

HOPE




CHANGE

WESLEY



AN INVESTMENT IN WESLEY IS
AN INVESTMENT
IN THE FUTURE OF HOUSTON

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



AN INVESTMENT
IN WESLEY IS AN
INVESTMENT
IN THE FUTURE
OF HOUSTON

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.



Opportunity

SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/ EARLY HEAD START

- **259** children received early childhood education program services
- **194** parents received childcare services and training

Impact

- **100%** demonstrated skills and abilities to succeed in Kindergarten
- **100%** demonstrated competency in language development
- **93%** demonstrated competency in Pre-K development in phonological awareness and math
- **88%** reached developmental milestones for their age group

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (FOC)

- **413** individuals received at least one service from the FOC
- **281** individuals received financial counseling
- **246** individuals received all 3 services (60%)
- **113** individuals participated in an education/training program

Impact

- **213** improved net income (66%); Average monthly net income increased **\$1,014.08**
- **174** improved a credit score (54%)
- **192** improved net worth (60%)
- **125** employment placements were made; **105** increased income (45%)

YOUTH

- **313** youth participated in daily after school activities
- **229** youth participated in character development programs
- **218** youth participated in summer enrichment programs
- **275** parents received youth services and/or attended parent education support programs

Impact

- **95%** of youth enjoyed learning
- **91%** demonstrated social competency by learning to resolve conflict effectively
- **90%** indicated improved learning engagement by doing their homework
- **88%** mastered self regulating skills to promote positive social interactions
- **82%** indicated a positive view about their future
- **78%** indicated an improved ability to set goals

COMMUNITY / SENIORS /EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **16,138** meals were served to **139** seniors
- **2,989** households were provided emergency food
- **2,193** individuals were provided with food assistance through Wesley's Community Food Fairs
- **1,449** seniors were provided food assistance through Wesley's Food Co-Op
- **734** families received holiday food assistance
- **374** individuals were provided with emergency rental and utility assistance
- **74** individuals received rapid rehousing financial assistance; **41** were permanently housed and exited with a higher income
- **38** individuals receiving homeless prevention services; **31** were permanently housed & **21** of these individuals exited with a higher income
- **17** individuals received street outreach; **11** persons placed in temporary or transitional housing

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

In 2015, Wesley Community Center had many exciting changes. Our program focus has shifted as we began to adopt a cradle to career service philosophy. Through a continuum of program opportunities that included social and economic supports as well as educational services, Wesley continued to strengthen the family-community-school partnership essential to impacting the Northside and Houston communities by adding new services at critical delivery points.

Through a collaboration with AVANCE, Inc., Wesley was able to expand our infant and toddler program with a joint Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership. This program gave Wesley the opportunity to add five new classrooms which was critical for a neighborhood where infant care is almost non-existent. It also helped Wesley create services for the “cradle” part of our program.

The second element we tackled was summer learning loss. Students from low-income neighborhoods lose learning throughout the summer which over time can cause low income students several grade levels of learning. Wesley created a summer program at Sherman Elementary School supported by United Way’s Education Collaborative. Multiple partners provided a K-5th grade program providing over one-hundred children with academic and enrichment support.

We expanded our Middle School collaboration focusing on social, leadership, and strategic thinking skills. Starting as a pilot at Marshall Middle School, Wesley has added the program to Fleming and Hogg Middle Schools. Principals see the importance of developing social skills and improving academic interest - all increasing the chances that students will plan for the future and remain in school.

As part of our commitment to our relationship with the Northside schools, Wesley created a “Connector” position designed to integrate Wesley’s services on school campuses as well as navigate families to and through Wesley’s services. We created our first Connector position at Sherman Elementary School. This model was then recognized and funded by Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builder program which gives us the ability to add this service to additional neighborhood schools.

Finally, we strengthened our Bridges to Career program for adult learners by adding remedial training workshops. These classes prepare individuals with limited education and workforce training for college certification programs that will then provide a bridge into higher paying careers. This program, which successfully offers a way out of poverty, was funded through a partnership with United Way THRIVE and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. A second career path in early childhood development education has been added.

As you can see, Wesley has been busy building bridges to new partners and new programs. Our commitment to providing holistic programming continues into 2016 as we also build bridges out of poverty for our families.

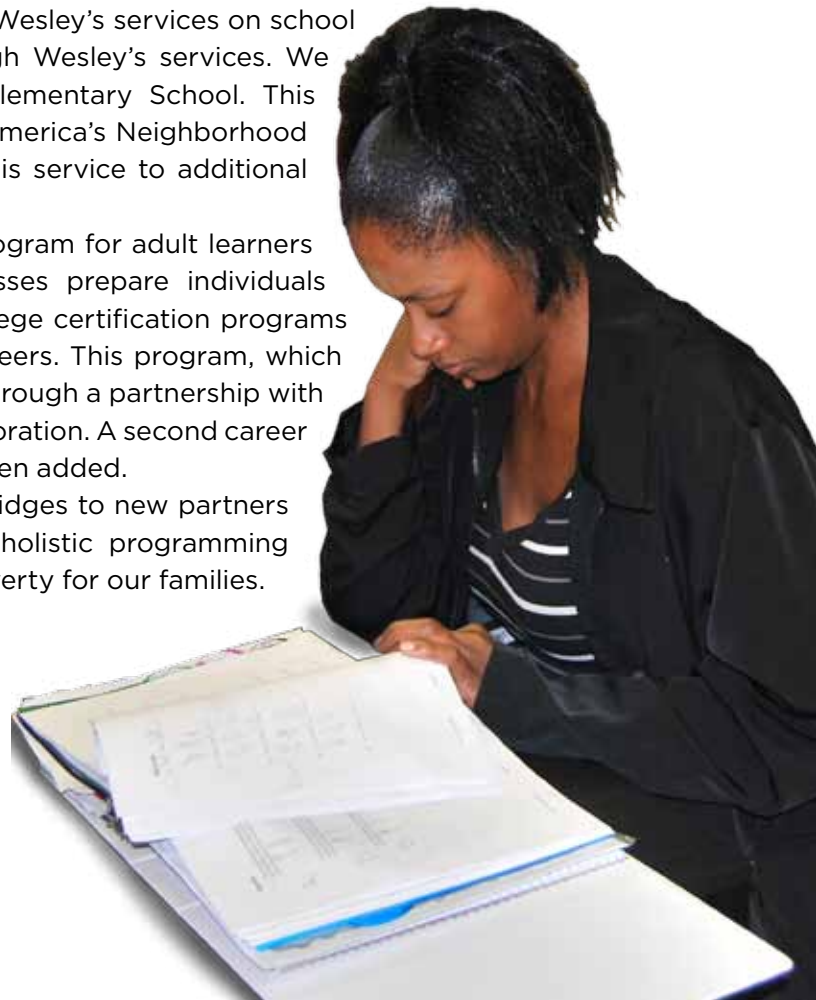
Sincerely,



Diana Garbis
Executive Director



Diana Garbis
Executive Director

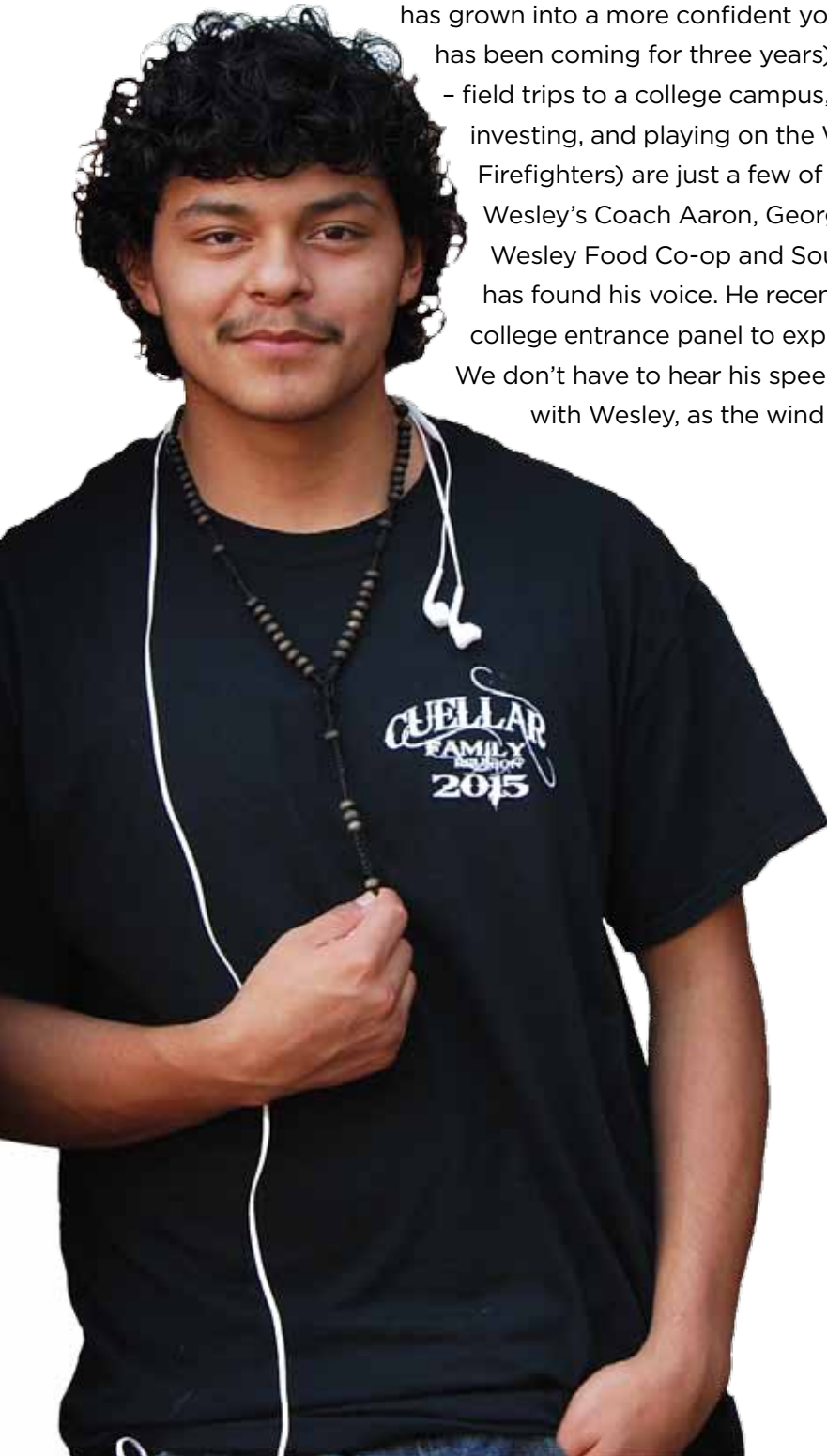


Youth Programs

BUILDING
CHARACTER
& ENRICHING
LIVES

CLIENT PROFILE: GEORGE **Soaring to New Heights**

George is a walking testimonial to the way that Wesley's programs help youth spread their wings. He came to Wesley to "check us out" after his cousin told him about us. A very shy and humble person, George came with few words to express himself. Since coming to the agency, George has grown into a more confident young man. This didn't come easily or overnight (he has been coming for three years). He has participated in every activity he could – field trips to a college campus, learning to play the guitar, mock stock market investing, and playing on the Wesley soccer team (almost beating the Houston Firefighters) are just a few of his accomplishments. So impacted by his mentor, Wesley's Coach Aaron, George is the first to give back by volunteering at the Wesley Food Co-op and Souper Bowl of Caring. More importantly, George has found his voice. He recently obtained his first job and stood before a mock college entrance panel to explain why they should invest in him to go to college. We don't have to hear his speech to know that George is a great investment and with Wesley, as the wind beneath his wings, George is going to fly.



WESLEY'S YOUTH PROGRAMS offer after school and summer services and activities Monday through Saturday. Children and youth are grouped by age and participate in age appropriate activities. The programs concentrate on three main areas of development:

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Activities include homework assistance, literacy exercises, academic tutoring, and computer skills training.

HEALTHY LIVING/ ENRICHMENT

Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, and indoor and outdoor recreation.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Activities include discussions that promote positive decision-making, effective communication, coping with stress, anger management, and self-control.

Community Services

CREATING
COMMUNITY BY
MEETING BASIC
NEEDS

CLIENT PROFILE: EARNEST If You Just Smile



If you ask the staff at Wesley who brings a smile to their faces, chances are they would say Mr. Earnest. Three years ago when Earnest was driving by Wesley, he saw a lot of cars in the parking lot and decided to see what was going on. The rest is history. Earnest is a regular participant in the Senior Program as well as a volunteer. He serves meals to seniors, gives out groceries at the pantry, and had even

been a traffic controller during the holidays. He considers Wesley his family and enjoys coming to do activities every day. He also tells other people about the program and encourages them to come. As with many of the seniors, he loves the monthly parties, particularly dancing. It keeps him young!

Earnest admits his life has not always been easy. A Marine Vet with health issues, he has occasionally fallen on hard times. But he has turned his life around and feels he has a second chance and is going to make the most of it. He also wants to give back. The joy he gets from coming to Wesley radiates through him and back out to others. His smile is contagious. And his dancing isn't bad either!

SENIOR SERVICES

The Senior Program provides adults over 60 with activities promoting physical and mental health and wellness.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Rent, utility, and food assistance provides stabilization for families in financial crisis. Case management services move individuals toward self-sufficiency.

FOOD PROGRAMS

Services include emergency food assistance and monthly food distributions of fruits and vegetables are provided at no cost to the community.



Early Childhood Education/ Early Head Start

41% OF CHILDREN
ARE LIVING
BELOW THE
POVERTY LINE

CLIENT PROFILE: CINDY

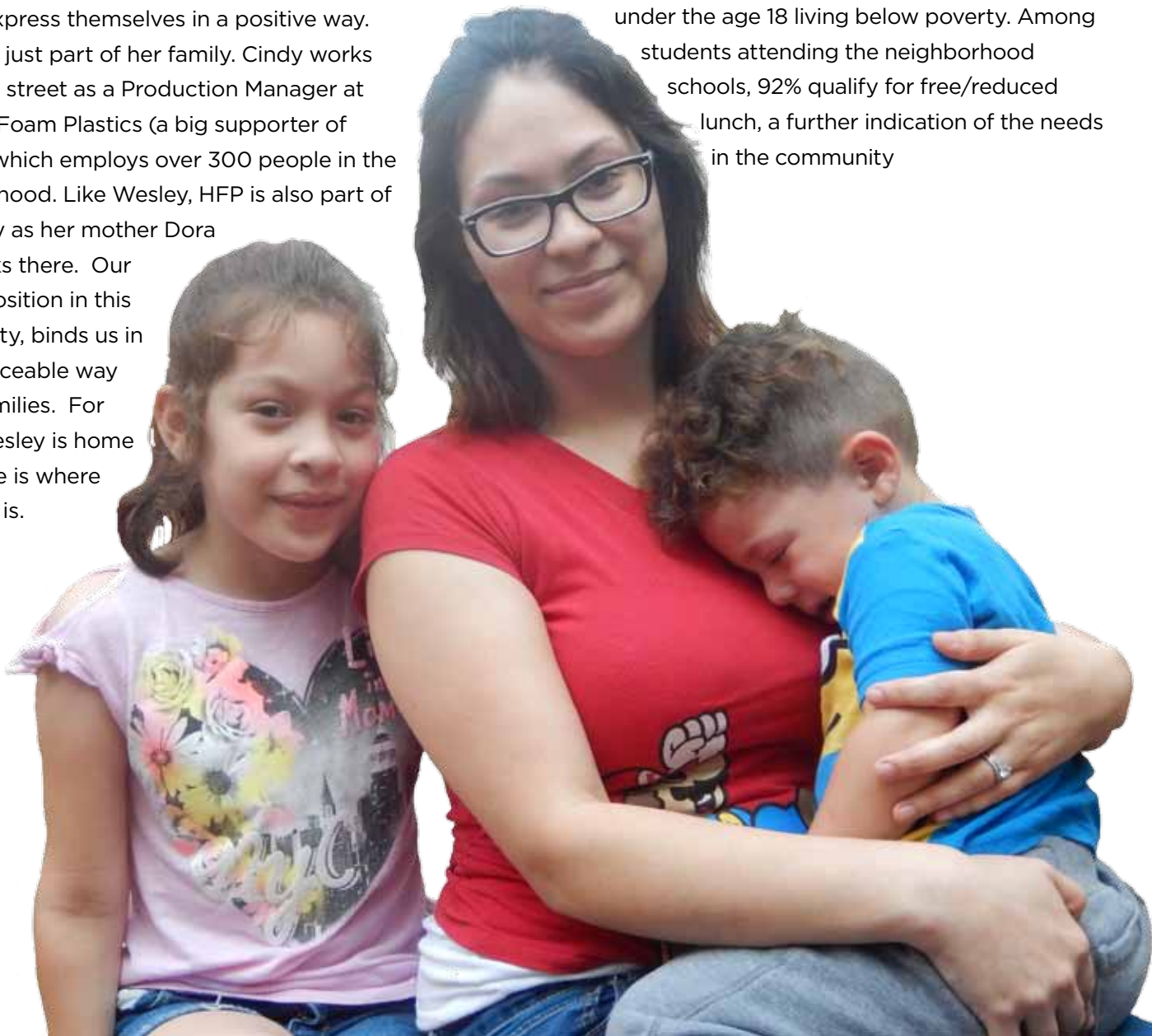
There's No Place Like Home

Cindy started coming to Wesley's Early Childhood Center (ECE) when she was two years old. Now this 27 year old mother of two has her own children attending Wesley because she knows they will be well taken care of. Her daughter, Janize, now seven, has been attending for five years. Cindy said her daughter's vocabulary and knowledge expanded rapidly and credits her time in the ECE program as the reason Janize is now a straight "A" student. And as soon as she was able, Cindy enrolled her son, Joseph, in the program. Cindy believes Wesley's ECE program not only helps academically but teaches children how to express themselves in a positive way. Wesley is just part of her family. Cindy works down the street as a Production Manager at Houston Foam Plastics (a big supporter of Wesley) which employs over 300 people in the neighborhood. Like Wesley, HFP is also part of the family as her mother Dora also works there. Our unique position in this community, binds us in an irreplaceable way to our families. For many, Wesley is home and home is where the heart is.

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

A state sponsored Pre-K program with certified teachers that strives to enhance cognitive, emotional and social development among preschoolers from low income homes and prepares them to enter the public school system.

In Wesley's service area, 4 of every 10 residents live below the poverty line. The child poverty rate is even more troubling with 41% of children under the age 18 living below poverty. Among students attending the neighborhood schools, 92% qualify for free/reduced lunch, a further indication of the needs in the community



Financial Opportunity Center

CLIENT PROFILE: PAM

It's Never Too Late

Being laid off and having others write you off as “too old” would be daunting for most, try starting a new career, which at any age is not easy but for Pam, it was just another day and another new challenge. Realizing she needed a new direction and reflecting on her years of caretaking others, Pam decided the medical field would provide a perfect career. After contacting Wesley, she was able to obtain her Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) certification. Realizing this was only the first step, she took a Wesley’s Bridge and Soft Skills class to prepare for future training opportunities. This then prepared her for the next step which was placement into a pilot program at Methodist Hospital. Wesley may have helped with the placement but the rest was on Pam. She was so successful in the externship at Methodist that several departments sought her out. She has

received two promotions since her initial placement and is now in a new pilot program at Methodist supporting patient care through technology. Described as a “superstar” by Methodist staff, Pam is a shining example that it is never too late to start over. Others may provide the opportunity, but success is up to you.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT (EARN IT)

Career Development services include assistance with job searches; referrals to employers; job fairs; help with résumé writing; interview practice; coaching on professionalism.

FINANCIAL COACHING (GROW IT)

Financial Coaching services include group-based financial education involving topics like budgeting and credit repair; one-on-one financial counseling which focuses on understanding banking and personal savings.

INCOME SUPPORT (KEEP IT)

Income Support services include determining clients’ eligibility for public benefits.



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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2015

REVENUE

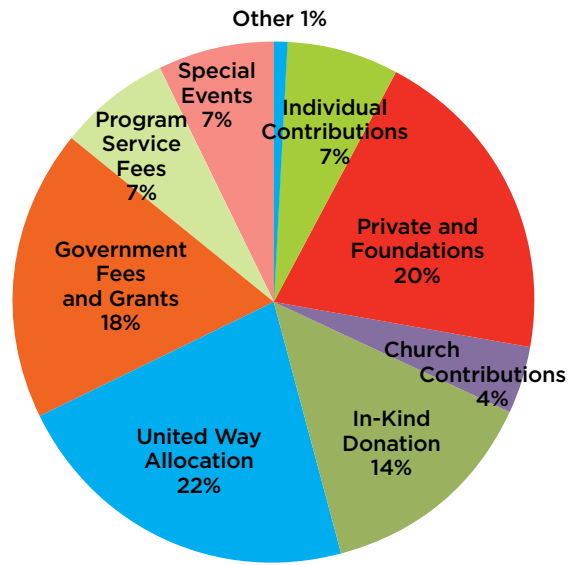
Individual Contributions	\$257,299
Private and Foundation Grants	\$702,747
Church Contributions	\$231,860
In-Kind Donations	\$487,421
United Way Allocations	\$784,398
Government Grants	\$635,774
Program Service Fees	\$133,722
Special Events	\$252,684
Other	\$25,519
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,511,424

EXPENSES

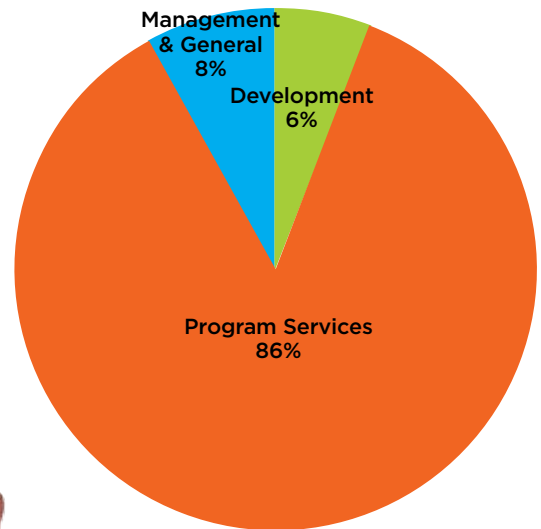
Program Services	\$2,857,792
Management & General	\$263,562
Development	\$202,179
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,323,533

TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,378,630
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$230,358
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$3,148,272

REVENUE



EXPENSES



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our programming.



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developments, upcoming events and
ways that you can be involved in strengthening
individuals, children, and families.



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