



*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

**community  
Action**®

**of NORTHWEST ALABAMA**

Annual Report  
2025

“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,***

*As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we have made together and the lives we have impacted across Northwest Alabama. Through dedication, compassion, and a shared commitment to service, we continue to bring hope and stability to those who need it most.*

*This year, we assisted 3,000 households and impacted 5,858 individuals through 8,601 essential services including housing support, food assistance, workforce development, and family programs. Each number represents a life changed and a step toward greater self-sufficiency.*

*At the same time, the need remains significant. Challenges such as affordable housing and food insecurity continue to affect many families in our communities, strengthening our resolve to serve with purpose and urgency.*

*As we look ahead, we remain committed to leading with integrity, compassion, and faith—expanding our impact, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring every individual we serve has the opportunity to move toward a better future. In particular, programs like Meals on Wheels continue to be a vital lifeline for our elderly and homebound neighbors, and ongoing financial support is essential to sustain and grow this critical service.*

*As it is written in Galatians 6:9, “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” This truth continues to guide and encourage our work each day.*

*Thank you for standing with us, praying for us, and supporting this mission. Together, we will continue taking action and changing lives.*

*With sincere appreciation,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Crosby". The signature is fluid and cursive.

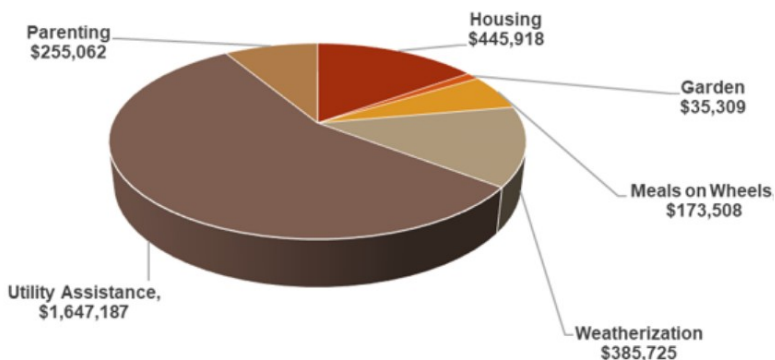
David Crosby  
Executive Director  
Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama





**Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama poured almost 3 Million dollars into the economy of the community we serve through direct aid last year.**

5,858 Total Individuals Served



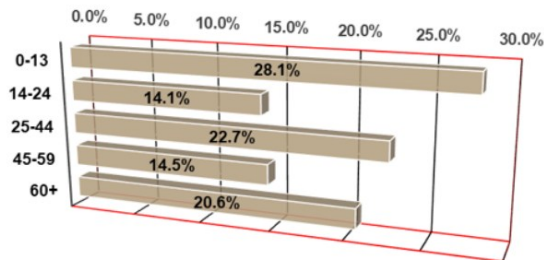
Female 77%  
Male 23%



**Individuals By Age Impacted**

0-13	1,647
14-24	827
25-44	1,328
45-59	852
60+	1,204

**Age Breakdown**



**In 2025 Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama**  
**Assisted**  
 3,000 Households  
**Impacted**  
 5,858 Individuals  
**Provided**  
 8,601 Services

Of the 3,000 Families Served, 97% were low-income.  
 Community Action was honored to serve 64 active and retired military personnel.

Taking Action... Changing Lives!!!

# Housing Spotlights

## Housing Assistance

Assisted low-income individuals and families at risk of eviction or foreclosure in obtaining and maintaining safe, affordable housing through advocacy and case management, supported by our team of four HUD-certified housing counselors.

Additionally, we offer a First-Time Homebuyers Class twice a year, covering topics such as preparing to buy a home, budgeting, credit, home maintenance, the mortgage process, and basic home safety and energy efficiency education.

- 595 Received case management
- 231 Avoided evictions
- 124 Obtained safe and affordable housing
- 206 Homeless at intake



## Utility Assistance

Provided support to low-income households in meeting home energy costs, with a focus on vulnerable populations including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children.

- 2,456 Households assisted
- 165 Received utility deposits
- 1,868 Avoided shut-off
- 1,988 Received arrearage payments



## Weatherization

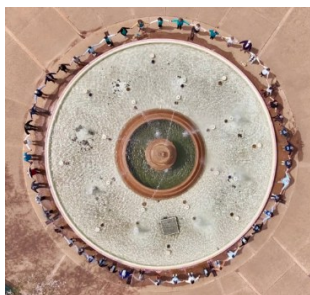
Improved energy efficiency for low-income households, prioritizing the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with children—reducing energy costs while enhancing health and safety.

- 42 Homes received energy-efficient improvements
- 29 Received emergency home repairs
- 33 Received Healthy Homes services



# Parenting Spotlights

Worked to strengthen families by promoting responsible parenting, healthy marriages, and economic stability, while improving the overall well-being of children through advocacy, case management, local partnerships, and resource linkage.



- 219 Parents enrolled in parenting classes
- 150 Parents actively attended classes
- 44 Individuals obtained a certificate or degree related to a vocational skill

## **Mothers Program**

Community Action of Northwest Alabama is proud to offer a free 12-week Mothers Program designed to strengthen families and support positive parenting. Through this program, mothers gain valuable skills in effective parenting, positive discipline, and child safety, while also building confidence and stability within the home. By equipping participants with practical tools and ongoing support, the program helps create nurturing environments where both mothers and children can thrive.



## **FORWARD Program**

Community Action of Northwest Alabama is proud to offer the Work Force Development Program to individuals across the Northwest Alabama community. This comprehensive program includes a 6-week workforce readiness component paired with a 12-week parenting class, equipping participants with both career skills and effective parenting strategies.

Through the FORWARD Program, participants gain valuable workforce certifications while also strengthening their ability to support and nurture their families. To further encourage success and stability, participants receive hourly stipends as they complete training and earn certifications—helping remove barriers and promote long-term self-sufficiency.





# MEALS ON WHEELS OF THE SHOALS

helping people. changing lives.

A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF NORTHWEST ALABAMA PROGRAM

## Meals on Wheels

Provides nutritious meals to elderly and homebound individuals with low incomes, helping them maintain independent living while promoting health, safety, and well-being. Through daily contact with caring volunteers, the program also offers meaningful social connection and peace of mind for participants and their families. This work would not be possible without the loving support of our dedicated volunteers, who take time out of their days to ensure these individuals are cared for, checked on, and never feel alone.



### **Celebrating 50 Years of Service: Eva Graham**

Community Action is proud to recognize Eva Graham for an extraordinary milestone—50 years of dedicated service. Eva's commitment reflects the very heart of our mission: serving others with compassion, dignity, and care.

Through her work with the Meals on Wheels program, Eva has made a lasting impact on the lives of elderly and homebound individuals across our community. For five decades, Eva has faithfully served Community Action, pouring her heart into our mission and the lives of those in our community.

Eva's dedication extends far beyond her role. She has built meaningful relationships with clients and volunteers alike, creating trust, comfort, and consistency for those she serves. Her compassion and selflessness have helped countless individuals maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.

Fifty years of service is a remarkable achievement—one that speaks to Eva's unwavering commitment, strong work ethic, and genuine love for others. Her legacy is reflected in the lives she has touched and the community she has helped strengthen.

We are deeply grateful for Eva Graham and proudly celebrate her 50 years of service, impact, and dedication to Community Action and the individuals we serve.



# Community Services



## Gerald Williams Cooperative Gardening Program

Empowered families to grow their own food, helping reduce household expenses. This program thrives through strong partnerships with TVA Retirees and local Co-Op organizations. Their dedication and collaboration are essential to the program's success.

- 711 households received garden vouchers in 2025

*"This program has brought our family closer together by allowing my grandchildren to learn how to grow their own food. It instills independence, shows them the importance of helping others, and teaches them the value of stepping in when someone needs a hand."*



## Annual Community Services Easter Basket & Christmas Socking Giveaway

Community Services – Holiday Assistance Programs

Provided support to families in need through our annual Easter Basket Giveaway and Christmas Stocking Giveaway. These programs help ensure children and families experience the joy of the holidays by providing essential items, gifts, and basic necessities, made possible through community partnerships and donations.

In 2025, a total of 468 Easter baskets and 587 Christmas stockings were distributed to families across our community.



# Success Stories

***At Community Action of Northwest Alabama, every client we serve represents a story of resilience, hope, and progress. Through our programs, we are honored to walk alongside individuals and families as they overcome challenges and build brighter futures.***

## **LIHEAP Program**

Through the LIHEAP Program, we serve many individuals who rely on assistance to maintain safe and stable living conditions. One client, a kind and independent gentleman, is able to continue living on his own thanks to utility assistance that helps stretch his limited income. With support from his family and our team, he confidently navigates the process himself—something he takes great pride in. His gratitude and determination remind us why this work matters.

Another client, known for his larger-than-life personality, depends on assistance to maintain his housing. While he may be heard before he is seen, his kindness leaves a lasting impression. He often expresses a desire to give back one day—a reflection of the dignity and appreciation shared by so many we serve. For many households assistance with utility costs means the difference between stability and crisis. Hearing clients say, “You have no idea the stress this has taken off of me,” is a powerful reminder that even small support can have a lasting impact.

## **Housing Assistance**

Housing stability is often the first step toward rebuilding a life. One individual came to us after experiencing homelessness and living in his car. Through Rapid Re-Housing assistance, he was able to secure an apartment, begin new employment, and regain stability. Today, he is working full-time, maintaining his expenses, and even building savings—grateful for the opportunity to start again.

A mother came to us after facing eviction and living in a hotel with her children. Through the FORWARD Program and housing counseling services, she secured stable housing, obtained employment, and began rebuilding financial independence. Determined to create a better future, she has since enrolled in our First-Time Homebuyers Class, taking meaningful steps toward long-term stability for her family.

## **Mothers Program**

Our parenting and workforce programs continue to empower individuals to grow and give back. One participant in our Mothers Program remained committed while balancing full-time work and recovery. After completing the program, she transitioned into a role supporting other women facing similar challenges—turning her journey into a source of strength for others.

## **FORWARD Program**

A father who entered our FORWARD Program while experiencing homelessness worked diligently to improve his situation. He completed workforce certifications, secured employment, and, alongside his spouse, obtained stable housing. Today, he is focused on reuniting his family and continuing his career development, demonstrating perseverance and dedication every step of the way.

***Each of these stories reflects the heart of our mission—providing not just assistance, but opportunity, stability, and hope.***

*The Board of Directors of the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama is made up of one-third private sector representatives, one-third elected officials or their designees from our service area, and one-third representatives of the low-income community.*

## **Board Members**

Amanda Berry	Jane Wilson
Taylor Cooper	Larry Collum
John Harris	Judy Hennessee
Anita Hovater	Benetia Groce
Eddie Goodloe	Todd Cochran
Tracie Thompson	Ruth Barnett
Penny Townsend	Sherry Springer
Gary Jarnigan	

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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.