



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the Director

2024 was another big year for South County Community Services! We had a lot going on, including all of the regular services that we provide. As you may know, we spend most of our time helping low-income families and seniors shop in the food pantry, arranging emergency funding for basic services like rent and utilities, and providing a range of supportive services to seniors, like food deliveries, transportation to and from doctor's appointments, and improving home safety.

This year, however, there were some other big challenges to take on.

In April, a group of dedicated community members (including our Senior Outreach Coordinator) held a very successful Senior Center Open House at Vicksburg United Methodist Church. There was so much positive feedback that we decided to capitalize on the momentum and work with a couple of community partners (Vicksburg Arts, the Vicksburg Historical Society, and Vicksburg United Methodist) to develop a plan and apply for funding. The Vicksburg Foundation generously provided startup funds so that we could get the program running in time to apply for Senior Millage funding for 2025-2028. Since then, we hired Sherri Martin to coordinate classes and run programming at the Center and developed an advisory council that has been active in planning and strategizing. We have a lot of exciting programming lined up for 2025!



In May, multiple tornadoes ripped through the Kalamazoo / Portage area. In our service area, Pavilion Estates, a mobile home park with a large proportion of low-income residents, was hit particularly hard. Very early on, we began work with United Way and the Kalamazoo Foundation to figure out ways of helping those residents—in the first few weeks after the disaster, we gave out approximately \$70,000 worth of assistance and continue to provide additional financial assistance. Towards the end of 2024, we partnered with the County of Kalamazoo, United Way, and the Kalamazoo Foundation to spearhead another big batch of funding; in 2025 we will have approximately \$400,000 to continue necessary repairs that residents have not been able to complete on their own.

This work aligns with one of our founding articles of incorporation: "to provide an organizational framework through which local, state, and federal resources may be mobilized to attack the causes and conditions which socially and economically deprive citizens of this district from achieving their potentials." If you look at the pie chart on the back of this page, you'll see that we bring in a lot of funding from outside of our service area. If you donate to us, rest assured that we are actively seeking ways to match that money with out-of-area funding!

I am incredibly grateful for the support that we have received from the community this year. It seems like whenever we really need a board member or volunteer, or whenever we are low in a particular food in the pantry, the community steps up and provides. It's a wonderful feeling to know that we have so much local support. To everyone who supported us this year—thank you so much! You are part of something that is incredibly important. South County Community Services needs people like you, and so does South County!



In 2024 we...

- Applied, received, and spent \$45,000 in funding from the Kalamazoo Housing Millage and federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Worked with ChapNaz Clothes Closet to give out over 21,000 diapers to families in need
- Sponsored First Day Shoe Fund to provide students of Climax/Scotts Elementary with free shoes to start the school year
- Worked with the Village of Vicksburg to administer a \$500,000 grant for home repair
- Worked with several funding partners to provide over \$100,000 in direct assistance, rent payments, and repair work to residents of Pavilion Estates who were impacted by the tornadoes. In 2025, we will continue to complete repairs at Pavilion Estates with \$400,000 worth of funding from the County of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Foundation, and United Way.
- Opened a new Senior Center at the United Methodist Church, hired a coordinator, and began offering classes and programs three days a week. We had a lot of exciting events in 2024 and look forward to continuing in 2025! (Funding provided by the Vicksburg Foundation and Senior Millage)
- Became the first Scan-and-Go tax prep site in Kalamazoo County and helped seniors and low-income households with free tax returns
- Founded the ChangeMaker's Circle, a group of donors and volunteers who are committed to supporting SCCS programming on a long-term basis (see back page for listing of members)



2024 BOARD MEMBERS

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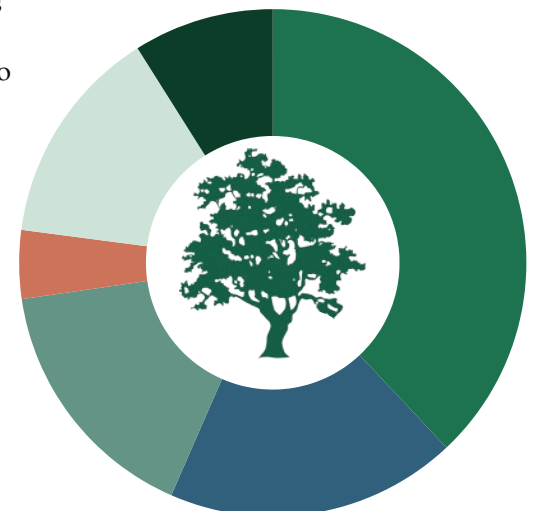
Jackie Skinner

Charlie Wester

Mary Ann Doyle

WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING COME FROM?

- \$174,000 | Private Donations
- \$85,000 | Grants (Kalamazoo Foundation, United Way, EFSP Program)
- \$74,000 | Senior Millage
- \$20,000 | Housing Millage
- \$64,000 | Tornado Disaster Relief Fund (KZCF/UW)
- \$40,700 | Vicksburg Foundation



Senior Outreach

- 336 | Contacts with local seniors
- 146 | Food Pantry Deliveries
- 292 | Supplemental Food Box Deliveries
- 18 | Home Safety Assessments
- 72 | Assistive Equipment Installs



Senior Center (August – December)

- 132 | Classes offered to the community
- 55 | Local seniors attending programs



Emergency Assistance

- 118 | Disconnections prevented
- 48 | Evictions prevented
- 37,259 | Pounds food distributed
- 21,000 | Diapers distributed

Holidays

- 310 | People served
- 480 | Toys distributed
- 465 | Winter Items Distributed
- 85 | Holiday Food Bags delivered

Transportation

- 779 | Trips provided for seniors
- 132 | Trips provided for people with disabilities
- 576 | Volunteer hours

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Transportation Assistance	\$17,023
Clothing Assistance	\$7,292
Housing Assistance	\$87,174
Utility Assistance	\$29,076
Food and Household Supplies	\$24,323
Other Emergency Needs	\$4,554
MDHHS Application Approvals for Rent/Utility Assistance	\$7,426
Total Emergency Financial Assistance for South County Families	\$173,450

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	Fidelity Charitable	Lois Minnis
Aileen Greanya	Footworks	Lord of Life Church
Anita and Garry Boelman	Forming Systems	Lori Ensing
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Thank you so much to the inaugural members of the ChangeMaker's Circle! We are grateful for your generous support!

Brian and Shannon Penny
 Cyndi Frakes
 David and Jackie Sirotti
 David and Karen Carvell
 Drew and Ali Johnson
 Gail Reisterer
 Grossman, Horne, and Cannizzaro PC
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