work of WCMCA, Inc.’s employees and volunteers in reducing the effects of poverty in our communities.

Teresa Gustafson, Board Chairperson
Missy Becker-Cook, Chief Executive Officer
Carol Boyer, Chief Financial Officer

Community
FACTS

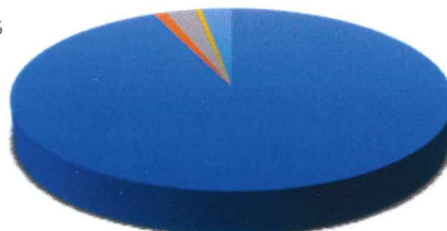
26% of households are paying 30% or more of their income for housing.

10.62% of people in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse counties live in poverty.

62% of students in our five-county service area are connected to a caring adult.

ETHNICITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES

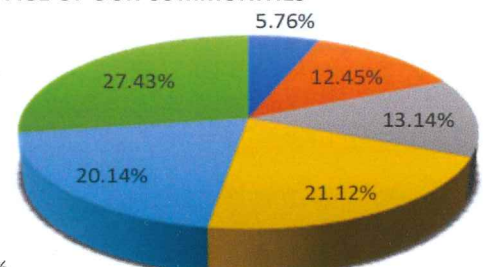
- Caucasian - 93.6%
- African American - 1.06%
- Hispanic - 2.54%
- Asian - 0.44%
- Other - 2.56%



2016 Census Data used for the community information

AGE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

- 0-5 - 5.76%
- 5-14 - 12.45%
- 15-24 - 13.14%
- 25-44 - 21.12%
- 45-59 - 20.14%
- 60 & over - 27.43%



WCMCA, INC. Mission Statement

"Partnering to build community and empower people to overcome poverty and achieve their full potential."



WCMCA, INC. Vision

"Partnering to end poverty in rural Minnesota"

138 households were served by either short or long-term rental assistance programs.



17 households were assisted in preventing mortgage foreclosure, **35** attended a Home-buyer Education Course and **18** participated in pre-purchase counseling services.



819 volunteers
17,791.5 hours
valuing **\$480,699**

WCMCA, Inc.'s conducted **43** lead risk assessments and **46** lead clearance tests, which indicate the presence of lead for homeowners.

Weatherization and the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) served **193** households with home repairs totaling **\$1,070,631**.

The Small Cities program rehabilitated **5** homes in the amount of **\$63,185.87**.



360 people received assistance from a MNSure navigator.

The WCMCA, Inc's Free Tax Preparation Program assisted **467** taxpayers in receiving **\$600,297** in refunds to tax payers.



Ready Ride volunteers gave **425** rides, spending **1,155** hours driving older adults for a total of more than **16,298** miles.



Statewide, **236** Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota participants purchased assets, which included **\$681,587** to purchase a home, start up a business or higher education.



PLUS Kids served **430** children and their parents with **2,185** hours of parenting time and safe exchanges.

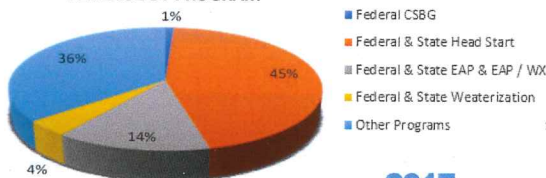
Head Start served **50** children in home-based Early Head Start (ages prenatal-3), and **337** children in center-based Head Start preschool (ages 3-5).



93.6% of 4-year-old Head Start children met or exceeded expectations for kindergarten readiness.

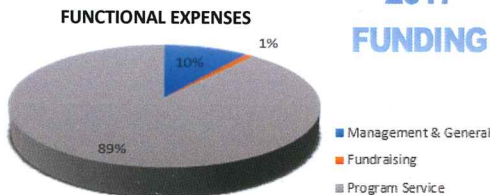
100% of Head Start children completed their physical exams and **99%** completed screening requirements.

REVENUE BY PROGRAM



- Federal CSBG
- Federal & State Head Start
- Federal & State EAP & EAP / WX
- Federal & State Weatherization
- Other Programs

2017 FUNDING



- Management & General
- Fundraising
- Program Service

REVENUE & EXPENSES



217 households received an average of **\$1,466** in assistance for furnace repair.



The Energy Assistance Program served **4,364** households with primary heat funding in the amount of **\$2,468,296**.

Weatherization Success Story

Steven Koelln of Spruce Hill Township in Douglas County was especially grateful in December 2016, after his home was weatherized. His house received a complete energy overhaul—a new fuel oil furnace, attic air sealing and insulation, repaired duct work, a whole new house fan, and much more—at no cost to Koelln. “It was probably the best Christmas present I’ve ever received,” said Koelln, a former farmer who is disabled and lives just south of Miliona, 15 miles northwest of Alexandria. “It was a real godsend”.

A year after the work, he is realizing the great outcomes and is even more thankful. “It’s made a huge difference in my home,” said Koelln. “On cold days before I had the work done, I would sit in my living room and watch the curtains move. There was a steady draft in the house, and the walls and floors were cold. But now, I’m toasty warm in the winter, and the cool airs stays inside much better in the summer. My fuel oil bill has been cut in half, and my monthly electric bills have decreased 25% to 40% each month. I am tremendously grateful.”



L to R: Carol Boyer, Chief Financial Officer; Missy Becker-Cook, Chief Executive Officer; Joe Niehaus, Lead Housing Auditor; Steve Koelln, Weatherization recipient; Mandy Braaten, EAP / Housing Director; Amy Lohse, Housing Advocate; Gene Wyttenback, Housing Auditor & Toby Weigand, Housing Auditor.

Board Member Listing

Executive Committee

- Teresa Gustafson—Chair
Traverse County—Low-Income Representative
- Donny Wohlers—Vice Chair
Stevens County—County Commissioner
- Dave Salberg—Treasurer
Traverse County—County Commissioner
- Al Glaeseman—Secretary
Douglas County—Low-Income Representative

Board Members

- Tammy Boushek
Douglas County—Private Sector
- Marlene Cihlar
Pope County—Low-Income Representative
- Keith Englund
Douglas County—County Commissioner
- Elisabeth Kirchner
Stevens County—Private Sector
- Robin McNamar
Grant County—Low-Income Representative
- Janel Mendoza
Stevens County—Low-Income Representative
- Michael Pattee
Pope County—Private Sector
- Michelle Rinke
Traverse County—Private Sector
- Cody Rogahn
Pope County—County Commissioner
- Keith Swanson
Grant County—County Commissioner
- Stella Troszczynski
Grant County—Private Sector

Donations

To make a donation to WCMCA, Inc. and to learn more about our organization, visit

WWW.WCMCA.ORG

Donations can also be mailed to:

**411 INDUSTRIAL PARK BLVD,
ELBOW LAKE, MN 56531**

Thank you
for your contributions.

WEBSITE

www.wcmca.org

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