



INVESTING IN THE
POTENTIAL OF INDIVIDUALS
AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES
AND BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS.

WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

SINCE 1904, WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER HAS BEEN
COMMITTED TO IMPROVING
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE COMMUNITY IT
SERVES. PROVIDING AN ARRAY OF PROGRAMS WHICH
INCLUDE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION,
OUT-OF-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY & YOUTH
PROGRAMMING, SENIOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEDICATED TO
HELPING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ACHIEVE
AND MAINTAIN FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND
MOVE UP THE ECONOMIC LADDER.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

In 2016, Wesley Community Center conducted strategic planning and, as part of that process, updated our mission statement. After 113 years, we have added so many critical programs and services, it was time for our mission to reflect those changes. *“Wesley Community Center invests in the potential of individuals and creates opportunities to strengthen families and build neighborhoods”* was born. Our mission language shifted from “helping” to “investing and strengthening” with an underlying focus on education. Wesley’s programs have always been geared toward improving economic stability, but the agency made a critical pivot toward a “Two Generation” approach by creating opportunities for both the parents and their children.



Diana Garbis
Executive Director

Access to early childhood services and the overall economic conditions of the family influence child development. Child development is also influenced by the parents’ level of educational attainment, which is a good predictor of economic mobility. To support this effort, we created a family development position to work with the parents of our early childhood education children. With this addition, Wesley is focused on creating opportunities for parents to improve their parenting skills and enhance their educational knowledge.

In addition to the family development position, Wesley added a “connector” position designed to assist families with obtaining and using Wesley’s services on school campuses as well as onsite at Wesley. Starting with Sherman Elementary School, we then expanded services to Looscan Elementary, Marshall Middle School, and Northside High School. Wesley connected families to vital resources such as emergency assistance and employment and education opportunities.

Affordable transportation, housing, and food assistance are also critical wrap-around supports to help build stability for families as they pursue new educational opportunities. For this reason, Wesley has been combining our basic needs programs with our workforce and education programs to improve the likelihood of parental success.

As you read this year’s annual report, you will see this Two Generation approach over and over again. The strong relationships between the parent, the child, the agency, and the community are having lifelong impacts in this neighborhood, and Wesley is proud to be a partner in this change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Garbis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diana Garbis
Executive Director



SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/ EARLY HEAD START

- **238** children received early childhood education program services
- **177** parents received childcare services and training

Impact

- **100%** demonstrated skills and abilities to succeed in Kindergarten
- **94%** demonstrated competence in Pre-K development in phonological awareness and **85%** in math
- **92%** reached developmental milestones for their age group
- **87%** demonstrated competency in language development

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (FOC)

- **453** individuals received at least one service from the FOC
- **319** individuals received financial counseling
- **318** individuals received all 3 services
- **157** individuals enrolled in an education/training program

Impact

- **233** improved net income; Average monthly net income increased **\$1,002.53**
- **176** improved a credit score
- **171** improved net worth
- **98** employment placements were made

YOUTH

- **611** youth participated in academic support programs
- **421** parents received youth services and/or attended parent education support programs
- **401** youth participated in daily after school activities
- **376** youth participated in character development programs
- **256** youth participated in summer enrichment programs

Impact

- **86%** indicated improved learning engagement by doing their homework
- **84%** master self-regulating skills to promote positive social interactions
- **84%** indicated an improved ability to set goals
- **83%** of youth enjoyed learning
- **83%** demonstrated social competency by learning to resolve conflict effectively
- **79%** indicated a positive view about their future

COMMUNITY / SENIORS /EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **13,905** meals were served to **192** seniors
- **7,302** senior transportation assistance trips
- **6,043** individuals were provided with food assistance through Wesley's Community Food Fairs
- **3,987** households were provided emergency food
- **2,950** seniors provided nutrition education
- **1,248** households were provided food assistance through Wesley's Food Co-Op
- **606** families received holiday food assistance
- **277** individuals were provided with emergency rent and utility assistance



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND

Last year, Wesley Community Center launched a new service called “The Connector Program.” The program placed a Wesley employee in the schools to be part of the daily routine. Scott Fisher was the employee assigned to kick off this program and was housed in various schools within the Northside area. Inquiring parents are directed to Scott for services and there begins the “connection.” He spends several days a week talking to parents to determine their needs. One of those parents was Juana. She and her two sons recently moved from the south side of Houston to the Near Northside neighborhood. Isolated from family and friends, they all found it very difficult to get acclimated to a new neighborhood. It was particularly hard on her youngest son, Deshawn, who was struggling to fit in at his new school. Not only was Scott the connector but a mentor as well, often checking on Deshawn and making himself available. Scott made sure Deshawn knew he could stop by when things were getting difficult.

In addition, Scott was able to connect the family to resources for utilities, food, and holiday assistance. In the middle of all of this, Juana lost her job after being held up at gun-point at a local convenience store. Not giving up and with the help of our Financial Opportunity Center, she continued to look for work. She is now employed at KIPP Academy. Like all parents, she works hard every day and wants what is best for her children. But occasionally, along the way, it doesn't hurt to have a little help from a friend.

EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL EXISTS IN ALL OF US. WITH THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT,
RESOURCES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE “ORDINARY” PEOPLE CAN PRODUCE
EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS.

– KEVIN EIKENBERRY

TWO GENERATIONS. ONE FUTURE.

Alyssa has been part of Wesley's Junior Eagles after school and summer program at Sherman Elementary School since the fall of 2015. Alyssa became particularly interested in dance after participating in a Wesley sponsored program at Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA). This experience kindled a love of movement and has led Alyssa to continue dancing activities outside of Wesley.

Jennifer, Alyssa's mother, was happy to have a safe and engaging environment where her daughter could participate in educational activities. After a conversation with Wesley's Youth Coordinator, Jennifer became very interested in learning about our medical training program. She quickly enrolled in Wesley's Bridges to Careers program and embarked on her plan to become a registered nurse. She now is attending school at Houston Community College and is well on her way to making her dream come true.

Alyssa thinks it is great that her Mom is in school and she has a part in helping her Mom be successful. The two study together and Alyssa is her Mom's biggest cheerleader. With this opportunity, family learning has become a family affair.

TREAT PEOPLE AS IF THEY WERE WHAT THEY SHOULD BE AND YOU HELP
THEM BECOME WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF BECOMING.

– JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE





THE RIGHT PLACE

Being a good parent often means following your instinct about what is right for your child. When Cynthia walked into Wesley with Juan, her 18-month old son, she knew she found the right place to meet her child's needs. Now, almost eight years later, Juan and his two younger brothers, Christian (age 5) and Aaron (age 3) are all attending Wesley's preschool. That equates to a combined 2,868 days or 25,748 hours her children have been at Wesley! If your children are going to spend that much time somewhere, you definitely want to be sure it is the right fit for your family.

When Cynthia was asked why she likes Wesley so much, she used the words: "trust and care." She knows her children will be well cared for while she is at work and they will receive the help they need. Her son Christian was very shy when he came to Wesley. But teachers were there to boost his confidence and now he is a "chatter box." Cynthia's children also have benefited from on-site counseling and are involved in various activities offered at the center. Juan loves the photography class and is interested in art. Christian loves it when the youth volunteers come to do projects with the children. Aaron simply loves coming to see his teacher and friends.

Living in the Near Northside is all about community and family. There are other places she could live and other places where Cynthia could work. But for Cynthia, her children's care is the most important thing. There is no place, other than Wesley, where she would rather they be.

YOUR BIGGEST BREAK CAN COME FROM NEVER QUITTING. BEING AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN YOU KEEP MOVING TOWARD THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY. — ARTHUR PINE

THE JOURNEY

Severo walked into Wesley seeking rental assistance. However, after speaking with one of the case managers, he realized the Financial Opportunity Center held many opportunities for him to finally break the cycle of living paycheck to paycheck and could help bring financial stability into his home. Severo decided to sign up for the bridge course for EKG. While taking his classes, he met with Wesley's financial coach who helped him come up with a financial plan in line with his values and goals.

Though he was committed to finishing the course, getting to class on time was becoming an issue. His home life was turbulent and he had to provide for a new baby girl. His coach pulled him aside to check in with him and explain the importance of showing up for class in a timely manner. That talk was all the push Severo needed. Severo reflected, "Wesley's staff helped me to maintain clarity and focus while serving as a sounding board and giving much needed guidance." His coach also led him to temporary financial support while he finished the program.

About a year after finishing the course at Wesley, Severo came back and signed up for a scholarship which would help him attend the vocational EKG class at Houston Community College. He received two job offers before the program even finished! He accepted both.

"I know my journey is not over, but I can breathe so much easier now with a true sense of peace in my heart. Believe me when I say I couldn't have done this without Wesley."

DIFFICULTIES IN YOUR LIFE DO NOT COME TO DESTROY YOU, BUT TO HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR
HIDDEN POTENTIAL AND POWER. LET DIFFICULTIES KNOW THAT YOU TOO ARE DIFFICULT.

– DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM



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REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$111,800
Private and Foundation Grants	\$542,782
Church Contributions	\$176,139
In-Kind Donations	\$574,105
United Way Allocations	\$840,280
Government Grants	\$1,278,997
Program Service Fees	\$102,379
Special Events	\$219,397
Other	\$36,682

TOTAL REVENUE \$3,882,561

EXPENSES

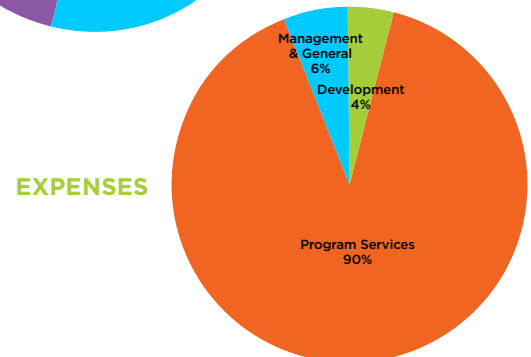
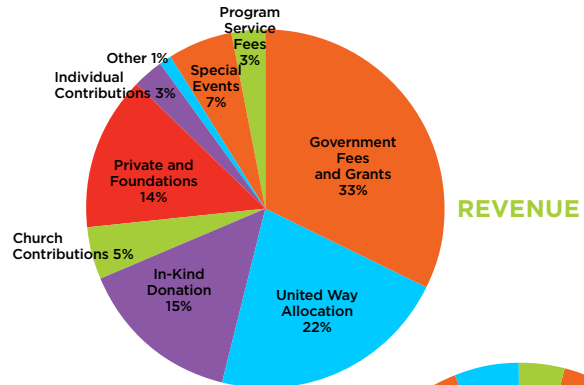
Program Services	\$3,462,603
Management & General	\$216,783
Development	\$165,577

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,844,963

TOTAL ASSETS \$3,442,897

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$257,027

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$3,185,870



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Stay up-to-date with programming
developments, upcoming events and
ways that you can be involved in strengthening individuals,
children, and families.



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