

Annual Report

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COMMUNITY ACTION
NORTHWEST ALABAMA



2020 Summary

The people CAANW-AL serves, most of whom have incomes below 90% of the poverty threshold, are working to find a way back to stability and greater independence. They have experienced crises and setbacks, sometimes for the first time. This past year was the most challenging our country has faced. The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented time where our country and our community saw a complete shut down, causing an even greater burden on our most vulnerable in the Shoals. Community Action Northwest was there to stand in the gap for many.

Poverty is complex, even in the best of times, and not easily defeated. CAANW-AL offers people a hand up, providing a continuum of services to help them address their greatest needs, build on their strengths, and have hope for a better future.

Program Areas/Households Served:

- Responsible Parenting/Fatherhood - 299 served, \$111,070 collected in Child Support
- Mothers Program - 161 served, 1 GED earned and 4 Job Certifications earned
- Housing Supports - 632 households served, 224 being homeless at in-take
- Energy Supports - 2,359 Utility Bills paid
- Weatherization Program - 22 homeowners received home weatherization
- Meals on Wheels of The Shoals - 240 elderly/homebound served
- Gerald William Cooperative Gardening Program - 650 households received plants and/or seeds

IN 2020, CAANW served

3,261 individuals

receiving

8,754 services

representing

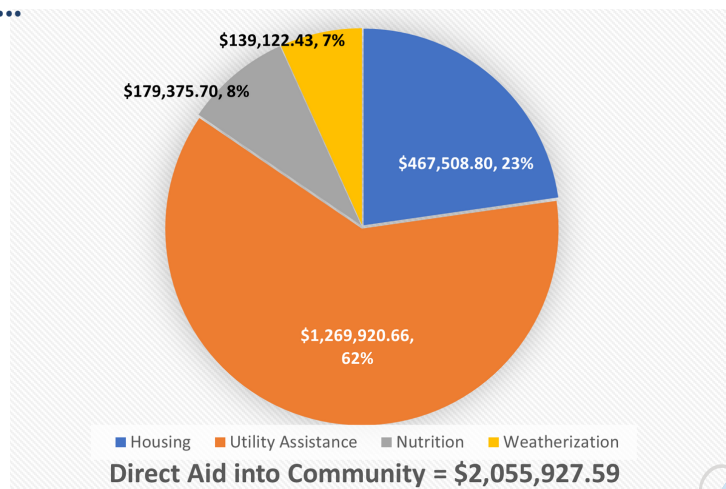
3,197 Families

1,512 Disabled

224 Homeless at In-Take

Did you know...

- CAANW poured over 2 Million dollars back into the Shoals community economy in direct aid last year...



Pandemic Community Help

370

of thermometers donated to Title One Schools located in Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin counties to help provide a safer environment for students as they returned to the classroom in August. The number of thermometers provided measured out to be one per every 35 students.

CARES money was also used to support healthcare and dental needs for those in the community affected by COVID through a collaboration with our community partner, Shoals Community Clinic.



Through cooperation with the Salvation Army of The Shoals and Sunrise Center in Sheffield, nutritional ministries were provided for the homeless when shelters were overwhelmed during the pandemic. Some are still on-going.

In 2020, CAANW-AL also worked with faith based partners providing baby needs such as diapers, and food in drive-by events.



74,880 Meals

delivered to seniors



4,368 hours

worked by volunteers

123

organizations

partnered with CAANW

193

Seniors maintained independent living



Angela's Story

I enrolled in the MOTHERS Parenting Program in June 2020 but only attended a couple of classes. I wasn't ready to take control of my life or actions. I tried classes again, but after a couple weeks I found myself in jail for 10 days and my child was taken from me. That was the moment of realization! Losing custody of my child forced me to look beyond myself. I had to change myself for my child, for me and for our future!

Four days after being released from jail I gained employment. 2 weeks later, I obtained affordable housing. I then saved to buy my own car to have reliable transportation for work. By the time I completed the Mothers class, I had obtained a living wage job and most importantly - my child was returned to my care!

Parenting classes through the MOTHERS Program helped me to get my priorities in line, learn how my actions affect not only myself but my child and others.

CAANW-AL's Board of Directors is composed of one-third elected officials or their designee representing our service area, one-third representatives of the low-income community, with the remaining members representing the private sector.

2019-20 Board Members:

Board President - John Harris

1st Vice President - Dwight James

2nd Vice President - Herman Jagers

Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Jarnigan

Public Official Representatives:

Chip Hibbett - Representative of Lauderdale Co. Commission

Tracie Thompson - Representative of Franklin Co. Commission

*Ernest Darby/Eddie Goodloe - Representative Colbert Co. Commission

Gary Jarnigan - Representative of Muscle Shoals City

Representatives of Poor:

Larry Collum

Margaret Jackson

Todd Cochran

Ruth Barnett

Herman Jagers

Judy Hennessee

Private Representatives:


Amanda Berry

Dwight James

John Harris

*Elaine Smith/Anita Hovater

*partial year of service



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



Like and follow us on Facebook at @CommunityActionNorthwestAlabama

CAANW is a private 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.