Helping People Help Themselves

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Main Office
Fond du Lac Office
19 West First St.
P.O. Box 1108
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1108
920-922-7760
800-631-7760

Oshkosh Office
2929 Harrison St.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
920-426-0150

Neenah Office
181 E. North Water St.
Suite 210
Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-2791

Berlin Office
237 Broadway
Berlin, WI 54923
920-361-9880

Prairie View Head Start
W911 State Highway 44
Markesan, WI 53946
920-398-3907
800-631-6617
Our Mission:
To create opportunities for people and communities to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency.

Dear Friends,

The year 2015 marks ADVOCAP's 50th year of working to reduce poverty in East Central Wisconsin. For fifty years, ADVOCAP has been creating opportunities for people and communities to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency. For fifty years, ADVOCAP has been working with various parts of the community to create and operate new programs that address the needs of local low income citizens. For fifty years, ADVOCAP has been coaching low income individuals and families to help them reach their personal goals and leave poverty.

ADVOCAP is pleased to present this annual summary of its activities of 2015 to the community.

During 2015, ADVOCAP applied for and received new grants for activities in areas related to some of our current activities. One of those grants, from the Department of Justice, increases our ability to provide housing for victims of Domestic Abuse. This activity partners with Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services. The other is a grant from the Department of Labor for a Youth Build Program which allows us to implement a Fresh Start program in Oshkosh. That program builds heavily on a partnership with the City of Oshkosh. In 2015 we also were able to significantly increase our volunteer transportation program which is operated under contract with Winnebago County.

During 2015, ADVOCAP in partnership with the Commonwealth Corporation received a tax credit allocation to provide 40 units of affordable housing in Berlin. Also during 2015, much progress has been made on Newbury Place in Ripon, another housing project collaboration with Commonwealth.

ADVOCAP is a locally controlled, private not for profit corporation that seeks solutions to poverty in communities to reduce poverty and permanently increase self-sufficiency of program participants by reducing utility costs and providing emergency heating assistance for households that are struggling to afford other necessities.

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Weatherization Assistance Program and the Home Energy Plus Furnace Program reduce some of the systemic causes of poverty and permanently increase the self-sufficiency of program participants by reducing utility costs and providing emergency heating assistance for households that are struggling to afford other necessities.

“We work was completed in a very timely manner. All personnel were very informative and had answers to my questions. This is a fantastic program for low-income families and I hope it continues. Thank you.”

-Jennifer

“Thank you so much. My life changed after my illness. You helped me and from the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

-William

Thank you so much. I never thought I would say this but I am looking forward to seeing my new electric bill...Thanks again.”

-Cheryl

“Work was completed in a very timely manner. All personnel were very informative and had answers to my questions. This is a fantastic program for low-income families and I hope it continues. Thank you.”

-Jennifer

Thank you so much. My life changed after my illness. You helped me and from the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

-William

The Benefits from this investment are both immediate and long-lasting: housing made more affordable and more comfortable, the reduction of causes of poverty and permanently increase self-sufficiency of program participants by reducing utility costs and providing emergency heating assistance for households that are struggling to afford other necessities.

During 2015, ADVOCAP applied for and received new grants for activities in areas related to some of our current activities. One of those grants, from the Department of Justice, increases our ability to provide housing for victims of Domestic Abuse. This activity partners with Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services. The other is a grant from the Department of Labor for a Youth Build Program which allows us to implement a Fresh Start program in Oshkosh. That program builds heavily on a partnership with the City of Oshkosh. In 2015 we also were able to significantly increase our volunteer transportation program which is operated under contract with Winnebago County.

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ADVOCAP is a locally controlled, private not for profit corporation that seeks solutions to poverty at the local level in Fond du Lac, Winnebago and Green Lake Counties. We work with you and partner organizations to achieve results. Our corporate decisions are made by a local board of directors with representatives from local government, local community leaders, and low income people who live here. We are your Community Action Agency.

We are grateful to our public funders, private donors, volunteers, and collaborative partners for supporting our efforts in providing solutions to poverty. With their help, we will continue to work toward reducing poverty and increasing self-sufficiency in the future.

Sincerely, on behalf of the ADVOCAP Board of Directors and Staff,

Michael Bonertz
Executive Director

Connie Anderson
President, Board of Directors

WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization Assistance Program, created in 1976 following the 1972 oil crisis, enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. ADVOCAP accomplishes this goal by sealing air leaks, adding insulation to the building, replacing outdated appliances, and many other strategies.

Weatherization lowers monthly household energy bills – by approximately 19% for electricity and 33% for heating fuels – which represents substantial savings for low-income families who spend an average of 34% of their income on energy compared to 3% for middle income families. Fifty percent of low-income families own their home but cannot afford the upfront costs of making these energy efficiency improvements.

An ADVOCAP staff member installing cellulose insulation in an attic.

Weatherization funding is an investment and not an expenditure, as it results in positive cash flow and long lasting returns. Each $1.00 of public funding our Agency uses for weatherization results in $1.19 in energy savings. The average ADVOCAP Weatherization Program recipient saves $580 on energy bills in the first year following weatherization which represents greater than 35% of their total energy consumption. Over the entire lifespan of our investment into these homes we can expect each household to save at least $10,000 in utility costs. Each year, weatherization saves more than an estimated $2 billion nationwide for low-income households who are often choosing between heat and other necessities.

The benefits from this investment are both immediate and long-lasting: housing made more affordable and more comfortable, the reduction of our national carbon footprint, improving America’s energy security, and the creation of sustainable skilled jobs that can not be outsourced. Weatherization also protects against excess CO2 emissions by mitigating approximately 2.65 metric tons of CO2 per year. In the long term, this reduction in air pollution can lower health care bills for everyone by protecting against asthma triggers and respiratory illnesses. The Weatherization program also benefits small businesses which partner with local weatherization providers to deliver services. Nationally, Weatherization Assistance Programs continue to be a catalyst for innovation in residential energy efficiency and 89% of the materials used in our home retrofits are made in the United States.

Blower door equipment can measure air leakage in a home.

Infrared technology allows weatherization professionals to examine insulation in exterior walls.

The Home Energy Plus Furnace Program is a year round program that provides assistance to low-income households when the primary heating system no longer provides adequate heat, is inoperable, or becomes unsafe. This program reduces cases of homelessness and the demand for transitional housing during these emergency situations.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Having safe, decent and affordable housing provides stability to people everywhere. It allows individuals and families to find and keep employment, meet their health and safety needs, allows children to attend school regularly, and helps people move into self sufficiency. ADVOCAP is proud to provide multiple housing programs in Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago Counties.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Home Ownership provides opportunities for people to learn what it means to be a home owner. Through nine hours of instruction, potential home owners learn how to calculate how much they can afford to pay for a house, how to work with financial institutions and realtors, and what to look for in the property itself. People who have good credit, and the capacity to maintain a home, are able to acquire a home of their own. Along with the money that the home owner puts into the purchase, ADVOCAP may provide additional down payment assistance to help make the monthly payments reasonable.

HOME REHABILITATION

Home Rehabilitation funds help homeowners maintain their property. By providing the assistance, homeowners are able to keep their value in a home. ADVOCAP works directly with the homeowners by performing an inspection, and preparing a scope of work so they know exactly what they are investing in. Although the program is not intended to remodel a home, it may be able to provide assistance with roofs, mechanicals, electrical, windows, and plumbing issues. The homeowner chooses from a number of local, reputable, licensed contractors to do the work on their home.

AHEAD

The AHEAD program provides financial assistance to households who are at risk of foreclosure. It is intended to assist households who have a set back in their life where they have been unable to pay their mortgage for a period of time due to a life situation, but are now able to move forward, but just can’t make up the amount past due. ADVOCAP is able to assist in paying mortgages, taxes, insurance and past due utilities. Providing this assistance allows households to move forward with their lives and keeps people in their homes.

PASS

PASS (People Achieving Self Sufficiency), is a unique opportunity to work with a coach to assess individuals’ barriers to self sufficiency, and be connected to appropriate resources, develop a plan, and be successful in obtaining your goals.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Rental Properties owned by ADVOCAP are available to low and moderate income persons and families. These agency owned units are specifically to house persons coming out of homeless shelters, persons with disabilities, and large families.

HOMELESS SERVICES

Homeless Services works with homeless persons in developing a plan to address their barriers in finding and keeping housing. By providing assistance and connecting them to community resources, households are able to create a positive strategy to maintain stable housing.

FRESH START IN FOND DU LAC & YOUTHBUILD OSHKOSH

Fresh Start in Fond du Lac and YouthBuild Oshkosh are similar programs that work with young adults ages 18-24 in improving themselves while they build a house. The participants are provided an opportunity to identify and address their personal barriers, learn employability skills, complete their education and improve their community. They learn up to date construction skills including Green Building and energy saving features. The home is sold to a low/moderate income household.

BRIDGES

Sometimes, life happens. Emergency needs can become a crisis for some households. Bridges is a financial emergency assistance program that provides direct financial assistance to pay for rent, utilities, car repairs, work related items, gas cards or bus passes. Sometimes the one-time assistance is enough to keep households on track, and sometimes people need help in identifying additional resources that can help them become self sufficient.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business Development services help low-income individuals become self-sufficient through self-employment. There is nothing more exciting than to see an entrepreneur who started in the basement or garage of their home, expand to an outside business space and hire additional employees as their business grows. Business Development assists entrepreneurs to start or expand an existing business, buy or sell a business and obtain loans and financing. Assistance is provided to help an entrepreneur create a business plan, financial plan, fiscal management systems and access to business loans. ADVOCAP collaborates with our local economic development partners as well as our educators to provide services to entrepreneurs.

2015 was an exciting year for Business Development in the Micro Lending area. We have received loan funds from Small Business Administration and United States Department of Agriculture totaling $1,226,984 and have revoked these funds lending over $2 million to small businesses. These funds have allowed us to approve over 300 Micro Loans to assist entrepreneurs. It is important to promote a healthy economy through the creation of jobs and businesses to benefit our local economy through taxes and job creation.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Poverty increases the risk of food insecurity and hunger.

Hunger occurs when individuals reduce the number of meals they eat because they can’t afford food. Hunger and food insecurity are linked to other problems. For children, these include poor health, behavioral and learning problems. When income is at or below the poverty level, individuals and families may need to juggle what little money they have to meet basic needs such as rent, medicine, utilities, and transportation over buying food. Food-insecure seniors are more than twice as likely to report bad health as food-secure seniors.

WORK N WHEELS

The Work N Wheels Vehicle Loan Program provides low-income employed people the opportunity to obtain a vehicle or repair a dependable vehicle to commute to and maintain their job. A dependable auto also gives a person the opportunity to apply for a better paying job, further their education, and work extended hours.

Assistance is provided through three 0% interest loan programs. The vehicle loan purchase program, helps qualified income eligible persons purchase a dependable pre-owned vehicle from area dealerships along with providing case management in areas such as financial wellness and auto maintenance. The Repair Loan Program enables participants to ensure they have a mechanically reliable vehicle for employment-related needs. The Funds for Fines loan program is aimed at helping low-income drivers, drive legally and responsibly by assisting participants to reinstate their driving privileges. Funds for Fines loans are targeted to individuals whose fines are due to traffic and parking citations which have resulted in suspension or revocation of drivers license or vehicle registration.

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Nutrition Program started in Winnebago County in 1974. The program’s purpose is to provide a daily nutritious meal to seniors 60 and older and some disabled persons under 60 for a donation. Meals are provided at group meal sites and delivered to home-bound individuals. The program is designed to promote health, reduce hunger, create social interaction, offer opportunities for volunteering, eliminate isolation, and help seniors remain independent in their homes and communities with dignity. The home-bound also receive a safety check when the meal is delivered. There are a total of 11 Meal Sites in Winnebago County located in Menasha, Neenah, Omro, Oshkosh, Pickett, and Winneconne. Home delivered meals are delivered throughout the county. In addition, weekend meals are provided to those who need them, especially the home-bound.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a State administered Federal Program that provides commodity food monthly that is distributed to 9 food pantries, 5 shelters and 1 feeding site in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Winnebago Counties. The community based outlets then provide the commodities along with privately donated foods to individuals and families, either for household consumption or through congregate feeding sites. This food, and the meals, are provided at no cost to households in need. Food is received from all food groups. ADVOCAP has assisted with this program since 1982.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community Gardens provide opportunities for individuals and families in the Ripon and Oshkosh areas to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables and decrease their overall household expenses. The gardeners become more self-sufficient and empowered by growing their own food. They also develop relationships with other gardeners and feel part of the community.
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Securing full-time employment with a living wage is key to helping individuals and families become self-sufficient. ADVOCAP’s Employment and Training Department helps improve access to training and employment opportunities to help individuals explore career options, enroll in training and educational programs, market themselves to targeted employers or industries, overcome employment barriers, and receive additional supports (including work experience or on-the-job training) for which they may be eligible.

ONE-STOP JOB CENTER RESOURCE ROOMS

ADVOCAP employees staff the Wisconsin Job Centers in the Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Berlin areas to provide assistance in the use of comprehensive job-seeker resources available to the general public. Computer workstations with direct links to the Job Center of Wisconsin website, provide a wealth of information for job seekers (including self-paced workshops and other on-line resources) to assist in career development. Job Center staff regularly connect with area employers and display current employment opportunities, promote on-site interviews, recruitment, and job fairs. In addition, Job Center staff refer potentially eligible individuals to collaborating partner agencies who offer additional services for veterans, individuals with disabilities, dislocated workers, etc.

Customer comment:

“Thank you so much for your help. I got [my granddaughter] to the Job Center and the gal there was WONDERFUL! She helped Tailor get a resume practically on the spot. We were able to complete a job app for Merc-Marine and go to a meeting with a Merc rep immediately afterward. The timing was perfect! Tailor also attended the speed interviews today and four companies said they were interested.”

OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

This Youth Program assists low-income youth ages 16-24 to further their education, gain work experience, develop pre-employment skills, and obtain employment.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Adult Basic Education provides individualized basic skills instruction in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies and prepares students to attain a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Additional coursework in health, civic literacy, employability skills, and career awareness is available for those seeking a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). All classes are taught using a ‘non-traditional’, user-friendly approach.

REFUGEE ROAD TO WORK PROGRAM

Refugees Road to Work (RTW) Program, a collaborative effort with the Winnebago County Literacy Council, assists Winnebago County refugees develop skills in English as a Second Language (ESL); engage them in citizenship activities; and offers basic computer classes and pre-employment assistance leading to unsubsidized employment and integration into area communities.

JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR DISABLED, HOMELESS AND YOUTH

Job Placement Services for disabled, homeless and eligible Youth works with program case managers and area employers to develop the support systems necessary for participants to obtain and maintain employment.

SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Skills Enhancement Program (SEP) helps low-wage workers obtain better paying jobs with access to employer health care by providing short-term, demand-driven, job-focused training. SEP reduces barriers to worker education by helping to pay tuition & fees, books, transportation and child care costs related to attending classes and by providing case management, referral and other support services.

FATHER AND FAMILY STABILITY PROJECT

Father and Family Stability Project a four-year program (which concluded in September, 2015) offered opportunities for fathers to obtain pre-employment skills training, paid work experience, occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and job placement assistance while strengthening family relationships. Over the past four years, 102 fathers obtained full-time unsubsidized employment with a wage increase; and 2,210 participants attended workshops, events, and training opportunities to strengthen family relationships and develop responsible parenting skills.

ADULT & DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM

Adult & Dislocated Worker Program assists low-income adults and dislocated workers to obtain additional training and/or employment. Case Managers help develop individualized employment plans including resume creation/reviews, interviewing skills, and use of area Job Center resources to build/develop competitive job skills to re-enter the workforce.

A Dislocated Worker Earns Commercial Driver’s License

A Adult Basic Education Instructor, Mark Burns (Center) with Adult Learners

A Area Refugees Hired by a Local Employer
QUALITY EDUCATION is provided and School Readiness is promoted by highly qualified and nurturing staff to low-income children in positive learning environments. We also collaborate with four area school district 4-year-old Kindergarten (4K) programs to join our Head Start services. Children receive comprehensive developmental assessments three times per year which enables our professionals to accurately measure the progress each individual child has achieved. Children consistently show significant progress in all areas of development including Social and Emotional, Large and Small Motor, Health, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, and General Knowledge/Mathematics each year while attending the program. It is wonderful to see them grow!

Our program provides individualized Family Development Services as each family has a Family Development Specialist. The Specialist’s role on the team is to support families to act as an advocate for their child, work with each family to see where their areas of strengths and needs are, and then set family goals. Our program builds relationships with the family that encourages positive relationship with each other and within the community.

Partnerships and relationships with parents are essential and our goal is to assist parents in developing and using individual strengths to accomplish personal and family goals. Head Start encourages the role of parents as their child’s first and most important teachers.

Nutrition Services include nutrition and cooking activities in the classroom, provide nutrition assessment, counseling, and information to staff and families. During the day, each child will be offered breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Head Start participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks. We have talented and friendly cooks that make them taste great and fun family activities that teach families how to make healthy foods taste great at home! We serve meals “family style” by passing dishes around the table and letting the children serve themselves. We encourage independence, social skills, and many other areas of development during meal time too!

We coordinate Health Services because good health is an important part of each child’s development. Head Start has a comprehensive health services program that emphasizes preventative health and safety, well child care, and assistance with health follow up. A screening program is also in place to detect problems with vision and hearing. Each child also has the opportunity to receive dental varnishes through the generous Save-a-Smile Program.

We are responsible for providing Disability Services to eligible children who need them. We closely follow children who have an Individualized Plan (IFSP or IEP) written, make referrals based on our assessments, and give support to parents with concerns. We integrate children with special needs into our daily programming, collaborate with service providers, and support our staff in being knowledgeable about working with children that have disabilities and/or differences.

We also collaborate with area professionals to provide Mental Health Services in our nurturing and supportive environment. We aim to help each child be successful and promote positive self-esteem. Parents have the opportunity to learn more about parenting and child development. Families will set goals and be supported to work together to reach those goals. We also want and will do what it takes to carry over goals and strategies to provide support. Families are also welcome to meet individually with a mental health consultant to discuss personal concerns.

ADVOCAP Head Start is supplemented by School District Collaborations as it serves 13 school districts and directly collaborates 4-year-old Kindergarten (4K) programming with 4 districts (Fond du Lac, North Fond du Lac, Berlin, and Ripon). We also have itinerant district services provided at our centers.

ADVOCAP Head Start offers Socialization Experiences which are fun opportunities for children AND families to socialize with others, solve problems, strengthen overall development and knowledge, and participate in a variety of activities that help them become capable, self-confident participants and leaders.

“My child would not have been ready for Kindergarten without ADVOCAP.”

“My child wouldn’t be where she is without their push to help her achieve the goals set for her.”

“My child was behind when she first started; now she knows so much and I’m thankful.”

It is natural for ADVOCAP Head Start to link children and families to other ADVOCAP programs when it is needed and appropriate.


**VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

“When you see a child really struggle with their reading at the beginning of the school year and by the end they are reading a story with ease and comprehension, that makes it all worthwhile. It’s truly rewarding,”

**KATHY TREMILAY, ADVOCAP FOSTER GRANDPARENT.**

**ADVOCAP RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)** recruits and matches volunteers age 55 and over with local non-profit organizations in Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago Counties who need their support and talents. Volunteers serve in a variety of positions throughout the community.

**ADVOCAP FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)** offers a non-taxable hourly stipend, paid holiday, sick, and vacation hours to income eligible volunteers age 55 and over who commit to serving 15 hours a week in local schools, Head Start centers, child care centers, and other youth centered sites in Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. Volunteers work one on one with children who have identified educational or social needs.

**THE ADVOCAP TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM** volunteers provide transportation for those in need to scheduled appointments (medical, nutritional, court, agency, etc) as requested by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in Winnebago County.

**THE ADVOCAP SENIOR FRIEND PROGRAM** volunteers provide friendship, companionship, and support to older persons living in Winnebago County.

**VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS**

As people age, they face many significant life changes. They often experience health problems, financial problems, loneliness & isolation, reduced sense of purpose and the death of friends and family. Independence gives seniors a sense of control and comfort in a life filled with uncontrollable changes. ADVOCAP Senior Friends and Transportation Programs, supported by RSVP, helps seniors maintain their independence.

**VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE COMPANIONSHIP VISITS TO LOCAL SENIORS**

ADVOCAP Senior Friends program is designed to provide one to one supportive services to individuals age 60 on a weekly basis. This includes emotional support, companionship and community awareness in an effort to achieve and maintain their highest quality of life and level of independent living. The volunteer commits to spending a minimum of 4 hours a month with a senior. Activities vary and are determined by the volunteer and participant. This is not a care giving role, but an opportunity for companionship and socialization.

People who are currently volunteering with Senior Friends find the experience as beneficial to them as it is to the participants they visit. Gary has been visiting Everal since February 2015. They get together every week to play cards or watch baseball games. Gary enjoys the added friendship as much as Everal. Jeanette has enjoyed visits from Joan since 2013. They go on drives in the country and just enjoy visiting with each other.

Jeanette states, “I wait for Joan’s visit all week. I couldn’t ask for anyone better. She brightens my day.”

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**VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE RIDES TO SENIORS**

Elderly individuals in Winnebago County participated in a transportation assessment and identified the barriers that stop them from using current transportation options. Long wait times, limited options for leaving the county, transit stops not located at desired location, programs that limit the number of trips that can be taken each month, and limited number of providers were the top barriers identified. (2014 -2018 Winnebago County Human Services Public Transportation Plan; Dec 2013)

Transportation volunteer drivers provide rides to any adult over age 65 who qualifies through the Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center. Our drivers take participants to places like the grocery store and the pharmacy. They also take older adults out to eat or to the movies. Our goal is to increase the quality of life of the older adults in our community.

**VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT FAMILIES**

Volunteers help families meet their housing needs. The high percentage of people paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs in our service area demonstrates a need for simple, decent and affordable housing.

Lack of affordable housing can prevent families from meeting other basic needs including health and nutrition.

RSVP volunteers serve at local Habitat for Humanity projects, building homes for low-income families.

**VOLUNTEERS HELP FAMILIES TO INCREASE FOOD SECURITY**

Poverty puts households at a higher risk for not being able to meet their nutritional needs than those who do not live in poverty. Hunger may cause difficulties in both children and adults with physical and mental health as well as problems with behavior and social activities. To address this need for individuals to have access to food, Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties have a well established system of food pantries designed to provide low-income persons with nutritious food.

RSVP volunteers assist food pantry participants by distributing and transporting food, locating pantry items, and serving meals.

**VOLUNTEERS HELP BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER**

After entering the foster care system, 10 year old “Jada’s” world turned upside down. She struggled to understand that although all of her basic needs were now being met in a safe, secure environment, her need to be with her mom was missing. Creating a bridge between the child and birth parent is vital.

Winnebago County staff, children in foster care and their families depend on ADVOCAP Transportation volunteer drivers to provide rides to and from parental visitations and counseling sessions.

**VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT AREA STUDENTS**

There is a need in our service area for public school students to receive tutoring services within a school setting due to the increasing number of students who are considered at risk because of poverty.

To assist students in need, RSVP & Foster Grandparent volunteers serve as tutors in Fond du Lac, Winnebago, and Green Lake Counties. Volunteer tutors provide individualized attention, unhurried help, consistent support and the opportunity for inter-generational connection. From kindergarten through high school, our tutors volunteers fill a very important role in the schools.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2015

ASSETS

CASH $333,427
Accounts receivable 1,063,968
Inventories 675,025
Prepaid expenses 1,497
Property and Equipment (net) 2,271,900
Investment in subsidiaries 11,333
Loans receivable (net) 8,899,451
TOTAL ASSETS $13,256,601

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Mortgages and loans payable $1,907,340
Accounts payable 279,054
Accrued payroll and other liabilities 80,538
Deferred revenue 172,353
Program advances 765,753
TOTAL LIABILITIES 3,165,078

TOTAL ASSETS AND NET ASSETS $10,091,523

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

REVENUE

Government awards $10,487,454
Program 610,007
Other services 12,189
Investment income 19,062
Contributions 406,499
Commodities 532,717
In-kind donations 238,045
TOTAL REVENUE 12,285,073

EXPENSES

Program services 11,388,015
Management and general 881,729
TOTAL EXPENSES 12,279,744

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 6,259

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR 10,085,294

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR $10,091,523

This report was assembled by ADVOCAP, Inc. on a Regulatory Basis. Our annual agency wide audit was conducted by Independent CPA firm Hawkins Ash CPAs and is available for inspection by contacting ADVOCAP’s Finance Director in Fond du Lac.

In 2015, ADVOCAP Created Opportunities for People & Communities

SAFE, DECENT, & AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
551 households obtained or maintained safe and affordable housing
194 units weatherized
10 families became homeowners

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT:
387 individuals obtained employment
178 secured employment with benefits
3,448 new customers assisted with employment support through job centers

BASIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING:
161 adults received Ged/Hsed education assistance
156 received tuition assistance for post secondary education
137 completed occupational skills training

CHILD DEVELOPMENT:
446 three and four year old children received Head Start services
57% average growth in key proficiencys by Head Start graduates

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT:
642 households received coaching, and made progress toward self-sufficiency
76 young fathers indicated improved parenting skills

TRANSPORTATION:
58 individuals purchased or repaired a vehicle to maintain employment
133,611 rides were provided to adults and children
113 individuals received bus passes

FOOD AND NUTRITION:
107,941 meals were provided to 1,107 older adults
2,980,573 pounds of food were provided to families through 9 food pantries
88 families planted and harvested food from community gardens

EMERGENCY NEEDS:
335 received rent assistance payments to prevent eviction or obtain housing
155 households received emergency replacement furnaces or furnace repairs
66 households received emergency fuel or utility assistance to prevent disconnection

COMMUNITY:
Collaborations and Partnerships: Involved with over 100 other organizations

BUSINESS STARTS AND EXPANSION:
28 low income entrepreneurs started or expanded their businesses
38 jobs were created
58 business loans were provided

HOUSING LOANS:
11 loans were provided to rehabilitate homes in need of repair
10 loans were made for down-payment and closing costs for new home buyers

SUSTAINED HOUSING:
94 units of ADVOCAP- owned housing was sustained in our communities

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPED:
1 Fresh Start Program house was built and sold to a low income family
40 Affordable Housing Units at Newbury Place under construction with Commonwealth
40 Affordable Housing Units at Berlin Historic School in planning with Commonwealth

VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORT FOR NON-PROFITS:
872 volunteers provided
92,628 hours of service to communities
63 non profit organizations assisted by volunteers

*According to the 2010 US Census, 31,642 individuals live at or below 100% of poverty in ADVOCAP’s three county area.
INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

Investors & Donors for 2015
Sister Anita
Anonymous
Berliner Area School District
Rachel Benton
Michael Bonertz
Century Tel, Inc.
Charity Club, Inc.
City of Appleton
City of Fond du Lac
City of Neenah
City of Oshkosh
Corporation for National & Community Service
Betty Clausen
Commonwealth, Inc.
Elmer & Nellie Dixon Medical Fund
Federal Home Loan Bank
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Church
Fond du Lac Area Foundation
Fond du Lac County
Fond du Lac County DCP
Fond du Lac School District
Forward Service Corporation
Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Good Shepherd Post 1329 Catholic War Veterans
Green Lake County
Green Lake County Area United Fund
Green Lake County/Ripon Community Found.
Green Lake Rotary Club
Barbara Kuhn
Eugene and Natalie Lambert
Michels Family Foundation
Mid-States Aluminum Foundation
North Fond du Lac School District
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Our Saviour’s United Church of Christ
Ripon Area School District
Ripon Kiwanis Club Foundation
SEEK Foundation
Jack Seville
St. Vincent DePaul
Susan Steffens
Stone Foundation, Inc.
U.S. Corporation For National Service
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
U.S. Dept. of Education
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Dept. of Justice
U.S. Dept. of Labor
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Small Business Administration
United Way, Fox Cities
United Way, Oshkosh
United Way, Ripon
Unique Auto, LLC
VERVE
Matthew Vosters
WAVE Group, Winn. Co. DHS
Western Dairyland
Winnebago County
WISCAP, Inc.
Wisconsin Dept. of Administration
Wisconsin Dept. of Children & Families
Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services
Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
Wisconsin Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation
Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development
Wisconsin Division of Energy
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
Cindy Zuleger

ADVOCAP is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

Employee Donations to ADVOCAP’s Diane Mayer Fund
Anonymous
Tony Beregszazi
Bridget Bestor
Michael Bonertz
Susan Buechel
Jennifer Chadron
Tye Collins
Maurice Craine
Samuel Crawford
Melissa Dalle Nogare
Jennifer Dehn
Kathy Doyle
Thomas Ekval
Shane Grey
Pam Guiden
Amy Hix
John Hutchinson
Brian Jacobson
Bob Kallio
Tanya Marce
Patricia Micka
Jack Mohr
Derek Moran
Jessica Nemecek
Wendy Nevers
Leanne Powers
Anita Ramirez
Jenna Razner
Devanira Sanchez Lule
Jennifer Schaefer
Julie Scheer
Lu Scheer
Heather Scholl
Terri Stern
Deb Tauer
Jason VanderVelden
Cary Wright
Aimee Zehren

ADVOCAP makes every effort to ensure that all names are included, spelled correctly, and listed accurately. If there are any omissions or errors in spelling or listing, please call 920-922-7760 so that we may correct our records.

How We Provide Services
ADVOCAP services are provided to qualified persons on the basis of expressed and assessed needs and within the limits of grant guidelines. We are committed to providing equal opportunity in all programs, services and activities to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). Services include providing written translation and oral interpretations, free of cost, to LEP persons to ensure meaningful, accurate, and equal access to programs, benefits, and activities. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. No qualified persons shall be excluded from participation in our programs or be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination in any manner on the basis of age, race, creed, religion, color, sex, physical condition, handicap or disability, developmental disability, association with a person with a disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, political affiliation, marital, parental or familial status, pregnancy, arrest record, citizenship status, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. ADVOCAP is an equal opportunity employer functioning under an Affirmative Action Plan. We make a concerted effort to conduct business with small companies, women and minority-owned businesses, and companies compliant with civil rights laws. (Ref. 29CFR Part 471, Appendix A to Subpart A). We have a grievance procedure. If you have concerns or complaints, please contact ADVOCAP’s Executive Director or Deputy Director.