



2023 Annual Report

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Letter from the Director

What a year! 2023 was another busy year for South County Community Services. I feel incredibly grateful for all the community support that we received throughout this year. Because of that support, we were able to not only work with more community partners and help more people than ever before, but also expand our services and solidify new programs. 2023 was a big year for us, and we couldn't have done it without you!

Early in the year, we hired a new Senior Outreach Coordinator—Brian Penny. Brian came to us with over 20 years of experience working with seniors at Milestone Senior Services and quickly got to work expanding and strengthening our senior programming, with particular emphasis on home repair through our Safe at Home program and the Vicksburg Home Repair program. We also began working with a variety of new partners for our senior programming—including Hot Flash Pottery, the Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center, The Dome Sports Center, the Village of Vicksburg, and Vicksburg United Methodist Church.

These senior partners follow a trend this year in actively seeking new partners and projects throughout the service area; in addition to those listed above we also worked with Schoolcraft and Vicksburg Community Schools, Vicksburg Rotary, Schoolcraft Eagles, and the Lawrence Memorial Library, among others, to bring programs like the Vicksburg Home Repair Program, Senior BURG Day, the Pacemakers Walking group, a school supply drive for Schoolcraft Schools, and holiday food basket deliveries. It's been a lot of fun working with other dedicated, caring members of our community to bring new programming to South County!

In 2024 we are looking forward to continuing to expand our reach—making sure that more people know about our services and understand how to access important programs like Medicaid/Medicare and Meals-On-Wheels. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year. You are a part of something that is both incredibly important and incredibly unique. South County Community Services needs people like you, and so does South County!

Our Service Area

CLIMAX/SCOTTS

- Sponsored FDSF to provide 106 pairs of shoes to Climax/Scotts Elementary Students
- Lawrence Memorial Library Outreach

SCHOOLCRAFT

- School Supply Drive for Schoolcraft Community Schools
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Party at The Dome Sportscenter


VICKSBURG

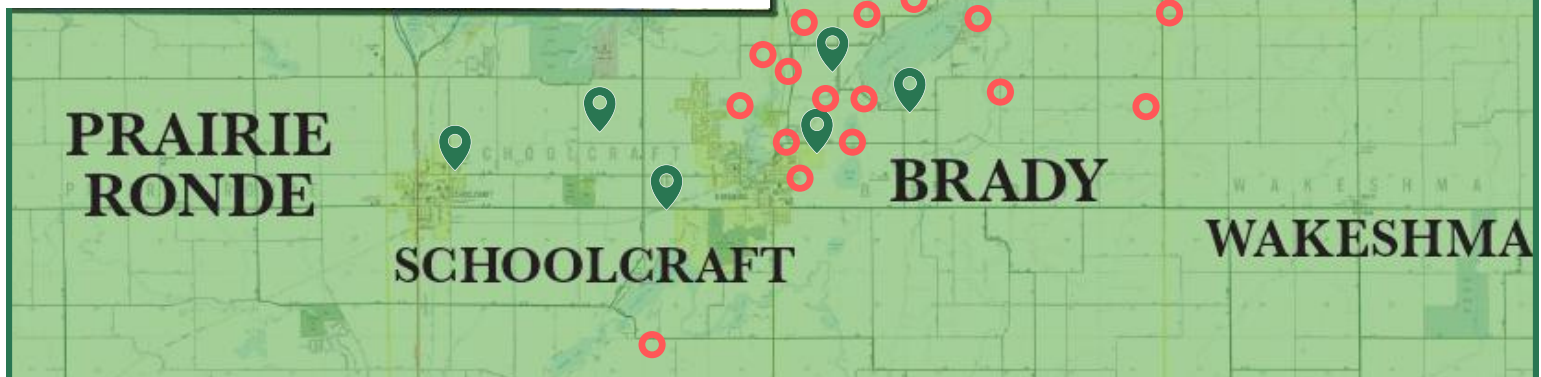
- Vicksburg Home Repair Program
- Senior BURG Day
- Backpack Bonanza
- Hot Flash Senior Pottery Classes

In 2023 We...

- Applied for, received, and spent \$24,000 in funding from the federal government for use in preventing disconnections and evictions
- Worked with ChapNaz Clothes Closet to give away over 18,000 diapers to local families in need
- Worked with Generous Hands to provide 301 children with backpacks and supplies for their first day of school
- Sponsored First Day Shoe Fund to provide students of Climax / Scotts elementary school with free shoes to start the school year
- Worked with the Village of Vicksburg to administer a \$500,000 grant for home repair
- Collected over 300 pounds of school supplies for Schoolcraft Community Schools in partnership with several Schoolcraft businesses and churches
- Began several new senior programs, including:
 - Pottery Classes at Hot Flash Pottery, with the Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center
 - Pacemakers Walking Group
 - Hosted the Michigan Medicare Assistance Program for group and individual insurance counseling sessions
- Worked with the Village of Vicksburg to host the first Senior BURG Day
- Piloted home delivery of food baskets for Christmas
- Rearranged our office space with Generous Hands to provide more privacy to pantry clients and improve storage. *Thank you to The Bridge Church for the heavy lifting!*

 SAFE AT HOME PROJECTS

 RAMP BUILDS IN 2023



Senior Assistance

Senior Food

- 10 Prepared Meals Delivered
- 46 Food Pantry Deliveries
- 348 Supplemental Food Box Deliveries

Safe At Home

- 19 Home Safety Assessments
- \$5,386 Money spent improving home safety for seniors

Senior Outreach

- 350 Contacts with local seniors
- 74 Scheduled calls to reduce isolation in seniors ("Care Calls")

Emergency Assistance

- 131 Disconnections Prevented
- 36 Evictions Prevented
- 37,259 Pounds Food Distributed
- 18,360 Diapers Distributed

SCCS FUNDING

| | |
|--|----------|
| Transportation Assistance | \$16,485 |
| Clothing Assistance | \$7,275 |
| Housing Assistance | \$13,883 |
| Utility Assistance | \$29,076 |
| Food and Household Supplies | \$20,891 |
| Other Emergency Assistance Needs | \$12,413 |
| MDHHS Application Approvals for Utility/ Rent Assistance | \$14,222 |

Total Emergency Financial Assistance for South County Families **\$106,512**

Holidays

- 156 Households served
- 500 Toys Distributed
- 308 Winter Items Distributed
- 180 Holiday Food Bags Distributed

Transportation

- 788 Trips provided for seniors
- 126 Trips provided for people with disabilities
- 747 Volunteer hours



MAKE MORE IMPACT

Advocate • Join the ChangeMaker Circle • Donate • Volunteer • Spread the Word

Visit the SCCS Website
SouthCountyCS.com
 info@southcountycs.com



PO BOX 263
 Vicksburg, MI 49097
 269-649-2901



Thank You to This Year's Donors

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AAA Renovations | Donna and Dale Simonton | Mary and Beryl Maltby |
| Aileen Greanya | Doug and Deb Stafinski | Mary and Frank Veldt |
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| Chris and Susan Dick | Kalamazoo County State Bank | Sarah Cagney |
| Christine Butcher | Karen and Arthur Vanderbor | Schoolcraft United Methodist Church |
| Climax United Methodist Church | Karl and Margaret Kerchief | Scotts United Methodist Church |
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| David and Kim Olson | Luella Taylor | Vicksburg Rocket Football |
| David and Paula Schriemer | Lynn Pruitt-Timko | Vicksburg Rotary Club |
| David Buckhout and Nellie Buckout | Lyons Nursery | Vicksburg United Methodist Church |
| David Sleeman | Margaret Landrum | Village Hide Away |
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