

# WCCA



WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

# 2018

## ANNUAL REPORT



FIGHTING POVERTY WITH PROGRAMS  
BUILD ON FOUR FOUNDATIONS



SELF-SUFFICIENCY



HOUSING



NUTRITION



EDUCATION

**Dear friends and family,**

Thank you for a wonderful year! As always, this report gives us a chance to think about where we've been and where we want to go next. As I reflect on the countless opportunities and accomplishments 2018 offered, I find I'm most grateful for the ways we were able to connect with all of you.

Our big 'pie-in-the-sky' vision is to create a community where all Wright County residents feel happy, healthy, secure, and connected. If we really want to achieve this vision, partnership is imperative. Fortunately, we have the best partners around.

This year, the community came together like never before to support and prepare for the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Through the help of partner organizations, we managed to expand the Emergency Food Box Network (EFBox) to 36 locations across the county. That means more people have access to food where and when they need it. We also launched an Aging Advisory Committee. This group brings together a broad spectrum of senior-focused businesses and organizations so that we can better understand the problems our seniors face and work together to fix them.

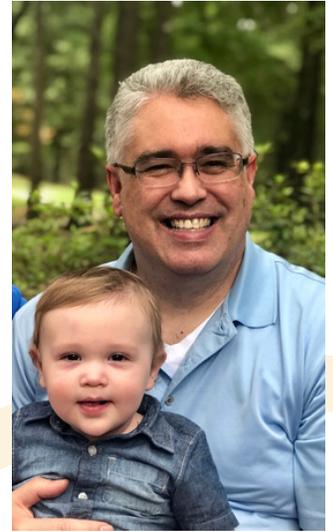
Beyond partner organizations, the participation of individual community members has also grown exponentially. Your generosity is always astounding, but this year exceeded our wildest expectations. In 2018, WCCA volunteers gave 24,008 hours in service to their communities. They prepared tax returns, packed emergency food boxes, provided transport to seniors, worked with Head Start children, and so much more, making it possible for us to meet countless local needs. Community donations also increased by 9% over last year, bringing in almost \$75,000 in local support.

Community engagement is the best path to eradicating poverty in Wright County, and WCCA is committed to fostering partnership wherever we can. We want to work with you, we want to hear your ideas, and we want to support you as you put them into action. While each of us may be limited by things like funding, staff, lack of support, or even just too few hours in the day, when we work together, there is almost no limit to what we can accomplish.

Thank you for everything you helped to accomplish in 2018. Let's do it again next year.

*Jay Weatherford*

**Executive Director**



## LOOKING FORWARD: OUR 5 YEAR GOAL TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### YEAR 1 - 2018 RESULTS

#### DONATED RESOURCES

Donations from the community help support the entire agency. These donations can come as cash or as donated goods and materials. Goods and materials may be considered food shelf donations, thrift shop donations, bus tokens, gift cards, and more. When we receive items from the community, we are able to leverage these donations to expand services and impact individuals and families across Wright County.

**\$74,810**

**29.9% of goal**

### YEAR 1 - 2018 RESULTS

#### PEOPLE PARTICIPATING

As our mission is that we work in partnership with the community, we measure the number of people participating in conversations related to our agency's services and strategies that address conditions of poverty. These conversations may take place in advisory committees, focus groups, and more.

**188 people**

**25.0% of goal**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a Community Action Agency, our Board of Directors consists of at least 1/3 local public officials, 1/3 private representatives, and the remainder are democratically selected representatives of low-income people. The following individuals volunteer their time to WCCA to provide governance and oversight of our programs and services.

**216**  
HOURS BUILDING  
AGENCY CAPACITY

Bruce Anderson  
Charles Borrell  
Mark Daleiden  
Marlene Stumpf-Johnson  
Lynn Kissock

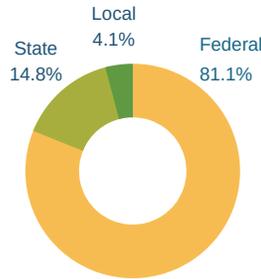
Terri Harris  
Jane Helgestad  
Brian Matzke  
Stacie Zachman  
Dwayne Diers

Luke McClain  
Stacy Anderson  
W. Paul Arnold  
Jose Flores  
Cathy Elfstrand

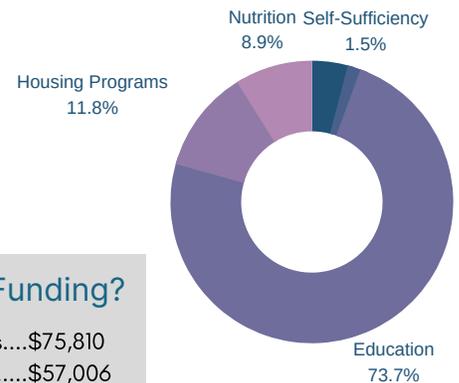
## FISCAL REPORT

### REVENUE

Our name often leads people to believe that we are a branch of the county government. However, we are a private non-profit who administer grants to provide services needed in our community. The yellow graph to the right outlines where the grant funding originated.



The purple graph outlines the amount of funding received by each program. As you continue through this annual report, you will find charts that highlight how each program is funded. This transparency is meant to show you where your dollars are most needed.



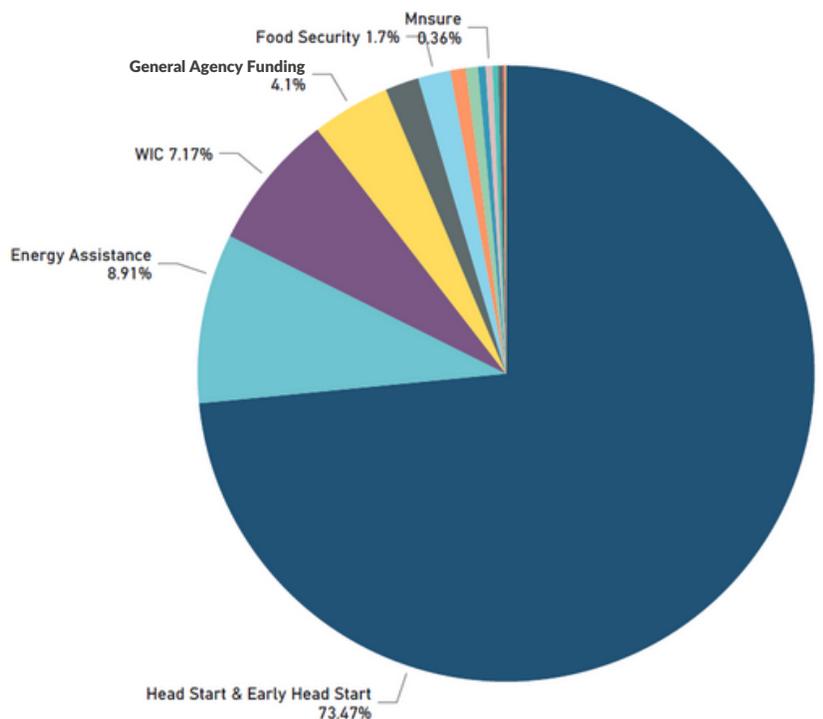
#### What is Local Funding?

Community Donations....\$75,810  
Local Foundations.....\$57,006  
Program Support.....\$33,529  
County Collaboration.....\$18,604

### EXPENSES

**Program**

Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$3,378,230	(73.47%)
Energy Assistance.....	\$413,177	(8.91%)
WIC.....	\$326,061	(7.17%)
General Agency Funding.....	\$216,022	(4.10%)
Weatherization .....	\$81,338	(1.76%)
Food Security.....	\$80,140	(1.70%)
Transitional Housing.....	\$36,779	(0.80%)
Thrift Shop .....	\$11,406	(0.10%)
Aging Alliance .....	\$17,747	(0.38%)
Mnsure.....	\$20,347	(0.36%)
Home-Buyer Training .....	\$12,778	(0.28%)
Community Literacy Project .....	\$12,526	(0.27%)
Tax Prep.....	\$4,451	(0.10%)
Foreclosure .....	\$1,844	(0.04%)





# Volunteers in Action

**24,008**  
Volunteer  
Hours

Our community volunteers are at the core of our mission. Their dedication is so critical that we feature them in our namesake – Community Action. Whether our volunteers are helping seniors with chores, reading to a child, helping load groceries into a car, telling a joke, or giving a friendly smile, their actions always make a difference in our community. As we celebrate our legacy, we must not forget – the gifts we bestow on others are the greatest gifts we give ourselves.

**"the gifts we bestow on others  
are the greatest gifts we give ourselves"**

## **OPPORTUNITIES** *for volunteering*

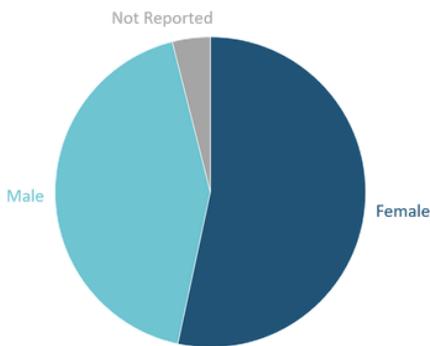
- Food Shelf Stocking
- Thrift Shop
- Senior Transportation
- Food Rescue & Group Packing
- Head Start Food Service
- Home Buyer Training
- Tax Preparations
- Foster Grandparents



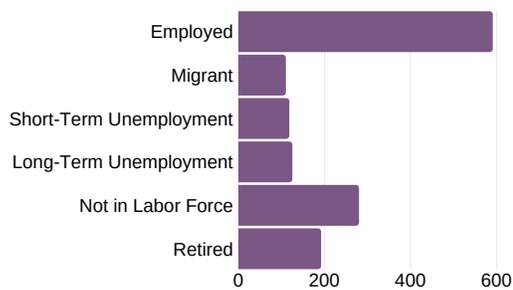
**GET INVOLVED**  
*we need people just like you*

(320) 963-6500  
volunteers@wccaweb.com  
www.wccaweb.com

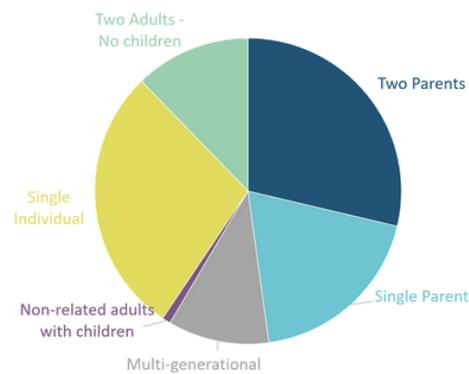
## Gender



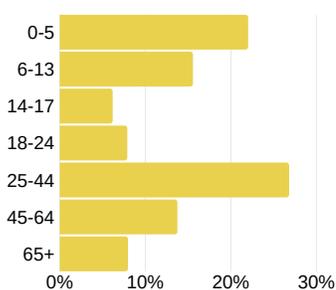
## Employment Status



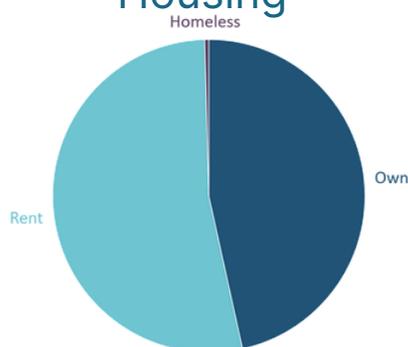
## Family Type



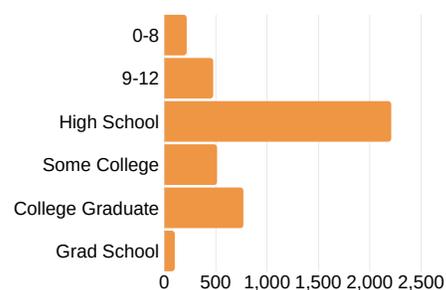
## Age



## Housing



## Education

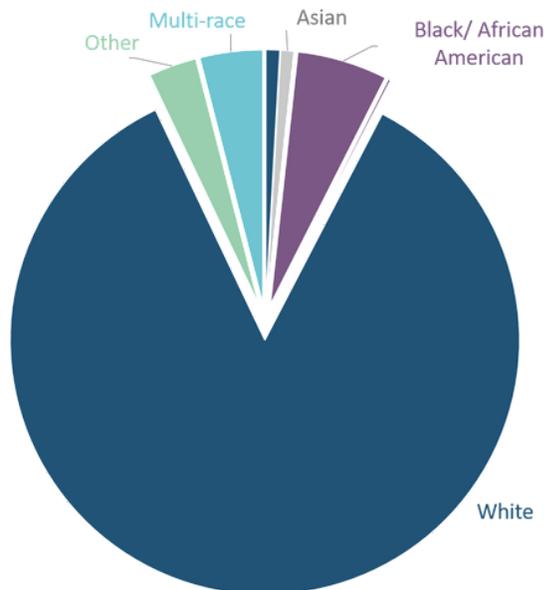


## Ethnicity & Race

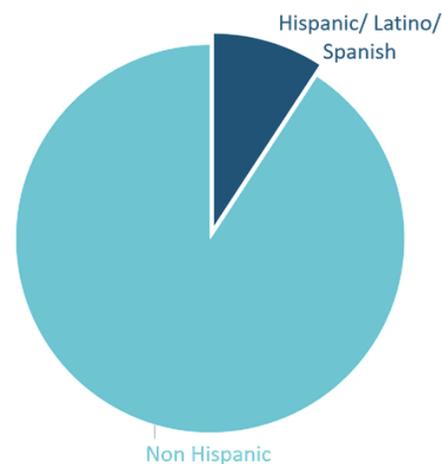
### Explanation

By traditional definition, race and ethnicity differ based on their association with biological and sociological factors, although both are socially constructed. Race generally refers to physical characteristics, such as skin, eye, and hair color, whereas ethnicity is defined based on cultural factors, including nationality, regional culture, language, religion, and ancestry.

## Race



## Ethnicity



# Participant Demographics

# Our Programs

## Housing

### Homebuyer Services

Our Home Stretch Workshop and One-on-One Counseling educate clients on the responsibilities and available tools to become a successful homeowner. The Home Stretch Workshop is a popular eight-hour group workshop designed for participants interested in learning more about the path to homeownership.

### Foreclosure Prevention Counseling

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling is a free program designed to prevent clients from losing their home when facing or undergoing foreclosure. Our counselor works with each homeowner to determine which available options meet the needs of each individual situation.

### Energy Assistance (EAP)

The Energy Assistance Program helps eligible households maintain affordable, continuous, and safe home energy. Our services include bill payment assistance, home energy crisis intervention, outreach, energy advocacy, information about utility consumer rights, and referrals.

### Weatherization

Our Weatherization program helps income-eligible residents of Wright County conserve energy; lower fuel costs; and provide safer, more sustainable dwellings for their families.

### Transitional Housing

The Transitional Housing Program provides scattered-site supportive housing to homeless individuals and families. Our staff members work with clients to develop a mutually agreed-upon housing independence plan that involves creating and carrying out short- and long-term goals for financial stability and self-sufficiency.

## Education

### Early Head Start

Early Head Start provides weekly 90-minute home visits to support and strengthen parent-child relationships and develop school readiness skills. Home visitors also target health, dental, social-emotional and nutrition services; prenatal support for expectant mothers; and referrals to other community resources as needed. This program is available to Wright County and western Hennepin County residents.

### Head Start

The Head Start program helps develop educational and healthy living skills to income-eligible children three to five years of age in a classroom environment. In addition, this program hosts opportunities for parents to learn and grow with their children throughout the school year. This program serves western Hennepin and all of Wright County.

### Raising A Reader

Currently offered at WCCA Head Start Centers and some public school classrooms, Raising A Reader encourages family engagement and literacy by providing children with a rotating library of books to take home each week of the school year. The program also provides training to empower parents to model effective reading techniques.



# Nutrition

## Food Shelf

The WCCA Food Shelf is the only location in Wright County that serves all residents, regardless of what township or city they reside in. We operate with a client-choice model and offer a variety of nutritious foods.

## Emergency Food Box Network

We partner with local businesses and organizations to distribute 30-pound emergency food boxes. This program expands the reach of all food shelves and shortens the distance between emergency food and people in need.

## Mobile Food Shelf

By partnering with rental community properties, our volunteers prepare and deliver Food Shelf services right to our clients' doors.

## Backpack Program

The Backpack Program works with WCCA Head Start Centers -- and in some cases, area schools -- to fight hunger among children in Wright County by providing parcels full of nutritious, easy-to-open food for kids to take home over the weekend.

## Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

A supplemental food, nutrition, and breastfeeding program that serves pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five.

# Self-Sufficiency

## MNSure

Our MNSure navigator works as a neutral third-party to assist clients as they navigate the MNSure website and application process. This service helps clients understand their available health insurance options.

## Tax Preparation (VITA)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is a free tax preparation program provided by Internal Revenue Service-certified volunteers. Volunteers prepare individual returns for households grossing less than \$35,000 or multiple-person returns for households grossing less than \$55,000.

## Thrift Shop

WCCA's thrift shop, adjacent to our Food Shelf in Waverly, serves thousands of people each year. Our shop is not restricted to income-eligible individuals nor to anyone living outside of Wright County.

## Aging Alliance - Transportation

The Assisted Transportation program provides rides for seniors who need assistance getting to medical and personal care appointments, pharmacy pick-ups, nutrition services, and faith-based social outings. This door-to-door service is provided by trained volunteer drivers with their own personal vehicles.

## Aging Alliance - Housekeeping & Chore

We provide housekeeping and chore services for seniors who need assistance maintaining their homes. These services are provided by an employee who offers cleaning, organization, meal preparation, and some outdoor upkeep for those that may need spontaneous or regular assistance.

# WCCA

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION





# EDUCATION



## Participant Story: Parent Connect Classes

My name is Trish, and I'm a 28-year-old mom of 4. I have 3 kids currently enrolled in the Head Start and Early Head Start Program. My kids are 5, 4, 3 and 1. I think all of us can relate to how hectic life is with little ones, especially with school schedules, work and everything else that comes with day to day life. It's chaos, plain and simple. I had the privilege of attending the last few Parent Connect classes last year, and I was so disappointed that I hadn't started it from the beginning.

Truthfully, I don't think I initially went for the right reasons. I honestly just wanted to meet other parents in the school, and I knew that they provided childcare and dinner. I didn't necessarily want to be "taught how to be a parent". That didn't sound appealing to me, and I assume that many parents feel the same way. I'm still in awe with how wrong I was! It was genuinely an awesome experience and there are so many techniques and ideas they offered that I had never even thought of. It's impossible to know certain things exist if you've never seen it before.

It's a whole different ball game in our home now!! Parenting doesn't have to be so stressful, and that's exactly what this class is about! The instructors understand the love we have for our children, and they don't make anyone feel like there's a right or wrong way to parent. They understand that every child is different, and they've been awesome at providing SO many different strategies to help all parents and kids thrive together. I already know I have tons of experience and consider myself an awesome parent, but this is all still so new to me. As the years pass and my little ones grow older, new things come into play that I've never personally dealt with before. That can feel overwhelming. That is why I don't think there should ever be a limit to what any parent can learn about their kiddos. I think it would be amazing for all parents to have a large support system in their life, so I highly recommend joining us.

- Trish  
WCCA PARTICIPANT

## Where Does the Funding Come From?

FISCAL FACTS	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL
	Head Start/ Early Head Start	83.5%	16.4%
Raising A Reader	-	-	100%

For more information about Local funding, see page 3



Family Advocate Bri is deep in conversation with the community. As a Family Advocate, Bri is responsible for helping families navigate the path out of poverty. Parenting young children can be a challenge, especially when working toward physical, social, and economic stability. In this newly created position, Family Advocates collaborate with families to identify their strengths, interests, needs, and aspirations. Then they help set goals, find local resources, and support families on their journey.

# HOUSING

## Where Does the Funding Come From?



### FISCAL FACTS

	 FEDERAL	 STATE	 LOCAL
Foreclosure Prevention	2.9%	88.4%	8.7%
Homebuyer Training	-	52.3%	47.7%
Energy Assistance	97.2%	-	2.8%
Weatherization	87.4%	11.8%	0.8%
Transitional Housing	-	100%	-

For more information about Local funding, see page 3



**1874**  
Households  
Reduced their  
Energy Burden

**21**  
Households Avoided  
Foreclosure

**265**  
Individuals Improved  
Energy Efficiency  
in their Homes

## Participant Story: Homebuyer Training

We moved to Wright County 3 years ago and came to WCCA to transfer our participation in the WIC program. Even with a job, having three kids makes it hard to make ends meet. We were living paycheck to paycheck and racking up debt along the way. The WIC program not only helps us afford groceries, but it sets examples that help our children grow to be healthy eaters. Another major benefit to working with the WIC program is getting referrals to programs and resources in the community.

*"...we really could have the 'American Dream'..."*

After struggling to make room in our apartment for our third child, our WIC specialist told us about the WCCA Homebuyer Education Classes. We were in no way ready to buy our own home, but with the encouragement of the WCCA staff, we enrolled in the Home Stretch class. This class covered topics like money management, how to improve credit scores, and an overview of the steps to home ownership. The class taught us that we really could have the 'American Dream' of having a family house and car, not just an apartment. Lori encouraged us start the process of paying off our debt. She showed us how to cut spending and the importance of living within our means while still getting what we want. We have now paid off about \$8,000 of debt in just one year and increased our credit score. We are getting closer to reaching our goal – finding the perfect home to finish raising our kids in a yard they can call their own.



Alex & Lisa  
WCCA PARTICIPANTS

# SELF-SUFFICIENCY

## Where Does the Funding Come From?

FISCAL FACTS	 FEDERAL	 STATE	 LOCAL
	Aging Alliance	97.2%	-
MNSure	-	21.0%	79.0%
Tax Preparation VITA	33.7%	66.3%	-
Thrift Shop	-	-	100%

For more information about Local funding, see page 3

**45**  
Seniors Maintained  
Independent  
Living

**363**  
People Enrolled in  
Health Insurance

**246**  
Individuals went  
through Financial  
Coaching

**\$465,400**  
Received in Tax  
Refunds  
2017 Results

## Participant Story: The Aging Alliance



I am 72 years old and moved to Delano about 10 years ago after I needed to retire from my nursing job early due to health issues. My husband passed away 6 years ago, and shortly after that, I was in a car accident. I could not replace my car. I had tried to rely on friends and family but it was stressful continuously trying to find someone to take me to appointments. I first became aware of the WCCA Assisted Transportation program when I got something in the mail. So, I called, got registered, and started receiving rides to my appointments. It helped so much. I'm free from worry now that I have rides where I need to go.

I recently found out about the homemaker assistance program too. I had a fall and injured my arm and shoulder. I needed to have surgery and therapy soon. It was so nice to have some help with my household tasks while recovering. I've been getting homemaker services now and will continue until I'm fully recovered.

I'm so grateful for both the transportation and homemaker services. The sliding cost fee makes it affordable with my limited income. I could never have afforded help without this type of program. I couldn't be more pleased with the volunteers and staff. I'm always telling my friends about this amazing program, especially those who are in need of assistance too.

*- Janet*

WCCA PARTICIPANT

# NUTRITION

Where Does the Funding Come From?

FISCAL FACTS	FUNDING SOURCE		
	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL
Food Security	0.8%	-	99.2%
WIC	96.6%	-	3.4%

For more information about Local funding, see page 3

43  
Emergency Food Boxes distributed county-wide

Over \$1 Million  
Put in Local Economy through the WIC Program

121,246  
pounds of food distributed

7,197  
sacks of food sent home with children through the Backpack Program



## Partnership Story: Emergency Food Box Network

The Emergency Food Box Network provides a method for WCCA to connect with those experiencing crisis, introduce them to local resources through our wRight Connections card, and encourage them to keep climbing towards self-sustainability.

In the past, there was no convenient way of coupling food and resources during a crisis, unless you were at a food shelf or church - and even then, your results would have varied. In the last year, over 25 partners have joined our network to stand in solidarity against hunger. The ease of the program, the uniform assistance, and the immediate results have delighted clients and partners alike.

**"the network we're building brings to life our mission of creating a more well-connected community"**

To date, we have over 40 distribution points through 36 partners in 15 communities. Our partners include clinics and hospitals, faith communities, school districts, fire stations, crisis centers, and other service providers throughout the county. A prime example is our recent partnership with the Wright County Sheriff's office - granting those who serve and protect Wright County residents yet another strong tool when handling emergency situations. The diversity of partners is invaluable in ensuring that no hungry person falls through the cracks, and the network we're building brings to life our mission of creating a more well-connected community.



- HEAD START
- CRISIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- ENERGY ASSISTANCE
- WEATHERIZATION
- FORECLOSURE PREVENTION
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- INTERNET & FAX ACCESS
- CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
- MINOR CAR REPAIR
- HOME REPAIR
- SENIOR
- FOOD SHELF
- EMPLOYMENT READINESS
- HOME BUYER TRAINING
- MOVING ASSISTANCE
- CAR SEAT SERVICES
- HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT
- VETERAN TRANSPORTATION
- VETERAN SERVICES
- HOMELESSNESS RESOURCES
- NUTRITION
- DISABILITY



Our mission is to work in partnership with the community to empower residents to improve their physical, social, and economic well-being.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

 130 W Division Street  
PO Box 787  
Maple Lake, MN 55358

 [wcca@wccaweb.com](mailto:wcca@wccaweb.com)

 [www.wccaweb.com](http://www.wccaweb.com)

 Phone: (320) 963-6500  
Fax: (320) 963-5745

## LOCATIONS

**Main Office Location**  
Maple Lake

**Food Shelf & Thrift Shop**  
Waverly

**WIC Clinics**  
Buffalo  
Howard Lake  
Monticello

**Head Start Locations**

Annandale  
Buffalo  
Delano  
Howard Lake  
Monticello  
Montrose  
Mound  
Rogers

# WCCA

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

