



SWCAP

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Inc.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



The Worth of Every Individual

Opportunity

Excellence & Stewardship

Family

Collaboration



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to present the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program's (SWCAP), annual report highlighting the accomplishments of 2015 on behalf of the hard work, knowledge and dedication of an accomplished staff, hard working volunteers and a dedicated Board of Directors.

Farmworker Housing

During the past year, SWCAP staff has worked very hard with our partners at UMOS and USDA Rural Development to start a Farmworker Housing project in Darlington. Using funding from UMOS, SWCAP conducted a study of the need for additional farmworker housing in all of Lafayette County. Upon completion of that study, we began working on an application for the housing project that would eventually provide around 24 units of multi-family rentals to farmworkers and their families who live and work within the county. We were unable to obtain site control on the land in time for a 2015 application but will be submitting our application in 2017.

Neighborhood Health Partners – Platteville Site

SWCAP, working with a private developer and in partnership with the City of Platteville, began working on a refurbished Neighborhood Health Partners Clinic building in downtown Platteville. An entire city block, except for the current city library in downtown Platteville, was torn down to be replaced by a new city library and hotel. The existing city library will be completely refurbished and will become the new NHP clinic. In the interim, the NHP clinic is using the former, but also refurbished, police station next to City Hall. Once the old library is redone, our clinic will be located in a beautiful, much larger building that will provide more space for the care of the clinic's patients.

Healthiest Communities Conference

On July 1, SWCAP, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute among other health related organizations, put on a Healthiest Communities conference at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The purpose of the conference was to present the relationship between all the aspects of a healthy local economy that lead to the improved health of a population. The social determinants of health were presented to the attendees and various speakers presented their findings on how factors such as employment, housing, transportation, income, schools, and food affects the overall health of a population.

Behavioral Health

Based on data, research, and numerous conversations with other organizations and individuals regarding unmet needs in southwestern Wisconsin, SWCAP made a decision in 2015 to take on the problem of lack of access to behavioral health services in our five counties. To accomplish this, we applied for a Healthiest Wisconsin Partnership Program grant from the Medical College of Wisconsin that would allow us to work with over 31 partner organizations to jointly take on the lack of access to behavioral health services problem. SWCAP is making a commitment to improve behavioral health, especially among low-income families and individuals, in the same way we helped to develop medical and dental clinics in the past.

SWCAP is grateful to our public funders, donors, volunteers and community groups for all of their support towards our efforts in providing solutions to poverty. As we approach our 50th anniversary year in 2016, we are as committed as we were in 1966 to bring transformative services and programs to our families!

OUR HISTORY

Community Action Agencies were created through the “War on Poverty” Legislation passed in the 1960's during President Johnson's administration. Southwest CAP was incorporated in 1966 in Dodgeville, WI, as a private non-profit organization governed by a 24 member volunteer Board of Directors. We are People helping people throughout Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Green and Richland Counties in southwestern Wisconsin.

OUR MISSION

- Significantly and meaningfully involve low-income people in developing and carrying out anti-poverty programs
- Mobilize public and private resources in support of anti-poverty programs. Plan and evaluate both long and short-range strategies for overcoming poverty in the community
- Serve as an advocate of low-income people on matters of public policy which affect their status, promote institutional improvements and desirable changes in social policy
- Conduct or delegate to other agencies the operation of programs financed through federal, state, local, or other available funds

NUMBERS SERVED:

- In 2015, SWCAP assisted 4,989 families and 10,217 individuals

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT:

- 69,351 volunteer hours were donated by community volunteers this year

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- SWCAP partnered with 157 organizations locally, regionally, statewide, and nationwide on issues pertaining to housing, health, education, job training, and many others.

SOUTHWEST CAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The organization is governed by a Board of Directors composed of one-third low-income residents, one-third local public officials, and one-third community representatives. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. and are open to the public.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Bartels | Jeannie Blumer, Chair | Connie Hull | Victoria Solomon |
| Carol Beals, Vice Chair | Martha Boyer | Vern Lewison | Amanda Waterman |
| Ron Benish | Richard Cates | Brent Nelson, CPA Treasurer | Beth Whitish |
| Kari Bennett | Mike Furgal | Maggie Oehlke | Ruth Williams |

JOBS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SWCAP continues to be on the forefront in providing business development and job creation services to low-income individuals in southwestern Wisconsin. SWCAP's business development program assists people by offering business start-up planning, small business lending, marketing support, and business expansion planning. Through working in partnership with the regional planning commission, UW Extension, SW Wisconsin Technical College, and UW-Platteville, a regional strategy was created which has been instrumental in launching new businesses and creating much-needed jobs.

We consider it a privilege to be a part of all aspects of bringing the dream of entrepreneurship in Southwest Wisconsin into a reality, from working with feasibility studies to working with business plans, operations, and finance assistance.

- Nestled Pines Woodworking –Echo friendly and a leader in sustainability, Nestled Pines specializes in customized souvenirs and gifts for national parks, historic sites, retail and non-profit organizations.
- Half Moon Outdoors – The exclusive Action Trackchair dealership in Southern WI and Northern IL provides mobility options to formally inaccessible outdoor areas for those with ambulatory challenges.
- Try a Massage - Located in both Dodgeville and Richland Center for client convince. Tami, a licensed massage therapist, has extensive training and experience in massage therapy techniques with additional certifications as an aesthetician. Her moto- Health and healing promoting a better quality of life through established treatments. Every moment counts, try a massage!
- Ardelain – A graphic design company located in Platteville, WI provides multiple media avenues of visual communications to insure maximum exposure for their customers' marketing message. Trained in a variety of art mediums, Ardelain combines art and graphics to meet individual business needs.
- Bear Performance and Repair, LLC - Offers quality auto repair ensuring customer convenience and fast service. Operating out of the little town of Bear Valley, WI, expect big service with their 100% customer satisfaction guarantee policy. At Bear Performance, you are not just a customer, but friends and neighbors.

2013 and 2014 Jobs & business Development start-ups still going strong include:

- Kate's Bait, Dodgeville, WI - A fishing and hunting store
- The Lunch Bus, Platteville, WI - A portable lunch bus serving local foods
- Kate Valentine Studios - A photography business
- Denner Woodworking - A wood working shop that specializes in kitchen cabinets and furniture
- 12 Baskets, Platteville, WI - A bent and dent grocery store
- Clean and Safe Computers - Computer Store selling and repairs computers
- Loving Light Photography - A photography business

COMMUNITY SERVICES – FOOD PANTRIES AND WE CARE

SWCAP Food Pantries

The Food Pantries assist income eligible families and individuals in our communities through providing nutritional foods that support the growth and development of our communities' citizens. In 2015, SWCAP food pantries distributed 525,495 pounds of food to those in need and helped 10,069 families (consisting of 6,537 adults and 11,649 children) put food on the table.

Where does the food come from: 50% comes from an allocation that the county gets from USDA government food, which is based on our population in our Counties. In 2015, we received \$275,642 of funding from the USDA Commodity program. The other 50% comes from other resources such as Second Harvest Food Bank out of Madison. CSI Wholesale Foods is another source for us that are able to give us cheaper prices or, locally, Piggly Wiggly, Wal-Mart and Dollar General when items that we are in need of are on sale.

Food Drives: Local organizations do many food drives throughout the year to help support our food pantries. We also get fresh produce from local growers during the summer.

SWCAP is able to purchase Food from Second Harvest at \$.18/lb. or at wholesale prices. The photos to the right represent what \$10.00 could buy a family of 1 to 2 people through Second Harvest Food Bank.



Help us spread the word about the issue of hunger in our own communities. We encourage everyone to stop by one of our food pantries and let our volunteers share our passion and mission with you and give you a tour of the facility.



WE CARE THRIFT STORE

The We Care Thrift Store first opened in March 2006 thanks to the initiative of a group of volunteers who were concerned about the financial plight of families in Southwestern Wisconsin. At the time, no financial resource existed for families in need of help them with clothing, diapers, wipes and other supplies and it was with them in mind that We Care came to be.

We Care operates as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that is supported by donations from individuals, organizations, and volunteers. It is located in the basement of Southwest CAP, 149 N. Iowa St. Dodgeville. We are open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and Tuesdays from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Everything is donated except the diapers, wipes and laundry detergent, which we purchase at a cost of about \$1,000 per month. If you feel you could assist us with any kind of donation we would greatly

appreciate it. We accept all donations of new and gently used clothing items. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to SWCAP at 149 N. Iowa St. Dodgeville, WI, 53533. Donations are tax deductible.

ENERGY AND WEATHERIZATION-

SWCAP's Weatherization initiatives reduces energy costs for low-income families, particularly for seniors, persons with disabilities and children through an array of services- insulation, energy efficient lighting, furnace and water heater repairs and replacements, refrigerator and freezer replacements and whole house health and safety inspections. In 2015, SWCAP weatherized 96 homes. Overall, we served 235 low-income individuals in 2015. The energy and weatherization team, with over 35 years of experience working at SWCAP, also worked closely with county WHEAP programs to provide services to community residents that experienced no or little heat during the winter. In 2014-2015, 112 homes qualified for emergency services representing over 130 low-income individuals.

Community Development Block Grant funds are used to help home owners with necessary home repairs such as roofs, siding, foundation repairs, electrical repairs, septic and wells. We provide a 0% interest deferred loan as a subcontractor for the Southwestern Wisconsin Housing Region. In 2015, we assisted 33 homeowners with critical repairs.



FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a national service program, which taps the experience, skills, and talents of persons 55 and older to volunteer from 15-40 hours during the school year at approved volunteer host stations. Foster Grandparents enhance the classroom or child care setting by providing a good role model, by being a good listener, and providing positive reinforcement of daily lessons.

Southwest CAP FGP includes the five counties: Iowa, Grant, Green, Lafayette, and Richland. In addition, the FGP serves the southern portion of Crawford County.

FGP volunteers must be 55 or older, meet FGP guidelines, and pass a national service criminal history background check. Qualified limited income FGP volunteers receive a modest tax-free stipend, which does not affect income sensitive programs. Other benefits include assistance with an annual exam, travel and daily meal allowance, and as research indicates, volunteers benefit from better health, make new friends, and stay active and involved in their communities.

In 2015, the number of volunteer hours was over 23,000. We had 24 volunteers in 2015. The total number of host stations was 21 schools and 2 non-profit childcare agencies.

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

SWCAP Head Start, in collaboration with community agencies, provides expectant parents and families with children age's birth through five, opportunities for- *child development, education, parent, and family support, resources, and health and nutrition services.*

Head Start is a federally funded preschool program serving 145 low-income children and families in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland counties. Early Head Start is federally funded birth to three home visiting program serving low-income families in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland counties. The Early Head Start grant works in collaboration with funding from the state of Wisconsin to serve 83 expectant parents, children and families.

All enrolled children receive health screenings including vision, hearing, developmental, social-emotional and a growth assessment. Staff also works with parents to ensure each child has an up to date physical exam, immunizations, and a dental exam. The goal of SWCAP Head Start is to provide each child the opportunity to be ready to learn in Kindergarten, both physically and academically.

Recognizing the power of early intervention all Head Start and Early Head Start programs are mandated to provide enrollment slots for at least 10% of their funded enrollment to children with diagnosed learning disabilities. During the 2015 program year, 18% of the preschool age children served in our program had a diagnosed learning disability and 22% of the children 0 to 3 had a diagnosed learning disability.

SWCAP Head Start and Early Head Start work toward engaging the whole family in education. One way in which SWCAP Head Start/Early Head Start works to achieve this is by promoting financial literacy. SWCAP works closely with the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Extension Service to provide all enrolled families with **Money Smart**® newsletters and one on one financial coaching. These opportunities provide parents with the means to increase their financial knowledge and skills as they continue to work toward self-sufficiency. Additionally, our families are able to access community services through our program partners- health, dental and developmental health services.

HOUSING

SWCAP Affordable Housing Programs provide eligible borrowers with 0% interest, deferred payment loans, to assist with home purchase and/or rehabilitation of owner occupied properties; and manages the Agency owned rental/LTO property portfolio, including 13 single-family units.

SWCAP Affordable Housing Program service delivery area includes: Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties.

Funding to support SWCAP's Affordable Housing Programs is received through the State of WI Department of Administration Bureau of Housing HOME and HCRI funds, SW WI CDBG Housing Region funds, and CDBG Housing & Emergency Assistance/HOME/HCRI Revolving loan funds administered for Green County, Iowa County and the City of Platteville.

In 2015, SWCAP Affordable Housing Programs completed a total of 52 single family projects including: 1 new construction project, 13 homebuyer projects, 3 homebuyer/rehabilitation projects and 35 rehabilitation projects utilizing \$ 1,364,599 of direct funds from SWCAP contracts and leveraging an additional \$212,910 in matching funds to support these projects.

Also, in 2015 SWCAP's Affordable Housing Programs facilitated case/property management activities for 13 families occupying agency owned rental properties; resulting in the purchase of 2 SWCAP rental properties by occupying tenant families.

An additional 150 - 175 families and individuals were assisted with service/resource identification and housing counseling activities facilitated by program staff.

SWCAP Affordable Housing Programs work in partnership with SWCAP's Weatherization Program, Project HOME, County Health Departments, NHS of SW WI, EHOME America, Dane County Housing Roundtable, UW Extension, Greenpath, Movin' Out, USDA Rural Development, and Local Lenders and Realtors, in our efforts to comprehensively provide housing counseling and education, to promote mortgage readiness and to increase opportunities for sustainable home ownership for program applicants and beneficiaries.

EMERGENCY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING & RAPID RE-HOUSING

The Emergency Transitional Housing Program (ETH) provides rental assistance to individuals/families that are homeless. When an applicant is eligible, a portion of their rent will be paid through SWCAP based on their income. This payment will be sent directly to the landlord the first working day of each month. The tenant will be responsible for the balance.

ETH Program is comprised of two different subcategories:

- Emergency Homeless Assistance Program: Security Deposit + Rent
- Emergency Rent Assistance Program: Rent Arrears + Ongoing Rent

Our Rapid Re-Housing program targets individuals/families that are literally homeless. It is to assist homeless persons living on the streets or in an emergency shelter transition as quickly as possible into permanent housing, and then to help such persons achieve stability in that housing.

SWCAP assist the participants on their path to a more stable and rewarding lifestyle for themselves and their families. With our programs in Iowa, Grant, Green Lafayette and Richland Counties, and with the coordination of services with other agencies, we are all working hard to end the cycle of poverty.

SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

The Skills Enhancement Program is designed to assist individuals to identify and participate in training opportunities that will enable them to develop the skills needed to pursue full time, sustainable jobs that will provide a living wage, health insurance benefits and opportunities for advancement. To qualify for program you must be working at least 20 hours per week and continue to while enrolled in school and also meet the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. A program participant can receive assistance for Tuition, books, testing/application fees, travel costs, childcare expenses, and any other training related costs not provided for by other funding sources.

With extensive operational changes that have taken place in the last program year, it is anticipated the Skills program will continue to thrive and grow in excellence. As in past years, the goal of reaching working students seeking employment advancement and a living wage through education remains at the forefront.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

SWCAP provides an array of transportation services, designed to meet the needs of low-income persons. **Work 'n Wheels** auto loan program is designed to help income eligible families and individuals with assistance to purchase affordable and reliable transportation. **LIFT** coordinates existing transportation services in Southwestern Wisconsin working closely with community partners to serve the commuting, aging, and disabled population in the region. Through a network of partnerships, LIFT offers ride referrals, provides rides including fully accessible rides and assists in coordinating Southwest Wisconsin's transportation services.

Work 'n Wheels, started in 2001, has provided over 580 no interest loans to eligible families and individuals interested in purchasing affordable and dependable cars for work. Since 2001, \$2 million + was loaned and the loan program includes a provision for repair and maintenance to assure safety and dependability. Each applicant is required to complete financial education classes at UW-Extension, currently working and must reside in Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, and Sauk Counties.

LIFT, a member of Southwest Wisconsin Transit Team works closely with its partners to coordinate rides. When other providers are not available, LIFT provides rides. In 2015, LIFT provided 5,108 rides to program participants.

CORPORATE GUARDIANSHIP & REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE SERVICES

SWCAP has been successfully maintaining Corporate Guardianships and Representative-Payee clients throughout the state of Wisconsin since 2010.

As a Corporate Guardian and Representative Payee, we help fill in the blanks for those in need with no friends or family able or suitable to provide these services. We assist clients in many ways from decision-making and monitoring to advocacy and support, all while keeping their well-being at the forefront of our work. We take pride in providing our clients with unbeatable, personalized service and we continue to receive exemplary ratings when reviewed by the Social Security Administration.

It is our passion and mission to ensure that all vulnerable individuals in need of guardianship or a representative-payee receive the services and care they need in order to lead quality lives. In 2015, a total of 173 clients benefited from our Guardianship and Rep-payee services combined.

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN NUTRITION PROGRAM (WIC)

WIC (The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) offers nutrition and health assessments, nutrition counseling and education, breastfeeding support, and assists WIC participants in obtaining services from other health care providers and programs. WIC serves pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five. SWCAP's WIC program offers 11 WIC clinics each month at seven sites in Crawford, Richland, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.

WIC participants receive nutritious foods monthly. In 2015 alone, grocery stores and pharmacies in the region redeemed \$637,528 for WIC food products. WIC also offers farmers market checks in the summer and can provide breast pumps if needed.

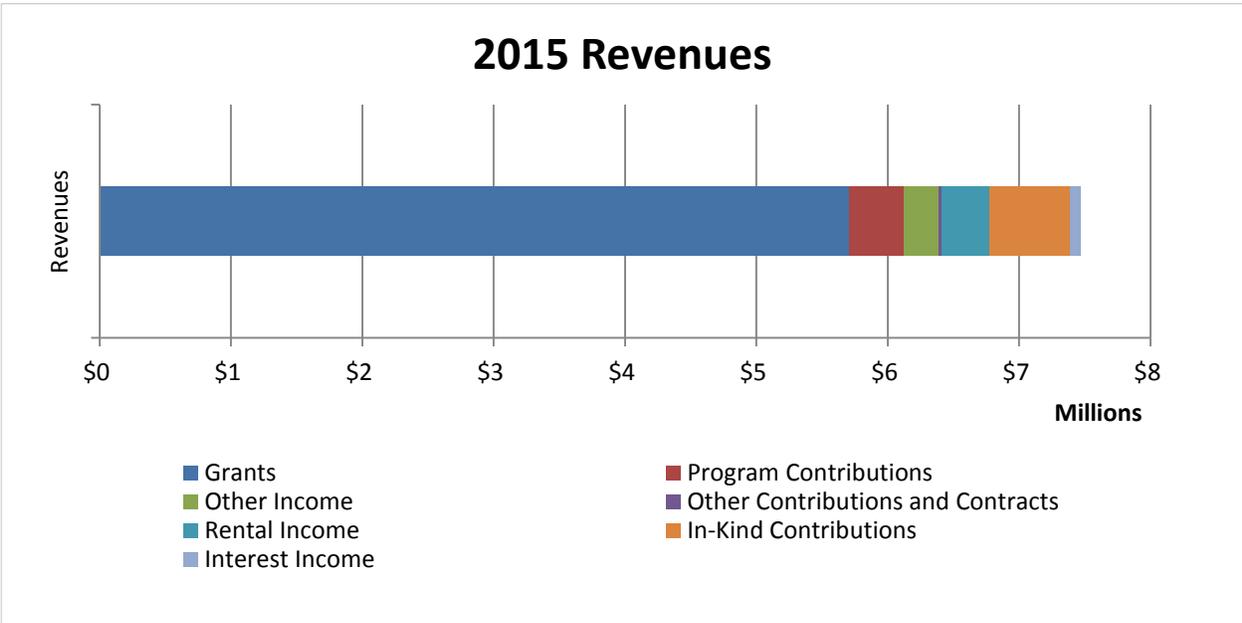
WIC’s outcomes have been well established over the many years of this program’s existence. Numerous studies and evaluations of WIC show demonstrable improvements in birth outcomes and nutritional well-being. Involvement in WIC improves access to healthcare, and for children, WIC improves immunization rates.

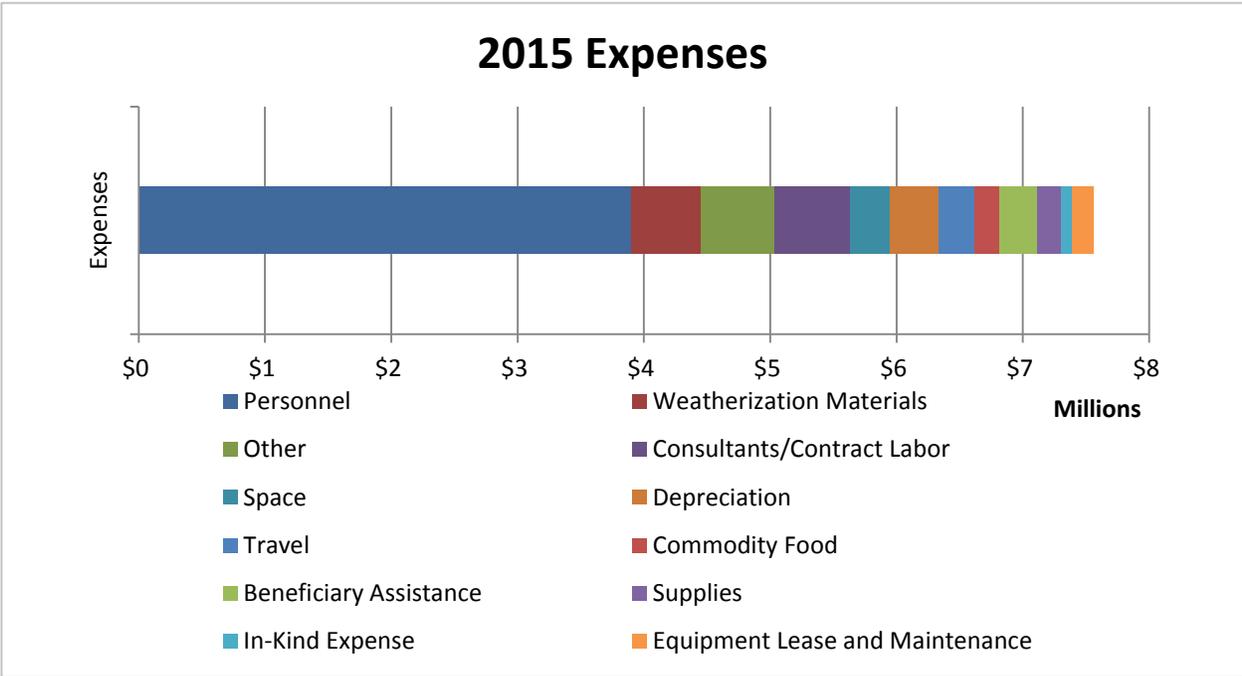
NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH PARTNERS

For over 40 years, SWCAP’s Neighborhood Health Partners have been providing medical services to women men. NHP provides primary reproductive health services including birth control, pregnancy testing, testing for STDs, preventative health exams and cervical cancer screenings, and testing and treatment for common health concerns, including vaginal and urine infections. NHP operates clinics in Platteville, Dodgeville, and Monroe and serves Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Green Counties. We are currently serving clients in our temporary location in Platteville and look forward to the completion of the Library block project and our move to our permanent location in 2017.

NHP served 980 unduplicated individuals in 2015. NHP launched a social awareness campaign, **GYT- Get Yourself Tested** in 2014, targeting 15-24 year olds to increase their awareness and drive testing for sexually transmitted diseases. We are continuing this campaign into 2015 and 2016. We are collaborating with our local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault centers to provide access to information on our services. We will be working with them to develop our trauma informed services. We have added low cost primary care for common illness and concerns and will be working with our agency on a plan to incorporate behavioral health into our core set of services.

RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT





THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS & THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

DONATIONS

Southwest CAP gets involved with the community. We create services to assist families and individuals in order to meet the emergency and long-term needs of our local communities. We have been able to maintain these programs due to the continued community support. As budgets tighten in spite of expanding needs, fundraising from individuals and businesses takes on added importance. With the increasing demand for services, SWCAP appreciates all contributions to our programs and services.

You may make a tax-deductible donation online at <http://www.swcap.org/donations.html>
Contributions may also be mailed to our office:

Southwest CAP
C/o Operations Director
149 N. Iowa St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533