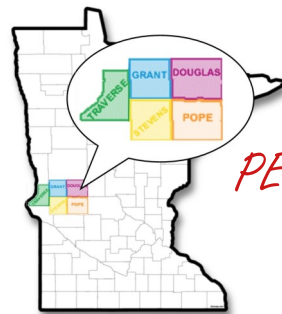
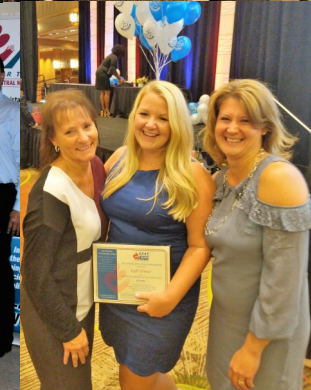
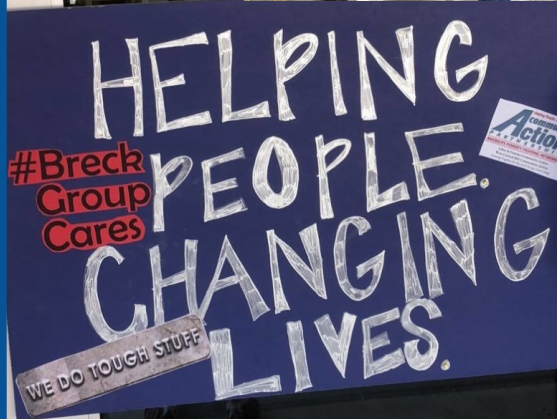
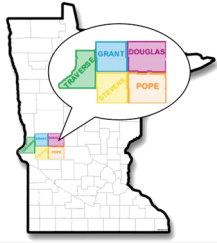




2018 ANNUAL REPORT
**WEST CENTRAL
MINNESOTA
COMMUNITIES
ACTION INC. EST. 1964**



*"PARTNERING TO
BUILD COMMUNITY
AND EMPOWER
PEOPLE TO OVERCOME
POVERTY AND
ACHIEVE THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL."*



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, colleagues, staff and friends of West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.:

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc. is proud to be a part of a large national anti-poverty network that has been working to eliminate poverty since 1964. Our vision is to live and work towards the Community Action Promise each and every day! We are pleased to present to you the 2018 Annual Report of West Central MN Communities Action, Inc. You will see growth for WCMCA, Inc. in revenue and programs, and in partnerships across our service area.

In February of 2018, WCMCA, Inc. and Alexandria Technical College hosted a legislative learning session at our newly remodeled Head Start classrooms at the college. We had a wonderful turnout with our legislators attending and learning about the programs WCMCA, Inc. provides, as well as updates from Dr. Laura Urban from Alexandria Technical College. Many thanks to Rep Bud Nornes, Rep Mary Franson, Rep Jeff Backer, Senator Torrey Westrom, US Rep Colin Peterson, and Andy from US Senator Amy Klobuchar’s office. This partnership continues to thrive and our classrooms at the college are at full enrollment, and we truly love being at ATCC!



R-L: Missy Becker-Cook, CEO, Congressman Collin Peterson, and Dr. Laura Urban, ATCC

WCMCA, Inc. was presented with the Promising Practice Award for the Ready Ride program at MN Community Action Partnership in St. Paul. A Promising Practice award is one that has not been in existence for more than a year; is a program that can measurably improve the efficiency or effectiveness of customer service or support systems, and it is innovative to address a local need. Rural transportation for our customers continues to be a need identified in our Community Needs Assessment. The Ready Ride program offers rides for clients ages 65+, and also partners with Region 4 Mental Health Consortium, which offers rides for clients with serious or persistent mental health illness (SPMI).

WCMCA, Inc. also received an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Award from the Department of Defense. Our Head Start employee, Chessie Andrist, nominated WCMCA, Inc. for the Above and Beyond Award. Thanks Chessie for the nomination, it was an honor to receive this award for WCMCA, Inc.



R-L: Val Arnquist, Head Start Director; Teresa Gustafson, Past Board Chair; Chessie Andrist, Family Education Specialist; Missy Becker-Cook, CEO; and Carol Boyer, CFO

WCMCA, Inc. and Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership co-hosted a Group Cares project in Breckenridge in July of this past year – we had 260 campers from all over the US, 26 projects were completed and 8,812 labor hours donated throughout 7 different communities!

Kelli Winter, Director of Development & Operations, earned her Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certificate from the National Community Action Partnership. Congrats!

We are proud to present to everyone WCMCA’s annual audit. As in years past, there were no findings, questioned costs, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. This can be attributed to staff following proper policies and procedures, and WCMCA’s strong internal controls.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to all WCMCA, Inc. Agency staff, Board members, volunteers and community partners – you all make this work 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.” The work we do at Community Action is so critical to the health and well-being of our communities. We are proud to share with you the work of WCMCA, Inc. employees and volunteers in reducing the effects of poverty in our communities. Thank you for your commitment to our organization.

**Missy Becker-Cook,
Chief Executive Officer**

**Carol Boyer,
Chief Financial Officer**

**Keith Swanson,
Board Chair**

FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

- A single adult with 2 children needs to earn \$28.43/hour in order to meet their basic needs without receiving assistance.
- 10.8% of people in West Central Minnesota are living in poverty.
- Only 62% of students in our five-county service area are connected to a caring adult.

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”

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



43 households were assisted in preventing mortgage foreclosure, **19** attended a Homebuyer Education Course and **29** participated in pre-purchase counseling services.



1,075 volunteers
16,420 hours
valuing
\$240,245.81

WCMCA, Inc. conducted **26** lead risk assessments and **6** lead clearance tests, which indicate the presence of lead for homeowners.

Weatherization and the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) served **151** households with home repairs totaling **\$205,150.39**.

The Small Cities program rehabilitated **22** residential homes in the amount of **\$412,296** and one commercial property in the amount of **\$40,000**.

The WCMCA, Inc's Free Tax Preparation Program assisted **1,056** taxpayers in receiving **\$540,920** in refunds to tax payers.



PLUS Kids served children and their families in Douglas, Pope, Todd, Morrison, Stearns along with 28 surrounding counties, and the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. **517** children and their parent(s) were served. This included **927** safe exchanges and **638** parenting time visits.

Statewide, **208** Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota participants purchased assets, which included **\$634,588.30** to purchase a home, start up a business or higher education.



334 people received assistance from a MNSure navigator.



Ready Ride volunteers gave **980** rides, for a total of more than **28,117** miles. The Region 4 South Ready Ride volunteers gave **23** rides for a total of **2,283** miles.

Head Start served **119** children in home-based Early Head Start (ages prenatal-3), and **298** children in center-based Head Start preschool (ages 3-5).



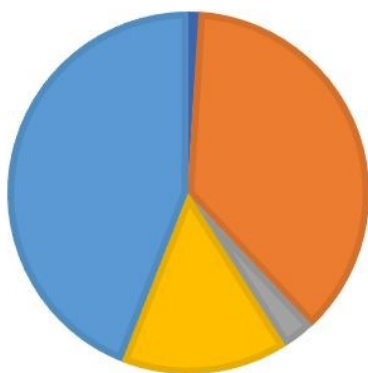
93.7% of 4-year-old Head Start children met or exceeded expectations for Kindergarten readiness.

98% of Head Start children completed their physical exams and 98% completed screening requirements. 96% of dental exams completed.

300 households received an average of **\$1,166** in assistance for furnace repair.



The Energy Assistance Program served **4,473** households with primary heat funding in the amount of **\$2,621,578.34**.

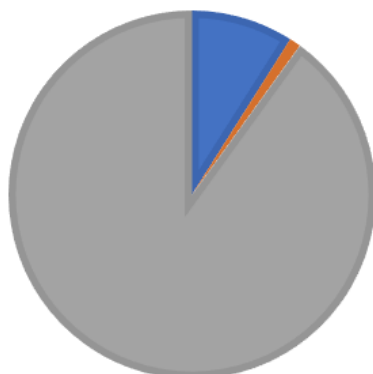


REVENUE BY PROGRAM

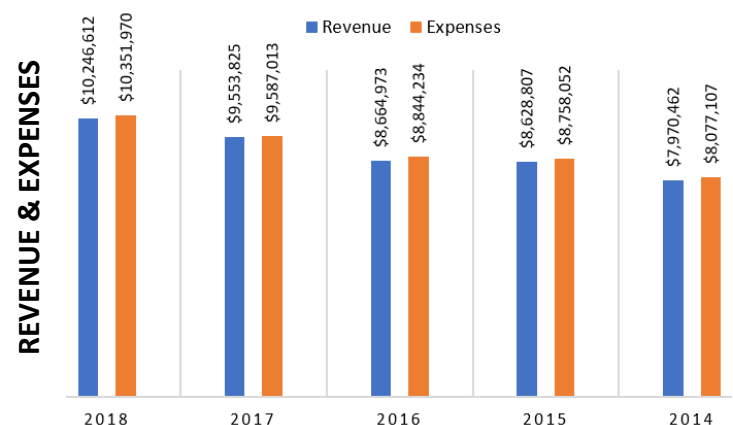
- Federal CSBG - 1%
- Other Programs - 37%
- Federal & State Weatherization - 3%
- Federal & State EAP & EAP/WX - 15%
- Federal & State Head Start - 44%

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Management & General - 9%
- Fundraising - 1%
- Program Service - 90%



2018
FUNDING DETAILS



Head Start Success Story

I first met AshLee just after she had her youngest son, Aiden, in the early fall of 2016. She was a single mom with three boys, who just moved into her own place. Her son, Walker, was attending Head Start, and Austin was enrolled with me in Early Head Start.

AshLee and I talked about what she wanted her future to look like and started setting goals. She wanted to go to college to get a degree in a profession that could support her family. She also wanted to be an active part in her children’s success in life, and get a hobby farm in the country, where the children could run, play and explore.

AshLee started attending M-State College spring semester of 2015. She met Brad, her now fiancé, through mutual friends at a local church around the same time. AshLee and her three boys moved in with Brad and his two girls later that fall after having safety issues with her apartment. She continued to pursue her degree, budget for the household, and raise five children. In February of 2016, AshLee gave birth to twin girls, Eva and Bria, seven weeks early. She juggled trips to the NICU, family life, and continuing school.

Ashlee graduated spring of 2016 with an AAS degree. That fall, Brad and AshLee purchased a hobby farm in the country. Upon moving, the children lost busing from their house to the schools they attended. AshLee pleaded her case to both schools, and both schools stated that busing would be impossible unless she met the buses in a nearby town. So everyday, AshLee drove the children, nine miles to meet the buses, so they could continue to attend the school of their choice.

That same year, AshLee decided to go back for her phlebotomy degree at Central Lakes College. She was elected to and served on Student Senate at Central Lakes Community College. AshLee also was elected to the Head Start Policy Council the fall of 2017; which she currently still serves on. Ashlee graduated with her phlebotomy degree spring of 2018. She found employment as an Administrative Assistant, and decided to continue her schooling for her Medical Lab Technician degree.

In the fall of 2018, AshLee was able to arrange busing with both schools, which didn’t include a special trip each morning. She applied to Lakewood Health System Outreach Clinic for a casual phlebotomist position in November of 2018 and was hired. AshLee now has a full-time job, a supportive fiancé, seven wonderful children, her hobby farm, and is still pursuing her Medical Lab Technician degree. She is a very motivated young women who sets her goals and does not let anything stand in her way of achieving them!



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

FACEBOOK

West Central Minnesota
Communities Action, Inc.

Board Member Listing

Executive Committee

- Keith Swanson—Chair
Grant County—Co Commissioner
- Tammy Boushek—Vice Chair
Douglas County—Private Sector
- Dave Salberg—Treasurer
Traverse County—Co Commissioner
- Al Glaeseman—Secretary
Douglas County—Low-Income Rep
- Teresa Gustafson—Past Chair
Traverse County—Low-Income Rep

Board Members

- Marlene Cihlar
Pope County—Low-Income Rep
- Keith Englund
Douglas County—Co Commissioner
- Elisabeth Kirchner
Stevens County—Private Sector
- Robin McNamar
Grant County—Low-Income Rep
- Janel Mendoza
Stevens County—Low-Income Rep
- Michael Pattee
Pope County—Private Sector
- Michelle Rinke
Traverse County—Private Sector
- Cody Rogahn
Pope County—Co Commissioner
- Stella Troszczyński
Grant County—Private Sector
- Donny Wohlers
Stevens County—Co Commissioner

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