



*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

# **community Action<sup>®</sup>**

**of NORTHWEST ALABAMA**

**Annual  
Report  
2024**



*"Our mission is to reduce the causes and adverse consequences of poverty and to empower low-income individuals, families, and communities to achieve self-sufficiency through advocacy, resource utilization, and service delivery."*

**Taking Action... Changing Lives!**

# From the Desk of the Executive Director

*Dear Friends and Supporters of Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama,*

*As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2024, I am both humbled and proud of the progress we have made together in fulfilling our mission of improving the lives of individuals and families across Northwest Alabama. This year has been a testament to the resilience of our communities, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and volunteers.*

*The journey of Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama is one of service, empowerment, and hope. Throughout 2024, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to providing critical resources and services to those most in need. From emergency assistance to education programs, our efforts have focused on creating pathways out of poverty and offering a helping hand to individuals and families striving for self-sufficiency.*

*Some of the highlights from this year include:*

- Expanding access to food, housing, and utilities assistance, ensuring that more individuals and families have the resources they need to navigate challenging times.*
- Enhancing our workforce development programs to provide valuable skills training and job placement assistance, helping individuals achieve long-term employment success.*
- Empowering families through our Mothers and Daughters programs, which focus on enhancing parenting skills, improving family dynamics, and fostering positive life choices. These programs provide the tools necessary to build strong foundations for the future.*
- Extending our Weatherization services to include a Lead Abatement Program aimed at protecting children from the lifelong impacts of lead poisoning. This program not only safeguards the health of vulnerable children but also creates healthier, more productive futures for families and communities.*

*We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us to carry out this important work. It is only through the collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters that we are able to make a lasting impact in our communities. As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities to expand our services and reach even more individuals who need our help.*

*Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can build a brighter future for all those we serve.*

*With deep gratitude and respect,*

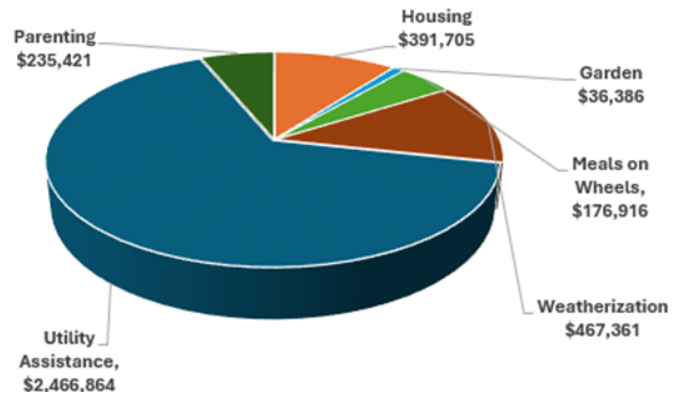


David Crosby  
Executive Director  
Community Action of Northwest Alabama



**Direct Aid to the  
Shoals Area**  
**\$3,774,653.64**

**Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama poured almost 4 Million dollars into the economy of the community we serve through direct aid last year.**



**7,081 Total Individuals Served**



**Female**

**76%**

**Male**

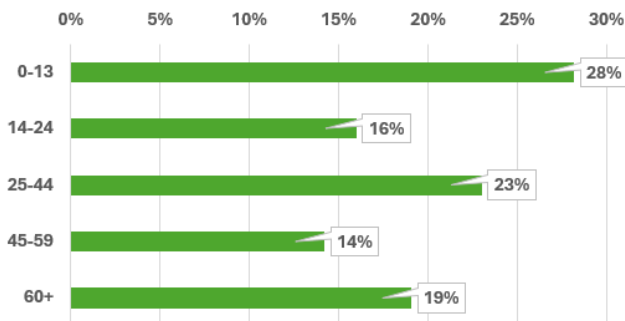
**27%**



**Individuals By Age Impacted**

- 0-13      1,995
- 14-24    1,090
- 25-44    1,640
- 45-59    1,006
- 60+      1,350

**Age Breakdown**



**In 2024 Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama**

**Assisted**

**3,570 Households**

**Impacted**

**7,081 Individuals**

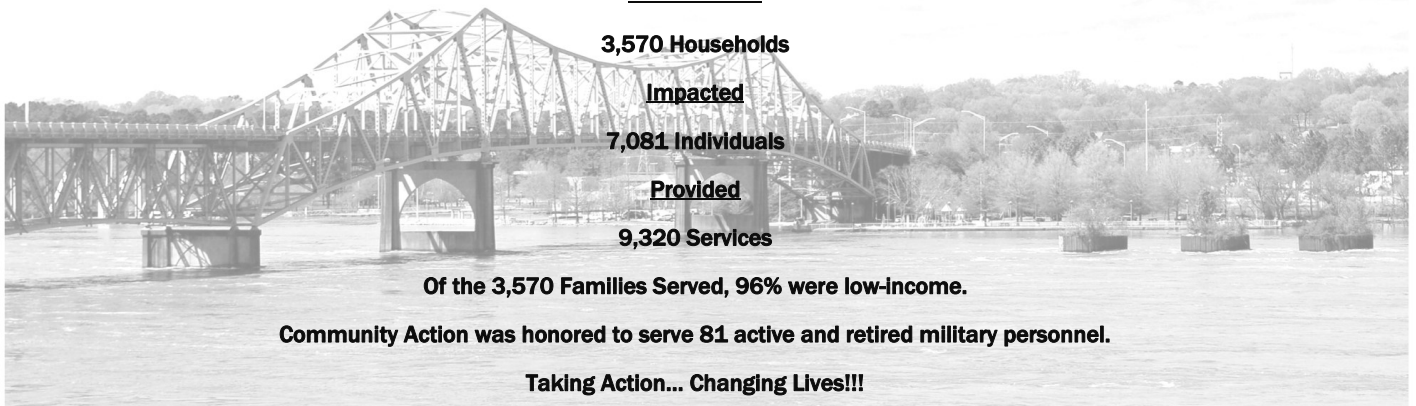
**Provided**

**9,320 Services**

**Of the 3,570 Families Served, 96% were low-income.**

**Community Action was honored to serve 81 active and retired military personnel.**

**Taking Action... Changing Lives!!!**



## Housing



**Aided low-income individuals or families who were at risk for eviction/foreclosure who obtained and maintained affordable housing through advocacy and case management.**

- 578 Received case management
- 222 Avoided evictions
- 127 Obtained safe and affordable housing
- 243 Homeless at intake

**We held two First Time Homebuyers Classes to educate those individuals on the home buying process.**

## Utility Assistance

**Assisted low-income households to meet the cost of home energy, focused on vulnerable populations such as elderly, disabled and households with small children.**

- 2,982 Were assisted with utility assistance
- 242 Received utility deposits
- 2,198 Avoided shut-off
- 2,313 Received utility arrears payments



## Weatherization

**Helped to increase the energy of dwellings occupied by low-income households with preference given to the elderly, disabled and families with children, thereby reducing their energy costs while safeguarding their health and safety.**



- 29 Homes received energy efficient home improvements
- 41 Received emergency home repairs
- 50 Received Healthy Home Services

***"Thank you so much Community Action. I really don't know what I would do without your service."***



### Parenting Programs

Endeavored to promote responsible parenting, healthy marriages and economic stability to improve the overall well-being of children through advocacy, linkage, and case management with local partnerships.



- 261 Parents were enrolled in the parenting classes
- 160 Parents attended our parenting classes
- 43 Obtained certificate/degree relating to a vocational skill
- 10 Individuals began to make child support payments
- 581 Children's lives were impacted

*"Being part of the Responsible Parenting program changed how I show up for my family. I learned how to build stronger relationships, communicate with love, and create a more stable future for my kids. It's helped me grow—not just as a parent, but as a person. Responsible Parenting taught me to lead with love, discipline with patience, and build a stronger future for my family."*



### Meals on Wheels

Provided meals to elderly and homebound low-income persons enabling them to maintain independent living through good nutrition and daily contact with volunteers.

- 169 Household's received meals and maintained independent living
- Over 52,000 meals were delivered to individuals



### Gerald Williams Cooperative Gardening Program

Encouraged families to grow their own food reducing household food expenses.

- 728 Household's received garden vouchers

We sincerely appreciate the strong partnerships we've built with TVA Retirees and our local Co-Op organizations. Their dedication and collaboration are essential in making this program a success.

*"This program brings our family closer by giving my grandkids the chance to learn how to grow their own food. It teaches them the value of independence, the importance of helping others, and how to lend a hand when it's needed most."*

### *Chance Program: Grace in the Climb—A Story of Strength, Recovery, and Hope*

After serving time for a marijuana conviction, a determined woman returned to her community with little more than hope and the desire to rebuild her life. Referred by Bevill State College in Hamilton, AL, she found a lifeline in the Chance Project — a program that would become the foundation of her transformation.

Struggling with heroin addiction, her path to recovery wasn't easy. But she took the brave step of admitting herself to an inpatient facility, committed to change. With unwavering determination, she continued her recovery at a Methadone Clinic, taking each day one at a time. When that clinic closed, she didn't give up — instead, she worked closely with her doctor to transition to Suboxone and, in time, came off all medications entirely. Every step forward was earned through grit and grace.

While healing, she enrolled in computer technology classes, determined to better her future. She didn't just complete them — she graduated with honors, a testament to her incredible work ethic and focus. Through the support of the Chance Project, she secured a stable apartment — a safe space for her and her children to call home.

Her early job search wasn't glamorous. She picked up hours at a local café, doing what she could to make ends meet. But she never stopped striving. Her persistence paid off when she landed a full-time job with a firm in Winfield — a position she loves and excels in.

Today, she is completely drug-free and has full custody of her children, who now get to grow up witnessing their mother's strength and courage every day. She's still living in the apartment she first moved into when she joined the program, a place that now represents growth, stability, and love.

### *FORWARD Program: From Setback to Comeback—Path to Purpose*

J.P. enrolled in our Fatherhood Workforce Development Program, "Forward," on January 13, 2025, through a referral from Mission of Mercy Shoals Recovery. At the time, he was unemployed, lacked a high school diploma, and had no work-based certifications or skills training. However, J.P. excelled in the program, completing all required components with dedication.

Since then, he has made significant strides in his personal and professional life. He has maintained his sobriety, secured full-time employment, moved into an off-site apartment, and obtained a vehicle. J.P. is on track to complete the Mission of Mercy Shoals program by the end of this month and is actively working towards finishing his GED. His renewed optimism for the future is evident, and he is also strengthening his relationship with the mother of his children, successfully co-parenting.

### *Chance Program: From Struggle to Strength*

Referred to the Chance Project in April 2023, Lindsey had just completed long-term rehab after battling a 20-year addiction. Life hadn't been easy — she was separated from her children, living in a shed with no electricity or running water, and facing multiple legal hurdles. But she never gave up.

With strength and support from the Chance Project, Lindsey turned her life around. She found a home in Haleyville, secured steady work at a cabinet factory, and regained full custody of her youngest son. Over time, she rebuilt bridges with her mother and reconnected with her five other children, celebrating holidays together as a family again.

Determined to move forward, Lindsey paid off her fines, got her license, and bought a car. After graduating from the program, she found a better-paying job and stayed committed to her recovery. Today, she not only provides a safe, loving home for her son — who is happy and thriving — but also mentors other young women, using her story to inspire hope and healing.







**Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama Board of Directors is composed of one-third private sector representative, one-third elected officials or their designee representing our service area, and one-third low-income community representation.**



Like and Follow us on Facebook @CommunityActionNorthwestAlabama



Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama is a non-profit corporation., Incorporated under the law of the state of Alabama March 19, 1965 and organized for the purpose of planning, developing and administering programs and services designed to help eliminate poverty and encourage self-sufficiency . We are conveniently located in Franklin, Colbert and Lauderdale counties to serve the residents of each county.