MAHUBE-OTWA
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2020
DEAR FRIENDS,

“Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.” Mary Oliver captured the year 2020 when she penned her poem “Wild Geese” decades before.

This year has shown us the resilience and sheer determination of our families, seniors, children. Many of whom serve as essential workers and struggle to make rent or pick up extra shifts and took on distance learning as well.

COVID-19 tested us all in many ways. At MAHUBE-OTWA it broke our hearts to close our doors to the public on March 23\textsuperscript{rd} in an effort to keep our staff and our clients safe from a pandemic the world didn’t yet fully understand. We shifted to utilizing technology and our mobile outreach unit in new ways; we delivered food to seniors; diapers and formula to young families. We provided early childhood services to the children of essential workers and distance learning to families juggling many responsibilities.

While the world shifted around us, the MAHUBE-OTWA board and staff grounded ourselves in the Promise of Community Action:

\textit{To change people’s lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities, and make America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.}

With a clear focus on our mission and our commitment to upward mobility, we were pleased to graduate our first cohort of apprentices, invest a $1.5 million grant in our new relationship-based coaching model, and grow the number of people reaching major milestones: purchasing a home, creating a savings account, complete a degree, or taking the first steps toward upward mobility.

Our organizational values (client-focused, community-minded, resourceful) guide our work every day at MAHUBE-OTWA. On behalf of our dedicated staff and board and in partnership with our resilient and dedicated clients, we are pleased to share this report. With gratitude for the generous support that makes our work possible.

Elizabeth Kuoppala, Executive Director
Chuck Horsager, Board Chair
MAHUBE-OTWA, Community Action Partnership, Inc.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2019 TOTAL EXPENSE BY MAJOR PROGRAM

- 39% Head Start
- 16% Early Learning Scholarships
- 13% All Others Combined
- 13% Housing
- 8% Management & General Expense
- 7% Weatherization Assistance
- 6% Energy Assistance

Total
$16,485,075

EXPENSES SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
- Personnel $8,276,742
- Contractual $2,199,368
- In-kind $867,628
- Indirect Services $1,557,135
- Direct Services $3,584,203
- Total $16,485,076

2019 Assets
- Cash and Cash Equivalents 1,420,240 (43%)
- Grants Receivable 1,253,424 (37%)
- Prepaid Expenses 525,445 (16%)
- Property and Equipment (Net) 132,348 (4%)

Total 2019 Assets $14,636,746

2019 Revenue
- Contributions & In-Kind 924,159
- Program Support 776,230
- Federal Grant 8,997,107
- Total 2019 Revenue $14,636,746

2019 Liabilities
- Accounts Payable 1,710,209 (52%)
- Accrued Wages and Related Taxes and Benefits 476,381 (14%)
- Compensated Absence Payable 301,578 (9%)
- Deferred Revenue 601,320 (18%)
- Total Net Assets 232,766 (7%)

Total 2019 Liabilities & Net Assets $3,331,421
Low Income Representatives
Allan Lynk Wadena County
Misty Malmo Hubbard County
Victoria McWane-Creek Otter Tail County
Mary Riegert Mahnomen
Shelley Skarie Becker County
Kimberly Turner Mahnomen County County At-Large

Private Sector Representatives
Mitchell Berg Mahnomen County
Theora Goodrich Hubbard County
Dana Laine Becker County
Greg Larson Hubbard County At-Large
Del Moen Wadena County
Scott Wagnild Otter Tail County

Public (Elected) Representatives
Karen Ahmann Mahnomen County
Charlene Christenson Hubbard County At-Large
Chuck Horsager Wadena County
Tom Krueger Hubbard County
Betty Murphy Otter Tail County
Don Skarie Becker County

Administration Janice Haverkamp
Executive Director Liz Kuoppala
Fiscal Samantha Amundson
Human Resources Annette Haugrud

Program Leads:
Child Care Programs Dana Patsie
Energy & Weatherization Daniel Josephson
Family Development & Housing Marcia Otte
Family Health Lindsey Olson
Head Start & Early Head Start Michelle Wilkowski
Since January 2018, MAHUBE-OTWA has been changing our service delivery model to a Whole Family Approach. This allows us to meet program participants where they are at and help them reach their dreams.

Families can enter at any of the 5 levels, we work with them to move up the next level, and shore up protections against back-sliding. In 2019/2020, we focused on building Level 3 by:

- adding 3 Family Coaches and a Coach Mentor position
- reducing caseloads from an average of 65 clients per staff to 25
- invested in staff training to focus on strengths
- created incentive and barrier elimination for clients in the CLIMB program
MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc. serves Mahnomen, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, and Wadena counties in 5,307 square miles of West Central and Northwest Minnesota.
Justin worked full-time while Autumn attended Wadena M-State and their children participated in Head Start.

When she passed her RN Nursing Board Certification in June 2020 and got a job in nursing, he enrolled in school as an auto mechanic. They bought their first home in September 2020.

The Whole Family Approach is grounded in simultaneously addressing five areas of family well-being:

CLIMB family statistics

- 26 families enrolled
- 4 gained full-time employment
- 2 job promotions/advancement
- 2 enrolled in skills training
- 2 completed DEED apprenticeships
- 3 purchased homes
- 3 opened savings accounts
- 3 enrolled in GED
- 2 completed AA Degrees
- 2 completed RN Degrees
- 6 enrolled in College
- 1 received driver’s license
- 2 reinstated driver’s licenses
It’s a Whole Family thing...

#HelpingPeopleChangingLives

Lexie, (pictured here with her husband, Zachariah and three daughters) completed the Early Childhood Apprenticeship program in Hubbard County.

Aubrey completed the Health Administration Apprenticeship program in Otter Tail County.

Serena, (pictured here with her husband Ethan and three daughters) completed the Early Childhood Apprenticeship program in Hubbard County.

Cierra, a student at M-State in Detroit Lakes completed the Early Childhood Apprenticeship program in Becker County.

Tiffani and Ryan and their children were named 2019 Head Start Heroes by the Minnesota Head Start Association!

Alexus, a Head Start alum, graduated high school in the class of 2020.
Our Head Start program offered 9 sessions of Summer Camp to 74 five year-olds (in three counties) in preparation of their kindergarten experience.

First day of summer camp... who would have thought this would eventually be our work attire?

Apprentice Lexie (right) and Family Coach Kayla (left) toe bump to celebrate Lexie’s successful completion of her 12-week internship.
MAHUBE-OTWA staff assisted the Hubbard County Food Shelf with free food donations.

Making sure those pre-school classrooms are germ free for the children of essential workers!

Delivering cleaning supplies to child care providers.

March 2020 provided Poverty Simulation for community partners.
Getting ready to deliver much needed pandemic care packages for families in our five counties.

MAHUBE-OTWA office drop boxes are busy!

Our clients, employees and community partners drop off program applications, information and even face masks.

Thanks to the weatherization team for installing our drop boxes.

Agency trainings look a little different this year!

Kathie accepted a check from the Detroit Lakes Walmart in the amount of $2,500. The funds purchased holiday gifts for our We-Care holiday gift project.
Our Services

490 Early Learning Scholarships Awarded
(SRV 2bb) *07/01/19 to 06/30/20 not yet verified by MDE

104 households obtained safe and affordable housing.
(FNPi 4b)

381 individuals received counseling & education on family planning.
(SRV 5i)

449 households obtained safe and affordable housing.
(FNPi 4b)

9,194 utility payments. (primary & crisis)
(SRV 4i)

106 families received Financial Coaching/ Counseling.
(SRV 4b)

448 Families received Head Start emergency crisis intervention.
PIR C.50 a

21 Seniors Maintained Independent Living with home improvements.
(SRV 4r)

137 individuals received Home and Chore Services.
(SRV 5i)

595 Children/pregnant moms received comprehensive services.
(SRV 2 a & b)

36 Homeless households obtained safe temporary shelter.
(FNPi 4a)

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Plenty to Celebrate!

We did not anticipate closing our doors to the public on March 23rd nor needing to develop a COVID-safety plan which included our staff working remotely.

Through the uncertainty, we built on our legacy of achievements over the past year.

- Received the Civic-Minded Employer Campus Compact Award in recognition of commitment to our community.
- Obtained the funding from Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies to support our Whole Family Approach.
- Through a partnership with M-State and the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, we provided a 6-series Strengths Finder training to our 150 staff.
- A new Employability Initiative supported young apprentices to help them achieve their employment goals.
- We partnered, presented at and attended the Fergus Falls Rural Racial Equity Summit: Building the Beloved Community on Martin Luther King Day.
- We added new positions: Coach Mentor, Crisis Intervention Manager and 3 new family coaches.
- We secured incentive and barrier elimination funds to support upward mobility for striving families.
- Offered poverty simulation training for community partners.
- Instituted agency-wide Friday morning coffee chats to stay in touch when many of us are working remotely.
- Developed a model of content area experts as a step toward service integration.
- Added Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) for Otter Tail, Wadena, Becker, and Marshall counties.
- Contracted with White Earth to support their Weatherization program.
- Agency-wide book read of Anton Treuer’s *Everything I Wanted to Know About Indians But Was Afraid To Ask.*