

Annual Report



South County Community Services

2025

Letter from the Director

2025 was once again a busy year for us at SCCS! We worked on big projects—working to establish the South County Senior Center, rebuilding at Pavilion Estates, and administering housing grants. We also continued to act as an essential safety net for those in our community who had trouble meeting their basic needs by providing transportation, food, utilities, and housing assistance to seniors and low-income households in the South County area.

Things were harder for people in 2025, at least in our community. A lot of the funding that was supporting agencies in Kalamazoo has dried up, causing many county-wide programs to be stretched thin. We are fortunate that SCCS has been able to build connections and relationships with funding partners over the years to continue and expand much of our work, but we too have lost some funding that we once relied on to serve residents.

Fortunately, many in the community have stepped up with generous donations. As a direct result of that, we were able to increase our budget for emergency financial assistance midway through 2025 and hope to do so again in early 2026. This makes a big difference for low-income residents who continue to see their water, electricity, and heating costs increase. We also applied for and received \$50,000 from the Housing Millage to use over the next two years to help prevent evictions. This is essential funding for residents of South County as many of the funding sources that were previously available for housing have disappeared.

In the beginning of November, food stamps were not issued. Our clients were scared and many of them were caught off guard. We responded by increasing our pantry hours and asked for food donations as high demand meant our shelves were getting bare.

Once again, we got overwhelming support from the community. For the first two weeks in November, someone brought in a substantial donation of food for the pantry almost every day—some very substantial. That helped us make it until the middle of November, when Vicksburg National Honors Society ran the biggest food drive that we have ever received. I am happy to report that we have had plenty of food for our pantry ever since!

Speaking of Vicksburg NHS, we continued to have amazing volunteers, staff, and partners in 2025. I don't have space to name everyone but suffice it to say that we are very fortunate and would not be able to have nearly the same impact without you.

Thank you all!!

In 2026 we are looking forward to continuing to build on the success of the Senior Center—we have an exciting series of events scheduled focused on wellness, in addition to a full slate of Arts programming through Vicksburg Arts. We have some work left to do at Pavilion Estates, and some money left to use on home repair in through our grant with the Village of Vicksburg, but should spend out our funding early in the year. After that we will be focusing on continuing to offer a strong safety net and expanding needed services for residents of South County.



In 2025 we...

Worked with ChapNaz Clothes Closet to **give out over 27,000 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**

Hosted over **300 people for two holiday parties**

Applied for and **received \$50,000 from the Housing Millage to prevent evictions**

Followed up on our successful **Senior BURG Days with another popular event** that is becoming established in Vicksburg as a "mini Senior Expo"

Supported the South County Senior Center in its second year of providing social, wellness, and arts programming to seniors in South County

2025

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Secretary

Mary Ann Doyle
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David Sirotti
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Financial Assistance Provided to South County

Transportation Assistance	\$18,382
Clothing Assistance	\$7,094
Housing Assistance	\$11,092
Utility Assistance	\$18,331
Food and Household Supplies	\$23,185
Other Emergency Needs	\$500
MDHHS Application Approvals for Rent/Utility Assistance	\$10,648
Total Emergency Financial Assistance for South County Families	\$89,232

Pavilion Estates Repairs

We worked with several funding partners, including the County of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Foundation, and United Way, to **provide over \$250,000 worth of repairs to residents of Pavilion Estates** Mobile Home Park following the destructive tornadoes that swept through the park in May of 2024. We plan to complete an additional \$150,000 worth of repairs in the park this year.



TYPES OF REPAIR

Number of Homes Repaired

	Roofs	Skirting	Paint	Deck/Stairs	Other
	23	52	16	9	6

Senior Outreach

- 465 Contacts with local seniors
- 200 Food Pantry Deliveries
- 251 Supplemental Food Box Deliveries
- 17 Home Safety Assessments
- \$4500 in kinship supports distributed to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Holidays

- 272 People served
- 303 Toys distributed
- 101 Winter Items Distributed
- 80 Holiday Food Bags delivered



Transportation

- 775 Trips provided for seniors
- 119 Trips provided for people with disabilities
- 656 Volunteer hours

Emergency Assistance

- 122 Disconnections prevented
- 32 Evictions prevented
- 37,259 Pounds food distributed
- 27,000 Diapers distributed



Thank you so much to the members of the ChangeMaker's Circle! We grateful for your generous support!

Brian & Shannon Penny
 Cyndi Frakes | Danna Downing
 David & Jackie Sirotti | David & Karen Carvell
 Diann Stender | Drew & Ali Johnson
 Gail Reisterer | Grossman, Horne & Cannizzaro
 Joe & Madeleine Fojtik | Katie Grossman
 Paul & Marilyn Schutter | Steve Richards & Cyndi Haas
 Tamra & Randy Stafford | Tom & Marion Aitken
 Vern & Aurelia Reed | Vicksburg Lions Club

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!

Bolded names indicate major donors in 2025

Aaron Ford	Don Weaver	Karla Stubblefield	Patrick Hartman
Aileen Greanya	Donald Hightree	Kathy Corella	Paula & David Schriemer
Amadeus Sipes	Doug Vliek	Kathy McCormick	Peg and Jim Bird
Amanda Davis	Douglas Bresson	Kathy Musselman	Peggy Parsons
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