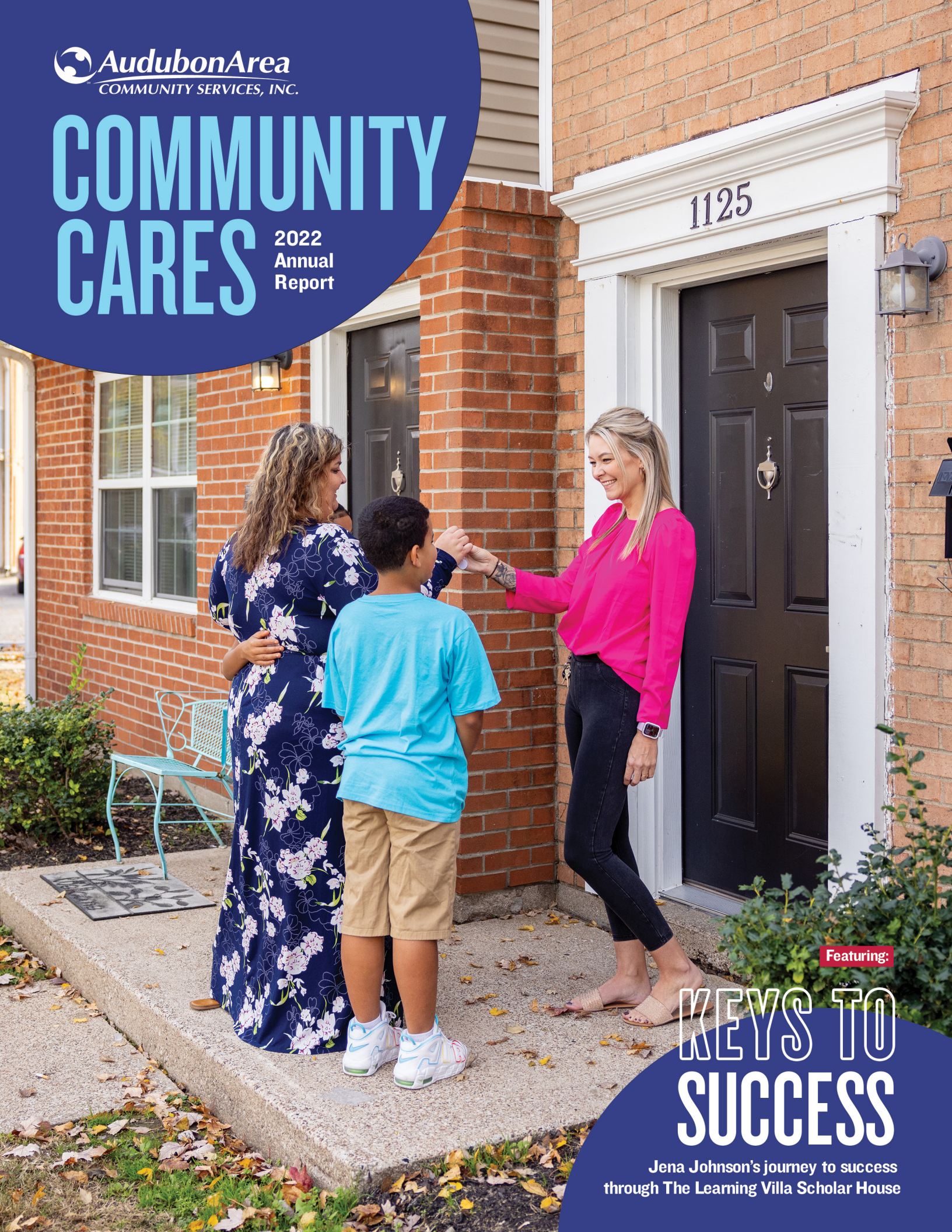


COMMUNITY CARES

2022
Annual
Report



Featuring:

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Jena Johnson's journey to success
through The Learning Villa Scholar House

A MESSAGE FROM

Robert Jones, CEO & Lynda Harrison, Board Chair

Dear Friends,

We are honored to present the Audubon Area Community Services 2022 Annual Report. Although ongoing pandemic issues continued to affect communities this year, Audubon Area adapted and met those challenges to provide high-level services to those in need. Our board of directors, leadership team, and staff led our agency and implemented programs that reached those needing assistance throughout the year.

Audubon Area's Early Childhood Services Program continued to meet the needs of children in our service area and prepare them for school. Our Community Services Program strived to keep families together, offer insurance guidance, and provide financial assistance to those seeking help with utility bills. Audubon Area's Employment Services Program continued to assist those seeking employment and provide volunteer opportunities for senior citizens. Our Housing Services Program continued to provide housing to low-income families and provide weatherization assistance to those needing to lower utility bills. And GRITS, our Transportation Services Program, continued to operate and meet transportation needs of our clientele.

We would like to thank our Board of Directors, community partners, leadership team, and staff for their dedication and perseverance. As we approach 2023, we will build on the successes of this past year and continue to promote a community where people at every income level can achieve self-sufficiency and thrive.

Sincerely,

Robert Jones,
Chief Executive Officer

Lynda Harrison,
2021-2022 Board Chair

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OFFICERS

Dr. Lynda Harrison,
Board Chair

Ms. Jamie McMichael,
Vice Chair

Ms. Mary Danhauer,
Secretary

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Doug Rodgers,
District I - Union Co.

Ms. Joanne Kendall, District
VI - Daviess Co. West

Dr. Lynda Harrison, District
II - Webster Co.

Dr. James Tidwell,
District VII -
Daviess Co. East

Dr. Jason Warren,
District III - Henderson Co.

Ms. Bobbie Jarrett,
District IV - Henderson Co.

Mr. Mike Boling,
District VIII -
Hancock Co.

Mr. Cheston Hoover,
District V - McLean Co.

Mr. Jason Chinn,
District IX - Ohio Co.

FISCAL COURT REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. Al Mattingly,
Daviess Co.

Ms. Betty Rucker,
Ohio Co.

Hon. Johnny Roberts,
Hancock Co.

Rev. Jerry Manning,
Union Co.

Ms. Paige O'Nan,
Henderson Co.

Mr. Tony Felker,
Webster Co.

Mr. Steve Hatfield,
McLean Co.

Chief James Howard,
Mayor's Representative,
City of Owensboro

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

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Brescia University

Rev. Ken Berggren,
McLean Co. Ministerial
Association

Mr. Brian Reynolds,
Dixon Lions Club

Ms. Jamie McMichael,
Ohio Co. Chamber of
Commerce

Ms. Deborah Hoda,
Henderson NAACP

Ms. Mary Danhauer,
Owensboro NAACP

Mr. Robert Shouse,
Sturgis Kiwanis Club

EX-OFFICIO

Mr. Doug Smith

Mr. Jesse Mountjoy

Mr. J.D. Meyer

Ms. Daisy James

Ms. Kristy Franklin

Ms. Charlotte Whittaker

Ms. Bridget Murray

Ms. Phyllis Church

Mr. Keith Sanders



ABOUT AUDUBON AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Audubon Area Community Services is the largest of 23 community action agencies serving Kentucky residents. Headquartered in Owensboro, Ky., Audubon Area is a 1975 consolidation of two agencies – one based in Henderson, the other in Owensboro, both founded in 1966. While serving the primary seven-county Green River Area District (Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties), Audubon Area also serves Barren River, Cumberland, Pennyryle, Purchase, Lincoln Trail, and Salt River areas with more than \$74 million in funding and nearly 700 employees.

Non-profit organizations, as providers of community service, have become an integral part of the American way of life. Audubon Area does not pay dividends nor interest to shareholders, and service to people is our bottom line.

Our mission: “Helping people in poverty and beyond to reach self-sufficiency by changing lives through services, advocacy, and partnering to strengthen communities throughout Kentucky.”

Table of Contents

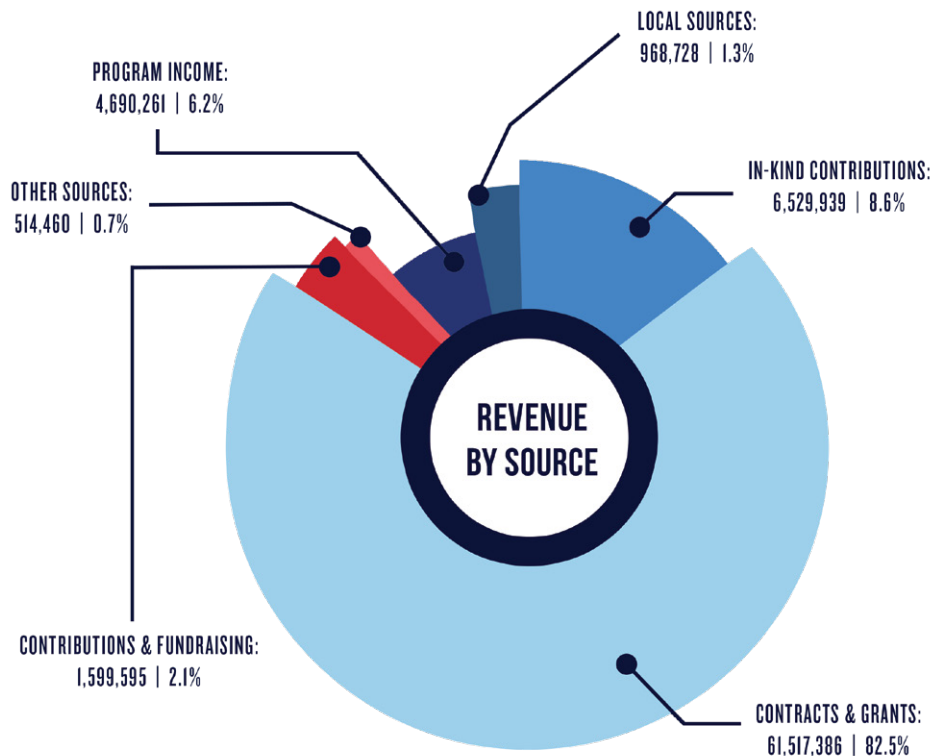
4	2022 Contributors
5	Financial Report
6	Care Clinic
8	Employment Services
12	Housing & Weatherization
14	Cover Story: Keys to Success
16	GRITS Transportation
18	Early Childhood Development
21	Community Services

2022 CONTRIBUTORS

Audubon Area Community Services would like to thank:

Aaron & Sarah Adkins	Derrick Arthur	Julie Stallings	Robert Wetzel
Akridge Farm Supply	Destany Wilson	Justin Harp	Robin Rowe Insurance
Alicia Justice	Diane Bowers	Kroger	Robyn Mattingly
Alyssa Rhoads	Donna Abell	Legacy Drywall	Roger & Kathy Farmer
Amazon Smiles	Donna B. Bryant	Lifetouch	Rolling Pin
Amy & Matheis Carrico	Dwayne & Catherine Roby	Lighthouse Recovery	Samantha Taylor-Kaai
Andita Ruiz	Edward & Judith Willen	Logan Aluminum	Schwab Charitable
Antoine Smith-Rouse	Ervin Cable Construction	Lowe's	Shepherd's Hand
B.R. & Carolyn Adkins	Fidelity Charitable	Lucas Brinkman	Sherry Baber
Barbara Nielsen	First Christian Church	M. J. HVAC	Shirley Brown
Barbara Weatherspoon	First Presbyterian Church	Malco Theatre	Shutterfly
Big Lots	Givinga Foundation	Mark Luckett	St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter
Bobbie Burden	Good Shepherd Church	Matthew Shelton	Susan Fuqua-Fenwick
Bobbie Cool	H.G. & P.H. Satterwhite	Michael Crumbaker	The Basham Family
Brandon Smiley	Hardee's	Michael E. Horn Family Foundation	The Center of Owensboro
Byron Mayes	Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels	Mizkan America	Tierney & Wayne Robinson
Candace Moon	IBEW	Mohammad Khalifa	Tim Horn
Cathy Pickerell	Immanuel Baptist Church	Network For Good	Timothy Travis
Charities Aid Foundation America	Independence Bank	New Hope Independent General Baptist Church	Tina Keller
Chloe Threlkeld	Jack T. Wells Estate	Nicholas Lawrence	True North Treatment Center
Chris Cupples	Janet Land	NOW Counseling	Truist Bank
Chris Galloway	Janice Goodwin	OASIS	United Way
Community Foundation of Louisville Depository	Jarrett Thompson	Owensboro Board of Education	Valerie Cole
Crossroads	Jean Phillips Orr	Owensboro Public Schools	Vanessa Hillerich
CRS OneSource	Jeannie Ditch	Paul Moody	Walgreens Pharmacy
CTC Investments	Jeremy Bratcher	Paula Cobb	Walmart
Daniel Burden	Jeremy Tucker	Public Life Foundation of Owensboro	Wayne & Sunshine Maglinger
Daniel Pitino Shelter	Jerry Eades	Reagan Leach	
David Geary	Joan Kolok	Richard Murphy	
Daviess County Board of Education	John Zekausky	Rick Baird	
Daviess County Fiscal Court	Jonathan Sheriff	Robert Glenn	
	Judy Crumbaker		
	Julie Peterson		

2022 Financial Report



FINANCIAL ACTIVITY & REVENUE

Summary of Financial Activities For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

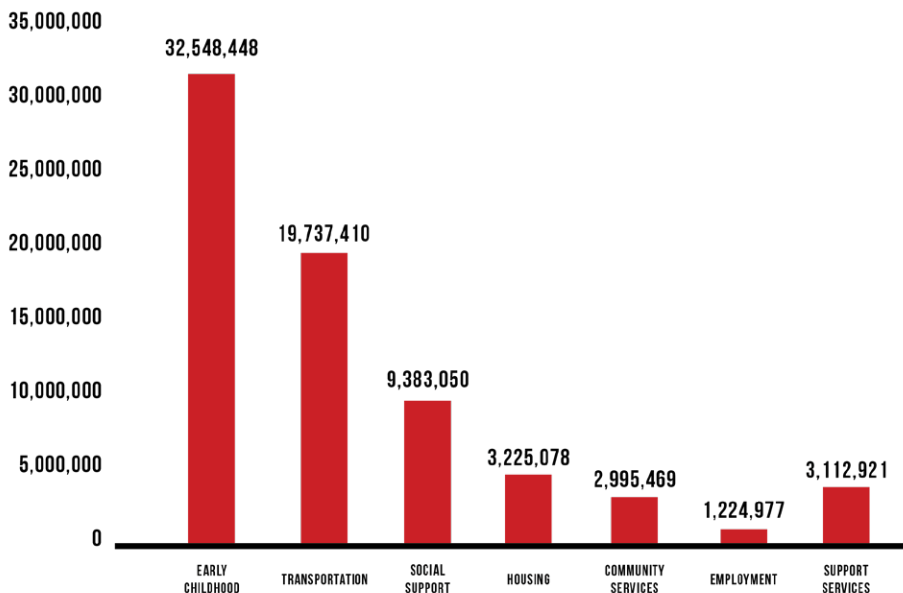
Revenue from all sources: **\$74,791,449**

Expenses from all services: **-\$72,227,354**

Increase in resources: **\$2,564,095**

* Other Sources include unrealized gain from investments, realized gain from investments, investment income, gain from sale of capital assets, fundraising, and interest income

EXPENSES BY SERVICES



Early Childhood includes Head Start, Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships, WKU Delegate, USDA, and Head Start Program Income & Donations.

Transportation includes Green River Intra-County Transit System (GRITS).

Social Support includes Family Preservation, Kynector, Senior Volunteer programs, Owensboro Regional Recovery, LIHEAP, Imagination Library, and VISTA.

Housing includes Weatherization, Housing Management Services, Audubon Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire North Apartments, Energy Cares, The Learning Villa, Horizon Place, Independence Heights, Presidents Place, Beaver Dam Village, and Mya Manor.

Community Services includes CSBG, WinterCare, Care Clinic, and Logsdon Community Services.

Employment Services includes Kentucky Works, SNAP E&T, Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Training Center.

Support Services includes Indirect, Executive Admin, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, fundraising, payroll fund, and the general fund.



Care Clinic

“Committed to provide quality, integrated healthcare and human services for vulnerable and homeless individuals and families in the Green River area.”

Audubon Area Community Care Clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration 330 and 330(h) Healthcare for the Homeless grant. The clinic provides health services, referral services, and supportive services to homeless, transiently housed, uninsured, underinsured, refugee, and medically underserved populations within Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, and Union counties. We strive to be the medical home for patients to improve their overall health status and decrease health disparities of the medically underserved and vulnerable populations of our area. The clinic is currently staffed with two full-time Nurse Practitioners and one full-time Behavioral Health Specialist. The clinic offers primary healthcare services, such as: physical examinations, immunizations for adults and children, office and laboratory testing, chronic care management, hepatitis C treatment, and care for acute and chronic health problems.

In addition to medical care, the clinic provides a range of integrated behavioral health services, such as: substance use disorder treatment, trauma therapy, mental health counseling, and anger management, and treatment for depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorders.

In 2022, we hired a full-time Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner who is able to provide the medication management aspect for our integrated behavioral health services, as well as therapy. The clinic also entered into an agreement with Owensboro Public Schools to open 10 school-based health center sites to provide students with a full array of medical services, including physicals and vaccinations on school grounds and via telehealth.

We offer in-house supportive services to our patients in the areas of prescription assistance, transportation to and from appointments, referrals for dental and eye exams, case management, application assister insurance enrollment, and interpretation and translation services in over 200 languages.

The clinic has a number of collaborative services through partner entities, such as Owensboro Health, Green River Health Department, Mental Health Court of Daviess County, River Valley Behavioral Health, and The Community Dental Clinic for services, including behavioral health and substance abuse services, dental care, and other healthcare specialties.

Mission Statement: "Committed to provide quality, integrated healthcare and human services for vulnerable and homeless individuals and families in the Green River area."

BY THE NUMBERS

1,188	Medical Patients Served
1,907	Medical Visits
835	Medical Telehealth Visits
719	Behavioral Health Patients Served
1,038	Behavioral Health Visits
566	Behavioral Telehealth Visits
155	Insurance Assists
868	Homeless Patients
11	Veteran Patients
106	Hepatitis C Patients Treated
1,954	COVID Tests Performed

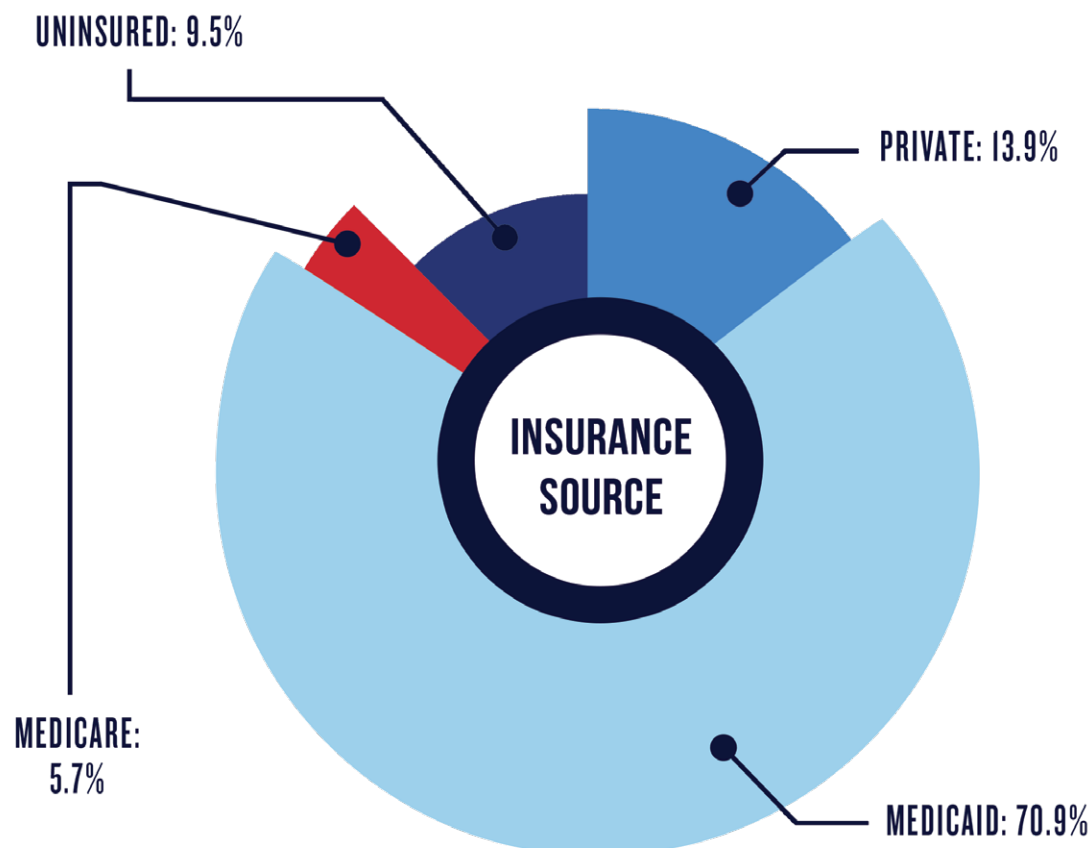
750 Salem Dr., Suite 2,
Owensboro, KY 42303

1620 Frederica St.,
Owensboro, KY 42301

Phone: 270-686-6040

Fax: 270-686-6050

Hours: Monday –Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.





Employment SERVICES

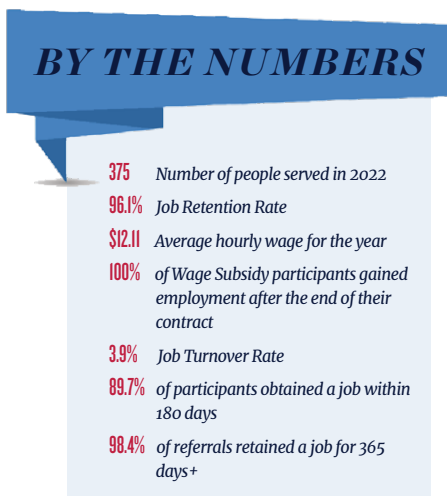
Audubon Area Employment Services delivers three programs with similar missions – to provide employment training and opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency. The three programs are the Kentucky Works Program (KWP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Kentucky Works Program

Federal and state funded assistance programs often have work requirements. The Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) was established by the state using federal funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block

grant to provide financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children in Kentucky and the parents, or relatives, with whom the children are living. Work-eligible individuals receiving KTAP assistance are required to participate in the Kentucky Works Program. KWP helps work-eligible individuals,

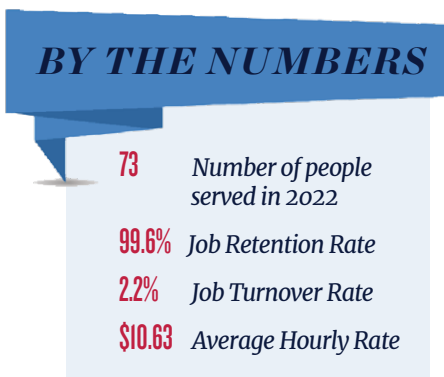
who receive assistance through the KTAP to obtain employment and educational training that leads to self-sufficiency. Our Employment Services Program administers KWP in 34 counties in Kentucky.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, helps low-income people buy nutritious food. SNAP also has work requirements. One of the SNAP general work requirements is participating in the SNAP E&T program. The SNAP E&T program promotes long-term self-sufficiency and independence by preparing SNAP recipients for employment through on-the-job training, work experience, work-related education, and training activities. SNAP E&T is a program of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) that is administered by five non-profits throughout Kentucky.

Audubon Area's Employment Services Program is one of the SNAP E&T providers for DCBS in Kentucky and serves 34 counties.



Senior Community Service Employment Program

Authorized and funded by the Older Americans Act, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is provided by Audubon Area Employment Services in 13 counties in Western Kentucky. SCSEP is a community service and work-based job training program for older Americans with limited financial resources. SCSEP participants gain work experience in a variety of community service activities at non-profit and public facilities including schools, hospitals, day-care centers, and senior centers. The programs provide subsidized community service hours to public and non-profit agencies, allowing them to enhance and provide needed services. Participants work an average of 20 hours a week and are paid the highest federal, state, or local minimum wage. SCSEP serves as a bridge to unsubsidized employment opportunities for participants.

SCSEP participants must be at least 55 years old, unemployed, and have a family income of no more than 125% of the federal poverty level. Enrollment priority is given to veterans and qualified spouses, then to individuals who are over 65 years old, have a disability, low literacy skills or limited English proficiency; reside in a rural area; are homeless or at risk of homelessness; have low employment prospects; or have failed to find employment after using services through the American Job Center system.



Training and Employment

Clients participating in the KWP, SNAP E&T, and SCSEP programs go through the Personal Effectiveness Skills Training, a training curriculum developed by our Employment Services Program that covers self-management, job performance, team performance, and being an asset to the organization. Once clients have mastered the basics of the Personal Effectiveness Skills Training, they move into a specialized certificate program based on their individualized education plan. Some of the most popular certificate programs are the Retail Associate, Customer Service Associate, Housekeeper,



Tahjae Richardson receiving her *Personal Effectiveness Certificate* at Logan County Good Samaritan, where she completed her WEP hours.

Groundskeeper, Janitor, Kitchen Helper, Office Worker, Warehouse Worker, Teacher Assistant, and Receptionist certificate programs. Clients are also provided real-life work experiences where they can apply academic and technical skills, and develop their employability.

We work intensively with clients in the KWP, SNAP E&T, and SCSEP programs to identify areas of interest and to prepare clients for successful job placement. Our Employment Services Program also works with employers and community organizations to offer positions that match clients' interests and developed skills. The career pathways approach to unsubsidized employment is used by combining

time-limited placement strategies with a work-based learning experience; subsidizing employment with a comprehensive set of services to help participants overcome barriers; and building work-related skills.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on KWP, SNAP E&T, and SCSEP programs and participants. To help mitigate health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic to participants, the Commonwealth of Kentucky implemented a "Good Cause Exemption" where clients were not required to fulfill work requirements related to the KWP, SNAP E&T, and SCSEP programs. Audubon Area Employment Services continued offering services despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (RSVP), formerly known as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, is America's largest volunteer program for seniors. RSVP engages adults aged 55 and over in meaningful service activities in nonprofit organizations that address critical issues, including hunger, homelessness, health, literacy, and poverty. By matching their skills, interests, and experiences with service, the RSVP volunteer participates in opportunities that offer personal enrichment and

fulfillment, which improve their own physical and mental health. Volunteers also act as a catalyst for positive change in their community. RSVP volunteers receive federally mandated benefits that support or enable them to volunteer. Benefits include transportation, supplemental accident and liability insurance, recognition, training, and administrative support.

Volunteer survey responses:

- » 95% responded yes, volunteering has improved/maintained their physical well-being.
- » 83% responded yes, volunteering has improved/maintained their mental well-being.
- » 94% responded yes, volunteering has improved/maintained social contacts.
- » 96% responded yes, volunteering helps build self-esteem.
- » 87% responded yes, volunteering helped them learn new skills.
- » 98% responded yes, volunteering has provided them with personal enrichment/fulfillment.

BY THE NUMBERS

256 RSVP Volunteers

55,442 Hours Served

30 Volunteer Stations Served

Senior Companion Program (SCP)

The AmeriCorps Seniors Audubon Area Senior Companion

Program (SCP) is a dual-purposed program that benefits both the volunteer and the clients they serve. Volunteers aged 55+ who meet specific income eligibility guidelines are placed in the homes of the disabled and elderly in an effort to prevent or to delay institutionalization. Senior Companion volunteers encourage the client to live independently to their fullest potential by offering services such as companionship, cognitive awareness, mobility encouragement, light housekeeping, laundry assistance, meal preparation, and respite care all at no cost to the client. The SCP also enhances the physical, mental, and financial abilities of the volunteer. In exchange for a commitment of 20 service hours per week, volunteers receive a number of federally mandated benefits.

The Senior Companion volunteers have a significant impact on the clients they serve:

- » 100% of the clients served reported they were less lonely.
- » 98% of the clients served reported they were able to remain in their own home.
- » 100% of the caregivers served reported they were able to keep their

loved one at home with the assistance of a Senior Companion volunteer.

Foster Grandparent Program

The AmeriCorps Seniors Audubon Area Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a dual-purposed program that benefits both the volunteer and the clients they serve. Volunteers aged 55+ who meet specific income eligibility guidelines are placed in elementary schools and Head Start Centers, daycares, and Boys & Girls Clubs to provide individualized attention and support to students that have been identified as needing specific assistance to achieve academic, developmental, or behavioral goals. FGP also enhances the physical, mental, and financial abilities of the volunteer. In exchange for a commitment of 20 service hours per week, volunteers receive a number of federally mandated benefits.

- » 100 % of volunteers reported volunteering in FGP improved their physical health.
- » 100 % of volunteers reported volunteering in FGP improved their mental health.
- » 99% report that volunteering in FGP improved their financial stability.



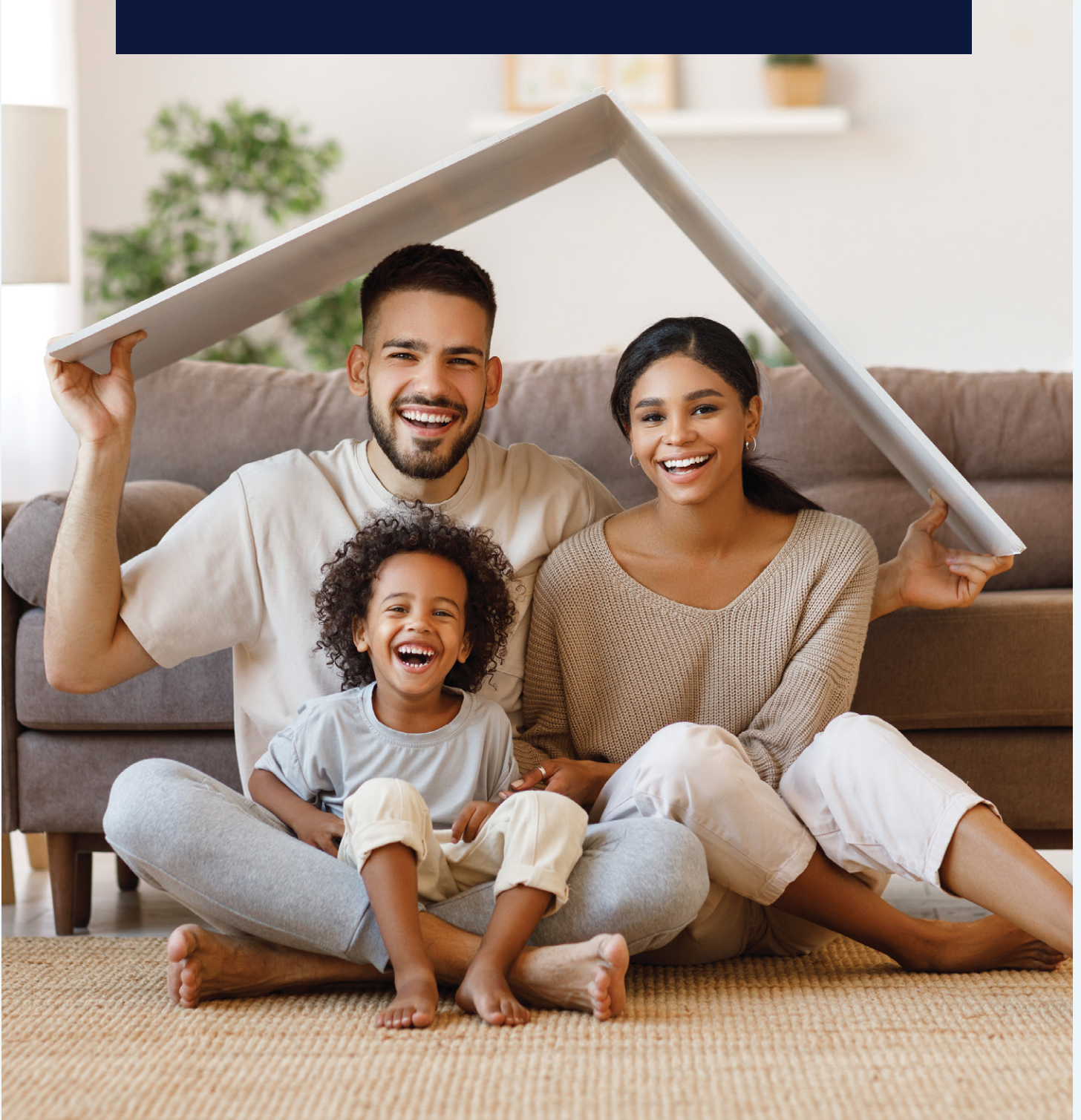
BY THE NUMBERS

65 SCP Volunteers
47,928 Hours Served
158 Clients Served

BY THE NUMBERS

34 FGP Volunteers
39,333 Hours Served
136 Clients Served

Housing & Weatherization



HOUSING SERVICES

Audubon Area's Housing and Weatherization Division provides affordable housing opportunities in Owensboro and Beaver Dam, Kentucky, and Weatherization Program services in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties.

Audubon Area has five affordable apartment communities in Owensboro and two in Beaver Dam, totaling 452 units and serving households earning 60% of the area median income or below.

Located in Owensboro, Lincolnshire Apartments (208 units) and Independence Heights (24 units) serve single adults and families with no age restrictions.

The Learning Villa Scholar

House (56 units) serves full-time college students with at least one dependent child and is also located in Owensboro. Learning Villa residents are required to participate in programming that supports the successful completion of their college education.

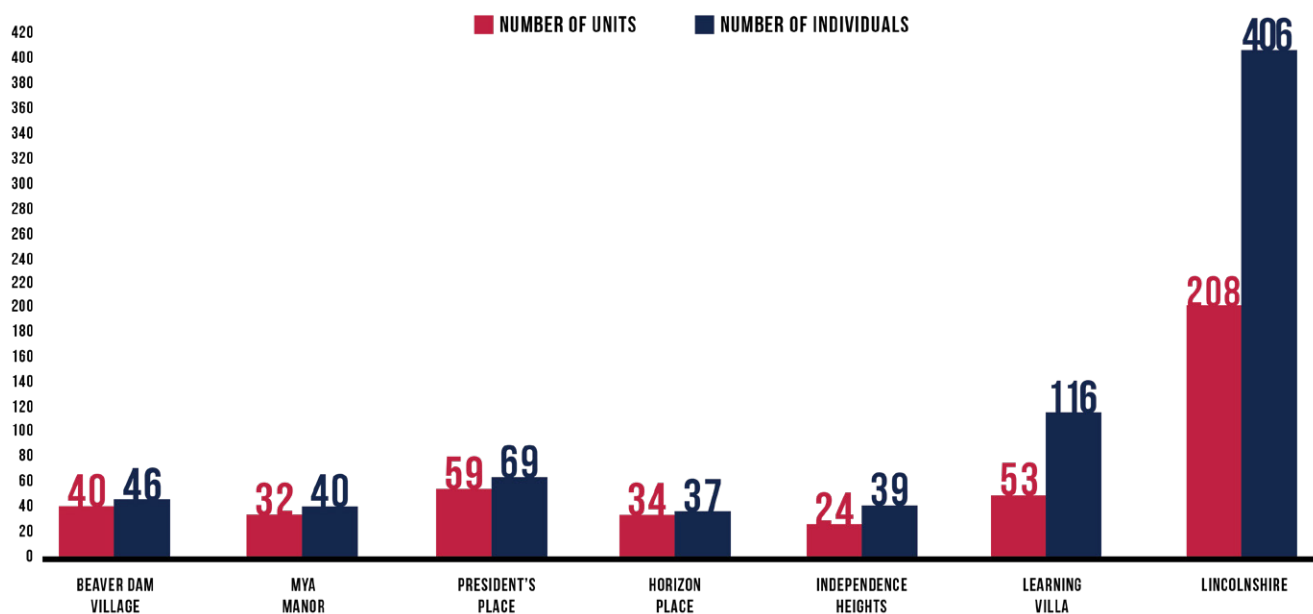
President's Place (60 units) and Horizon Place (34 units) in Owensboro and Mya Manor (32 units) and Beaver Dam Village (40 units) in Beaver Dam serve seniors aged 55 and older and have some units set aside for seniors with disabilities.

WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization Program reduces energy costs for households with low-incomes by

increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. Trained inspectors conduct energy audits to identify air infiltration and perform various tests to ensure that any combustion appliances, like furnaces and hot water heaters, are operating safely. Depending on the results of the energy audit and various safety tests, workers take measures, such as weather stripping and installing additional insulation, to create a more efficient and comfortable home. Heating units are also inspected and repaired or replaced if needed. The program is open to households at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The Weatherization Program serves the counties of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster.

AUDUBON AREA SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING REPORT





KEYS TO SUCCESS

**Jena Johnson's journey
to success through
The Learning Villa
Scholar House**

As a senior in high school, Jena Johnson found herself in an abusive relationship and pregnant. After finding out about the pregnancy and not wanting to support the abusive relationship, Jena's mom kicked her out. Now homeless, Jena moved in with her abusive boyfriend.

After hearing about Jena's story, a teacher told her about The Learning Villa Scholar House (Learning Villa), a program of Audubon Area Community Services. Once she graduated from high school, Jena enrolled in college and became a resident of the Learning Villa. Located in Owensboro, the Learning Villa is a 56 two-bedroom apartment complex for low-income, single individuals and married couples, with at least one dependent child, who are enrolled as full-time students in a post-secondary educational institution.

The first time Jena moved into the Learning Villa, she left before completing her degree and moved into public housing. But Jena knew she

didn't want to raise her child in that environment, so she re-enrolled in college and moved back to the Learning Villa. At that time, Jena told her mom, "I'm going to run this place someday." She then earned her Associate of Science Degree, landed a job at a doctor's office, and was able to move out of the Learning Villa.

In addition to working at the doctor's office, Jena worked a second job in fast food, where she met customer Stephanie Millay, now the Child Development Team manager for Audubon Area Head Start. Stephanie would stop by every morning to order tea and soon began friendly conversations with Jena. Once Stephanie knew a little about Jena's story, she invited her to apply for a Head Start position. Jena applied and got the job. Stephanie said, "I absolutely love Jena's spirit! She is always able to find the bright side or humor even when things are difficult and frustrating."

While working at Head Start, the property manager position opened at the Learning Villa. With Stephanie's encouragement, Jena applied for the position and



was soon hired. "The Learning Villa built me to be successful and Stephanie opened the door to success," Jena said. "I always tell residents you never know when you are around someone who could be the key to your future. So, carry yourself professionally."

As property manager at the Learning Villa, Jena's activities include helping residents complete applications; managing the property; ensuring residents are enrolled in classes for fall and spring semesters; tracking grades; hosting resident council meetings; and arranging workshops for residents.

Of all her responsibilities, the resident council meetings are Jena's favorite, because they give residents, mostly young women, an opportunity to get to know one another. Jena said, "Other girls are going through what I went through. Having that support is so important."

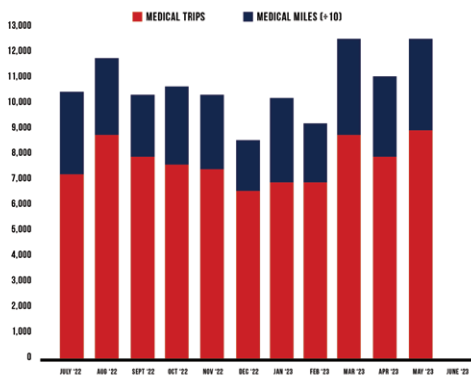
Jena has four children now, ages two, six, ten, and 13, and is a second-time homeowner. "The Learning Villa saved me and changed my life," she said. "I love my job and will retire from here."

GRITS

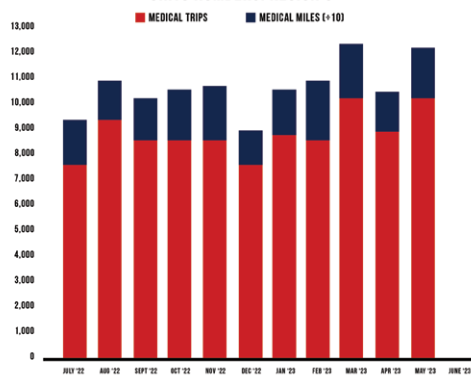


TRANSPORTATION

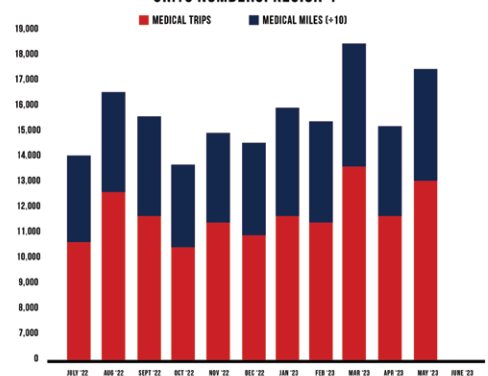
GRITS NUMBERS: REGION 1



GRITS NUMBERS: REGION 3



GRITS NUMBERS: REGION 4



BECKY DEAL



Becky Deal came to Owensboro from the Florida gulf coast in 2002 as an Assistant Pastor/ Youth Minister in the Salvation Army. She worked at the Salvation Army for 14 years, prior to her move to Owensboro. After working in that position for one year Becky made the decision to leave the Salvation Army, due to health reasons, but the city of Owensboro had earned a spot in her heart.

She then went to work as a Directory Assistance Operator for AT&T, where coincidentally she worked with future GRITS Call Center employees. Becky worked for AT&T for 10 years, until the Directory Assistance Operation was shut down and replaced with computer technology in September of 2015. She then enrolled in GRADD's training program that offered her a Medical Office Technology degree through the Owensboro Community College. Becky was awarded her degree

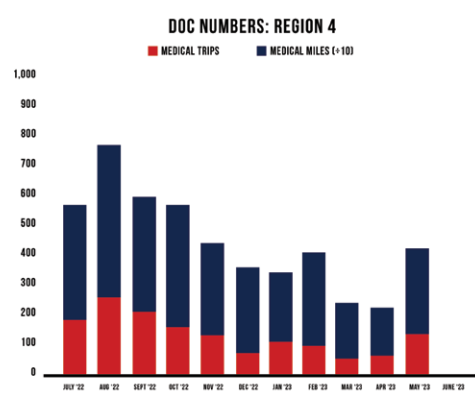
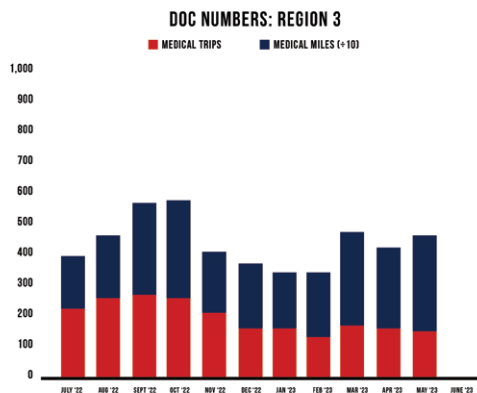
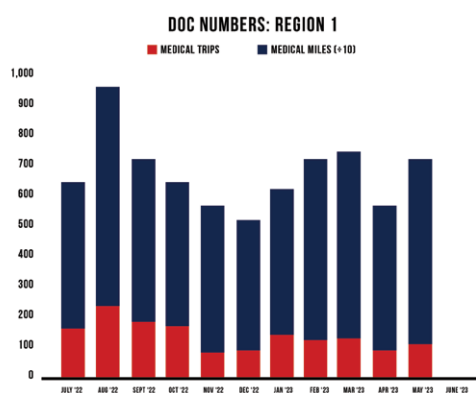
This year GRITS Transportation program services got closer to normal as the pandemic began to lessen. Our drivers were still being asked to go above and beyond, and they delivered. With the tight labor market, drivers were often asked to work extra hours and were asked to operate with very tight schedules. Also, with the threat of COVID still there, drivers still needed to take extra precautions. The Fleet Maintenance department was also leaned upon to keep our vehicles in top condition, even though new vehicles have been delayed for over two years. The bus manufacturing industry had halted production, due to the pandemic.

The Fleet Maintenance department worked diligently to keep our vehicles safe, clean, and operable. With all of this came the tough task of maintaining a smooth-flowing schedule. Our Call Center staff met the challenges of few reserve vehicles being available and driver availability. Add into this the task of relocating the entire office staff into the new building addition and it has been a challenging and exciting year.

As the year came to a close, the building addition and remodeling project was well underway and the future looked much brighter with new space and improved facilities.

The Department of Corrections service has continued to grow, as the Department leaned on the Public Transportation network to transport their released individuals for treatment and/or employment. This program has worked so well that additional funds have been committed to the program by the Department of Corrections for the upcoming year.

Meeting the challenges of an ever-changing environment is what the GRITS staff does every day, and will continue to do in the future.



in 2019. She said her degree has helped her tremendously in her current position with GRITS.

After achieving her degree, Becky was working to get range of motion back in her knee at the Owensboro Health HealthPark and began utilizing GRITS services to travel to her therapy sessions. She said "I got to know the drivers and decided I wanted to do something like they were doing and helping others." Becky made the move to become a Customer

Service Representative in the GRITS Call Center in July of 2022. She said, "Having worked in the Call Center, I have learned how important it is to show compassion to users of the GRITS program." As for working at Audubon Area Community Services, Becky said, "It is an honor to work at an agency that provides exemplary service to the community."

Becky went on to say "I still use GRITS services and from time to time I ride with other clients.

The compassion and caring attitude drivers show their passengers is amazing. One driver I would like to point out is Rob Peterson and his interaction with passengers who have developmental disabilities. On our ride home Rob was entertaining one of the passengers playing vocal games back and forth by saying Boom, Boom."

Becky is a perfect example of the impact Audubon Area Community Services has on a person's everyday life.



Early Childhood DEVELOPMENT

Audubon Area Head Start's mission is to have children ready to enter school with the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. Audubon Area Head Start fosters school readiness for at-risk children from birth to age five by providing child and family centered services that promote the healthy development of children throughout 16 counties in Western Kentucky. Over 2,500 children from low-income families and children with disabilities were served this year.

CHILD SERVICES

Audubon Area Head Start programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships, Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) Preschool Program, and the delegate Head Start funded by the Western Kentucky University Child Care Consortium. Delivery of services is carried out in multiple settings including center-based classrooms, home-based visitation, and childcare partners.

Teaching staff use Creative Curriculum as their core curriculum. Creative Curriculum is research-

based and encourages teachers to involve children in their own learning and choose activities and topics that are meaningful to the children. This approach ensures that children make gains in all developmental domains outlined in the Kentucky Department of Education's Early Childhood Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework.

Audubon Area Head Start uses My Teaching Strategies as an ongoing child assessment to identify and track each child's progress and needs. Teachers use learning outcome data to help plan classroom activities, which address gaps in the learning

progress. Teaching staff assess the work collected for each child's portfolio and determine the skill level of children on various learning outcomes. This information is used to design activities that support and encourage individual skill development.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool is used to assess teacher interaction with children. The Child Development Team, composed of education specialists, provides coaching and mentoring to classroom staff to assure best practices in the classroom are implemented. The Mental Health Service Coordinator was added to the Child Development Team to ensure mental health services for children and families are timely and support the Head Start Program Performance Standards, as well as the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework.

COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

Audubon Area Head Start collaborates with families, community members, and other local agencies to identify common goals, align resources, and share data for continuous improvement in helping communities thrive. Parents enter a partnership with Audubon Area Head Start staff on their children's behalf. They share their children's strengths, talents, personality, temperament, culture, and progress at home, which aids program quality and practices.

Audubon Area Head Start utilizes the Office of Head Start's research-based Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework, an organizational guide for collaboration to promote positive, long-lasting outcomes for children and families. The PFCE Framework specifies seven family outcomes that guide staff as they partner with families to set and track progress on goals parents set

for themselves and their children. Community partners provide culturally and linguistically responsive services and helpful resources to parents. They can work with families and program staff toward such goals as parents' educational advancement, economic mobility, and other aspects of family well-being.

Parent engagement is encouraged through parent activities, meetings, and trainings. These engagement opportunities continue to be offered through hybrid models, including in-person, social media platforms, as well as utilizing QR codes. Audubon Area Head Start provides parents the Ready Rosie parenting curriculum, which is an evidence and research-based family engagement and early learning resource that parents receive virtually. Age-appropriate playlists are sent out weekly to parents, with additional playlists to address individualized family needs. Playlist videos consist of short "modeled moments" for the parent to watch, practice with their child, and provide feedback. Hard copy materials are also available to families who are unable to participate virtually. Ready Rosie not only aligns with the PFCE Framework, but also with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. As of June, there were 1,986 registered users who viewed 3,362 videos, resulting in 20,614 family outcome opportunities and 9,953 learning outcome opportunities. Most family outcome opportunities were received in: Positive Parent-Child Relationships, Families as Learners, and Families as Lifelong Educators. The majority of learning outcome opportunities were received in Health & Well-Being and Language & Literacy.

HEALTH SERVICES

Children must be healthy to learn. Audubon Area Head Start ensures all enrolled children and pregnant mothers receive comprehensive health services, including medical, dental, mental health, nutritional, and pre-natal assistance. Staff work with parents to ensure children are up to date on all medical and dental requirements outlined in the Kentucky Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment Plan (EPSDT). A wide range of partners including pediatricians, dentists, local health departments, managed care organizations, and hospitals work with staff to meet the health care needs of all Audubon Area Head Start children and pregnant mothers. Children with special health care needs are welcomed into the program. Audubon Area Head Start partners with First Steps and the local school districts to make certain that children with special healthcare needs receive specialized therapies addressing individualized needs. The nutritional needs of the children are evaluated and met on a daily basis. Meals are adapted to address child allergies and other individualized needs.

DISTINCTIONS & AWARDS

In June of 2022, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted the Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of the Audubon Area Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The FA2 review allows the Office of Head Start to understand how programs are progressing in providing services in the five-year grant cycle. The resulting report contains information about the grantee's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School



Readiness Act of 2007. The report for Audubon Area Head Start and Early Head Start contained no opportunities for continuous improvement, no area of concern, no area of noncompliance, and no deficiencies. Strengths noted as part of the review included “the recipient’s knowledge of its communities helped it adapt its service delivery to meet the pandemic-related needs of enrolled families.”

Audubon Area Head Start recently opened a state-of-the-art facility in Crittenden County. The facility has six

classrooms and the capacity to serve 84 children. Chapel Hill Head Start is generating solar power and has a near “net zero” energy rating. The facility has allowed the program to consolidate services into one location to serve Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children. The building has a self-contained storm shelter that will withstand 200-plus mile-per-hour winds, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) room, three infant and toddler classrooms, three preschool classrooms, and a full-service commercial kitchen.

Audubon Area Head Start partnered with CMTA Engineering to pioneer a new STEAM project to create a dashboard that monitors energy usage and enhances our preschooler’s STEAM education. CMTA collaborated with members of the Child Development Team to design and build a dashboard that will be an immersive virtual experience for students that will teach our preschoolers about green energy, specific technology functions (solar panels), the environment (sun, rain, wind), and how energy impacts everyday life.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,048 Total Families served in FY 2022

2,292 Individual Unique Children served

22 Individual unique Pregnant women served

2,314 Combined individual children and pregnant women served in FY 2022

The AAHS 2021–2022 child outcome data reflects the results of the final spring assessment. Although the 2021–2022 school year included many challenges including center closures due to COVID-19 and staff shortages, as well as limited access to in-person service providers for children with IEP’s or IFSP’s, the data shows most children were meeting or exceeding expectations across all learning domains. In the area of mathematics, seventy-nine percent of children met or exceeded expectations. Seventy-eight percent of children met or surpassed expectations in literacy development, and seventy-six percent of children met or exceeded goals for language. In social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development, more than eighty percent of children met or exceeded expectations.



CASEY GREEN

In April 2022 Casey was contacted by Child Protective Services (CPS) and told her children needed to be seen by a CPS worker as a health and safety measure.

Casey then made a voluntary decision to enter the Women’s East Center to seek treatment for drug addictions, which stemmed from domestic and sexual assault issues. Her mother agreed to care for Casey’s children until she completed treatment that continued through Lighthouse Counseling Services.

While at Lighthouse, Casey was given specific goals with completion deadlines.

Within two weeks, she had a job, while attending and completing required program courses: parenting classes; domestic violence classes; anger management classes; finding faith/facing fear classes; and others which prepared her to live independently. Casey also was required to attend church and said, “Church is what helped me get sober.”

Today, she has been sober one-and-a-half years and has full custody of her children with no stipulations.

Casey is the newest staff member of Union County Child Care Center and plans to enter school soon to get a degree.

Community Services



The Community Services Department administers the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties in Western Kentucky. The CSBG program exists to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty and promote self-sufficiency. Through collaboration with existing community resources, Community Care Coordinators work with individuals and families of all ages to secure emergency needs such as food; rent and mortgage payments; disaster assistance; and utility bills including natural gas, electric, water, and wastewater to alleviate the conditions of poverty.

Care Coordinators promote self-sufficiency by helping clients obtain items, such as eyeglasses; scholarships; birth certificates; photo identification; work supplies like boots; nursing uniforms; and welding supplies. A community-wide needs assessment is conducted annually to determine the primary barriers to self-sufficiency throughout the region and is used to coordinate the work of the Community Services Program. Through the flexibility of the CSBG program funding, Community Services is able to fill the gaps between the other Audubon Area programs to fight poverty and promote self-sufficiency one person at a time.

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Family Preservation Program (FPP) provides family counseling by focusing on clients' unique needs and offering guidance and empowerment opportunities to families in crisis. FPP programs are designed to safely maintain children in their own home, to prevent unnecessary placement outside the home, and to facilitate the safe and timely return of children who have been removed from their home. Services provided may include parenting skills, anger or stress management, basic housekeeping skills, discipline techniques, and substance abuse and domestic violence programs.



Services are available in Audubon Area's seven county service area and are secured through referrals from the Department for Community Based Services. The Family Preservation Program is a licensed Behavioral Health Services Organization in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The program requires follow-up visits with each family after case closure at varying intervals. This year, at the end of three months after closure, 96% of the children served by the Audubon Area Family Preservation Program remained in their home, 93% remained in their home six months after closure, and 97% remained in their homes 12 months after closure. This far exceeds the program target of 75% of children remaining in their homes after closure.

This Fiscal year the Family

Preservation Program managed 179 families for a total of 225 children.

KYNECT PROGRAM

Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange's (KHBE) main function is to oversee the Commonwealth's implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Through the Exchange, individuals in Kentucky may apply for Medicaid, KCHIP (Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program), or a QHP (Qualified Health Plan). Once eligibility is determined, a MCO (Managed Care Organization) or QHP may be selected. Depending on household size, tax filing status, and income, the individual or family may qualify for APTC (Applied Premium Tax Credit) and/or CSR (Cost Sharing Reduction) with their chosen QHP. Audubon Area provides certified kynectors in the seven county service area to assist with the application and plan selection processes through KHBE.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 278 Medicaid Applications Completed
- 325 Individuals enrolled in Medicaid
- 21 Medicaid Renewals Completed
- 13 Qualified Health Plan Applications Completed
- 14 Individuals enrolled in QHP
- 5 Qualified Health Plan renewals
- 77 SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications completed
- 55 CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program) applications completed

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers assistance to low-income families with the highest home energy needs who are at imminent risk of losing their fuel source. LIHEAP offers benefits towards utilities like electric, gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and/or coal in the seven county service area.

This year 15,829 applications were processed for a total of 4,361,000 in benefits.

OWENSBORO REGIONAL RECOVERY

Owensboro Regional Recovery (ORR) is a long-term substance abuse recovery center for men who are homeless or at risk of being homeless due to substance abuse, and serves up to 100 men at a time. ORR is a partnership between Audubon Area Community Services and Lighthouse Recovery Services and is one of 19 recovery centers in the state. Recovery Kentucky is a joint effort of the Kentucky Department for Local Government, the Department of Corrections, and Kentucky Housing Corporation to address Kentucky's drug problem and related homeless issues. Clients are referred to Owensboro Regional Recovery from many sources, including self-referrals, Kentucky Department of Corrections, Drug Court, hospitals, and shelters.

Treatment averages six to nine months, depending on the

individual and is composed of five main components through which clients advance, each focusing on levels of sobriety through supportive services, attitudes, behaviors, responsibility, and accountability. The five components are Safe off the Street, Motivational Track I, Motivational Track II, Phase I, and Phase II.

Safe off the Streets is a fresh start for men, helping them stabilize and prepare for the recovery program. Motivational Tracks I and II help clients learn about addiction and become aware of the impact of the disease in their lives and the negative impact addiction has on those around them. In Phase I clients study The Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous), participate in Recovery Dynamics, and develop more responsibility in the ORR community. Finally, in Phase II clients begin the process

of reentering the workforce and develop sustainable recovery.

The Behavioral Health Outcome Studies team at the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research (UK CDAR) conducts an annual outcome evaluation for the Recovery Kentucky centers. The evaluation includes clients who have advanced to Phase I after completing the SOS and Motivational Tracks and who agree to be contacted for the follow-up survey 12 months after entering Phase I. Results consistently show a significant reduction in substance abuse, homelessness, and mental health concerns.

This year Owensboro Regional Recovery served 257 new clients, and 80 clients completed life skills classes, all with a significant reduction in substance abuse, homelessness, and mental health concerns.



ASHLEY WEAR

“Hello my name is Ashley Wear. I am a 32-year-old single mother and currently in school pursuing my bachelor’s degree in professional legal studies. I started volunteering at Audubon Area Community Services through the Kentucky Works Program several months ago. My son is five years old and started kindergarten this year. Being a parent comes with so many emotions and worries. Before starting here, I was so stressed about having time for school, work, and raising my son. This program has given me the opportunity to do all those things and even better help people. I see so many people who do not know what resources our community has to offer and as a single parent I know how valuable having those resources can be. I am very fortunate to be able to work here and have the opportunity to help others and assist them with information for those resources, as well as work with great people who also care about helping others.”

AUDUBON AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSISTANCE '21-'22

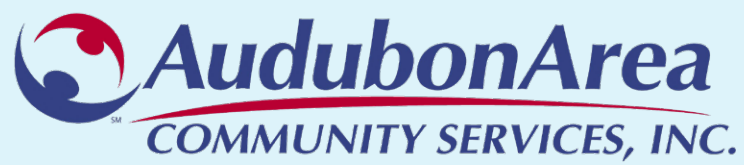
\$894,000: UTILITY ASSISTANCE

\$28,038:
FOOD/HOUSEHOLD/EMPLOYMENT

\$162,760: RENT/MORTGAGE

\$5,050:
NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY

\$1,262,500: TOTAL ASSISTANCE



1700 West 5th Street | Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
(270)686-1600 | info@audubon-area.com